

Volume 81 No. 1 *“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”* November 15, 2023



Nikola Welcome-Bovell of The Truth Colours Gallery and Autumn Gineen of the House of Ginnie

<i>In This Issue...</i>				
Perryman and Hobbs Page 2	Dems and Abortion Rights Prevail Page 4	The Park Hotel Demolished Page 6	Realists Masquerade Page 10	Mosaic Banquet Page 15
Tolliver Page 3	Attorney Williams and a Self Defense Issue Page 5	TMA and the Power of Abstraction Pages 8-9	Book Review Page 13	Cover Stories Page 16

From Learner to Leader

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

The Truth Contributor

When people talk, listen completely.

- Ernest Hemingway



Perhaps more than anything, incumbent Councilman John Hobbs III's larger-than-expected 63 to 37 percent victory over challenger Shaun Strong encapsulates his journey from political novice to respected leader.

Hobbs was appointed by Judge Jack Puffenburger out of a pool of over 100 applicants in 2020 to fill the District 1 City Council seat after then-member Tyrone Riley was suspended to face federal bribery charges.

With his victory last week, we may be witnessing a remarkable story of transformation unfold. Hobbs' journey from learner to leader is a testament to his personal growth. It demonstrates that he has learned to navigate the complex waters of local politics.

In this exclusive interview, we explore the essence of Hobbs' approach to leadership – one that balances the roles of both student and mentor. By actively listening to his constituents, seeking guidance, and offering support, he has redefined what it means to be a leader in Toledo's current political landscape. His dedication to understanding each issue independently and casting votes based on merit rather than getting mired in partisan politics sets him apart.

This week we delve into the mind of Johnny Hobbs III, a councilman who has quickly learned the ropes to become a guiding force. I discuss his strategies and unyielding commitment to his district as he continues to learn and lead in service of the people of District 1.

Perryman: The political analysts have described you as a "man of the people," attributing your success to a strategy of getting out in the community, meeting with the people, and staying in touch with your constituents. How do you respond?

Hobbs: That was not a campaign strategy at all. It is the earnest desire of my heart to be in touch with the citizens of Toledo. I grew up in a time when men went into the barbershop, and those senior or mature men would talk to the younger men to help them understand what it meant to be a man. I walked down the street as a kid, and Mr. and Mrs. such and such were sitting on their porch, and I had to say, "Hey, how you doing?" And they would tell me, "I'm a barber, a pastor." It was about communication and contact. I'm a councilman, and everything I do involves engaging people, so it was natural.

Perryman: Why is that contact so important?

Hobbs: What people appreciate more than anything is that you will listen. They understand you don't have the answers for everything, but when you are sincere and honest, they perceive and know you're doing your best. So,

as we repeatedly returned month after month and they saw that sincerity, they became more comfortable. That's how the trust between the community and city government began to be rebuilt in District 1.

Perryman: You started talking about walking down the street and engaging with people sitting on their front porch. I wish we could go back to those days. However, the engagement piece defines your leadership.

Hobbs: I'm glad you said that. What happened to the day when the police were in the community? We want that back. That's what we heard the community kept asking. We had two of the highest crime areas of Toledo, one on the east side and the other in the old South end, Fearing and Airport, Detroit, Western. So, we got officers walking a beat for a mile and a half sections. Those officers walked for eight hours, engaging the children, the teenagers, the single parents, the husband and wife, and the homes. The residents see the officers at the gas stations and the library, and people driving down the street would blow, and they're waving.

This began to bring the trust back between law enforcement and the citizens of our city. We also had officers on bikes in two other sections of Toledo where they rode the bikes for eight hours, would get off and talk to the kids, played basketball, threw the football, all the things we grew up on, and people wanted it so much more. We need more police officers.

Perryman: So, you not only had a working relationship with the police department on behalf of your constituents, I saw that you had a good relationship with the African-American pastors.

Hobbs: There was so much support because I am a second-generation pastor. My father pastors a church. This is his 46th year, my 18th year of pastoring, so I have those ties.

As you know, the Church and the barbershop are the Black community's New York Times, where the information flows. I am thoroughly entrenched

... continued on page 3



Councilman John Hobbs III

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Are You Scared Yet?

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

Unless you have been living as a hermit in a cave in northern Canada, you have no doubt heard about the coming global shift-shaping demon that some call A.I... short for artificial intelligence.

For those who only now and then take a peek at the news, A.I. is viewed as akin to Frankenstein creating his own Frankenstein. You simply do not know who is the real monster that has the capacity to plague both your daydreams and your nightmares.

Yes, it is that bad. A.I. is akin to the genie escaping out of the bottle, but this genie comes with its own bag of tricks and devices that can scare the heebie-jeebies out of anyone who is concerned about security and truth, with truth being told truthfully.

Alarm bells in the science and computer industries are ringing at high-pitched volumes because A.I. has the capacity to think on its own, apart from its human handlers, and it can

do simple logical deductions and can engage in promulgating images that are nigh impossible to detect as being fake.

Congress, belatedly, is trying to get a grip on the ramifications of an unregulated A.I. universe in which practically anything is subject to distortion, shapeshifting and just sheer outright lying about what we commonly refer to as facts.

For A.I. is like silly putty in the hands of the malevolent who will use its intellectual capabilities to nefarious ends such as documents being forged to perfection, banking transactions being subject to grand theft and stories and news feeds being called into question because A.I. can change just enough of what is true to make you say, "Is it real... is it true?"

Imagine an unregulated A.I. culture in which people with no moral scruples were to take that which has been venerated as true and fixed, but with an aggressive A.I. campaign of distortion and half-truths, you are left wondering exactly what truth is and how is it established once and for all.

Remember, A.I. does not have a conscience but it does have a keen ability to denigrate logical arguments by inserting into the conversation elements of "what if" or "what about" that can leave the viewer or reader puzzled, confused or angry if they are not informed that what they are reading or viewing is a product of A.I.

No one has a monopoly on the use of A.I. or how the law should contain its apparent voracious appetite for multiplying upon itself to advance to even greater levels of sophistication in deception or deflection.

With A.I, what you see is not necessarily what you get because A.I. can provide visuals or printed information that is the real McCoy to an untrained eye or ear. I mean...how do you spank a computer program to do the right thing when it is not initially programmed with guardrails that prevent it from wreaking havoc on a gullible population?

If for example in the current political climate, imagine the immense problems A.I. could generate in political ads and "re-hashing" political conversations so that your opponent is demonized to the point of total absurdity?

The time it would take to combat those false images or statements would be enormous and especially so if your target audience is not seen as being too circumspect as to how they examine, compare and contrast what they know to be true versus the now competing A.I. imagery.

It is laudable that the proponents of A.I. tout its power in developing new life saving drugs or its soon apparent ability to decode immense and complex data about scientific issues that could leave to monumental breakthroughs in creativity, food production, fights against diseases and climate change.

But. The greatest challenge will be in the field of social sciences and human interactive behavior where the presence of the giant of A.I. could be so overwhelming that it begins to inject thoughts and issues that are demonstrably undesirable for maintaining the cords that bind a society together.

All literature, both past and present, could be subject to minor tweaks and changes so that

the initial meaning of the author or composer or photographer is lost to human memory and in its place, A.I. triumphs.

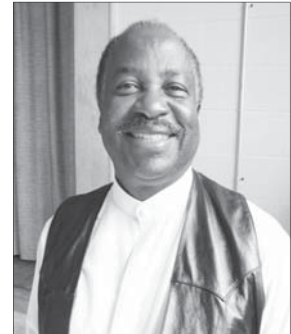
Already, there are reports of A.I. being used by lazy students to generate their term papers including the use of false or misleading footnotes to substantiate the truthfulness of the article.

Make no doubt about it. A.I. in the hands of unscrupulous inventors or amoral producers would have the capacity to create societies that are based upon the whims and wiles of people whose character leaves much to be desired and much less propagated.

So, in closing, ask yourself, is this article that you just read, is it authored by me or by a handler of A.I. who produced it by taking my writing traits and this subject matter and thus birthing the headline topic?

I don't know. Do you?

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com



Perryman...continued from page 2

in these two places, and many of these pastors I have played for as an organizer my whole life. Many of them, I have ministered at their churches and been a part of food drives or clothing giveaways over the years, so they know my heart. Seeing someone doing the work they do but also sitting in a place to help make decisions that would benefit our community was a great brotherhood and great friendship and outreach.

Some were able to move through me by asking, 'How can we get this done, how can we help you, how can we assist you.' So, to engage them where they are for their members to see, someone who is a pastor and councilperson brings another element to the relationship.

Perryman: Other politicians have come to the Church but have not been able to generate support, at least on the level that you have. Talk about the difference.

Hobbs: That authentic relationship with the pastors developed because I knew the power of the sacred desk, so I didn't use that sacred platform to politicize. I have fellowship with the pastors, leaders, church mothers, and the deacons. I understand the function of it, and I know that you just can't show up in our spaces during election time and think that will move us.

Perryman: Thank you. Another observation from your time on council is that each vote you cast always appeared to be "for the reason that it was presented." That is not universally true of other politicians. They get stuck in one position. However, you had the ability to look at a single issue indepen-

... continued on page 12

Community Calendar

November 19

Toledo Branch NAACP Youth Council November Meeting: Sanger Branch Library; 3 pm

November 20

Mt. Nebo Baptist Church Annual Thanksgiving Giveaway: 3 to 5 pm; 831 N. Detroit; 200 turkeys available to the community: 419-246-8461

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A Big Night for Democrats and Abortion Rights Supporters Around the Nation

By Fletcher Word
The Truth Editor

Democrats and abortion rights supporters around the nation scored some impressive victories during this off-year election cycle. Now, the question is - will these victories translate into something decisive for the Democrats, and President Joe Biden, during next year's presidential election.

Democrats won big in the two critical contests in Kentucky and Virginia. Kentucky's Governor Andy Beshear soundly defeated his Republican challenger, Attorney General Daniel Cameron, in a deep red state by a five-point margin - in a state Donald Trump won in the 2020 presidential race by 26 points. Cameron was in fact endorsed by Trump in this election cycle.

Beshear's victory came after polls in the runup to election day predicted a tossup.

Beshear, the son of a former popular Democratic governor, earned the only Democratic statewide victory in Kentucky - the other five state offices were won by Republicans by margins of at least 15 percent.

In Virginia, Democrats not only held onto control of the state Senate but also flipped the state House as Republican Governor Glenn Youngkin's policy plans came to a crashing end, particularly the abortion ban he had planned to introduce.

In the state Supreme Court race in Pennsylvania, the Democratic candidate Daniel McCaffery defeated Republican Carolyn Carluccio by a six-point margin to maintain the 5-2 Democratic majority on the court. Pennsylvania is a must-win state for the Democratic Party in 2024 and such a state-wide victory is a particularly welcome omen for the 2024 race.

In New Jersey there had been some concerns on the part of the Democratic Party about whether their control of both legislative chambers would be safe

but as the vote totals came in, they did prevail and reclaimed some seats lost in 2021 to the Republicans.

The Democrats did not fare quite so well in Mississippi, the other governor's seat on the ballot. Incumbent Republican Tate Reeves won a second term over Democrat Brandon Presley (second cousin of Elvis) but by a much closer margin - 51.6 to 47.0 - than Mississippi Republicans are used to winning.

The more resounding news on election night was the numerous victories that abortion rights supporters claimed in a variety of states.

Ohio, a state trending red over the last decade - won decisively by Trump in 2016 and 2020 and in which all the statewide executive offices are controlled by Republicans - became the seventh state in which voters have opted to protect abortion rights since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade in June 2022. Voters in Ohio, by a 13-point margin, overturned a Republican legislative initiative to ban abortions after six weeks of pregnancy - before most women would know if they were pregnant.

The vote to approve the constitutional amendment will permit abortions up to the point of fetal viability and even pass that point to protect the health of the mother.

Abortion also played an important role in both the Kentucky gubernatorial contest, where Beshear had actively campaigned on the issue, and in Virginia, to the dismay of Youngkin, the night's biggest loser.

For the most part, Democrats such as Beshear, Assembly candidates in Virginia and Pennsylvania Supreme Court candidate McCaffery strongly touted their pro-choice credentials during this election cycle. Notably Presley in Mississippi is an anti-abortion Democrat. Given the results around the country, it seems he might have made the wrong choice.

The battle over abortion rights is probably not over in Ohio. State Senate President Matt Huffman, R-Lima, has announced that Republicans may decide to introduce amendments to overturn this year's amendment, although given this year's huge victory margin, such an attempt would seem futile at best.

Ohioans also approved a statute initiative to permit the use of marijuana for recreational purposes. Huffman didn't like that decision either and since it is a statute, not a constitutional amendment, Huffman has stated that the General Assembly might well undertake to negate the will of the voters.

...continued on page 11



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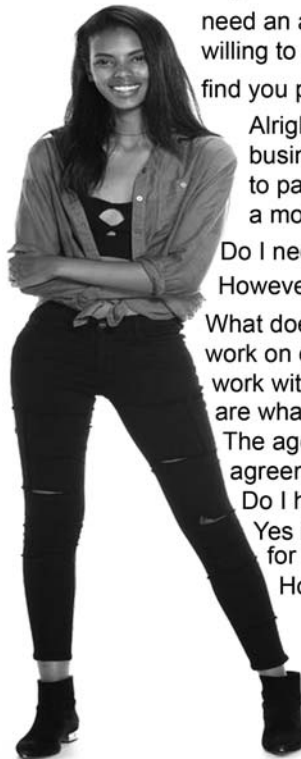
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Attorney Joshua Williams Prevails in Murder Trial, Considers Suing TPD

The Truth Staff

On Wednesday, November 10, Vontae Garrett, a military veteran and former correctional officer, was found not guilty by a jury for the October 22, 2022 murder of Mark Weisinger, Jr. The verdict set Garrett free after having spent nine months in jail awaiting his trial.

According to Garrett's attorney Joshua Williams, who also is a District 41 Republican state representative for Sylvania Township, the fact that his client, a man "entirely innocent of this charge," was unable to assert his self-defense argument pre-trial meant that Garrett – and other defendants like him – was at the mercy of the prosecution until the defense presented its case during trial.

The inability of Garrett to assert such a defense, upon being charged, meant that he could not use it for the purpose of setting bond pre-trial, could not create a presumption of innocence that the prosecutors would have to rebut at trial and would make it almost necessary for the accused to take the stand and explain and defend his actions.

As a result, in June, state Reps Williams and Brett Hudson Hillyer (R. Uhrichsville) introduced the Self Defense Protection Act. The Act will enable defendants to assert self-defense, defense of one's own property or defense of another party prior to trial and force the prosecution to counter that assertion during the presentation of their case at trial.

In a press conference on the day following the jury verdict, Williams spoke of the proposed Self Defense Protection Act and what a change in Ohio law could mean for defendants such as Garrett going forward. Prior to the trial, Garrett was forced to sell his car and house in order to pay for his defense since he was jailed and not able to rely on wages or salary.

However important the Self Defense Protection Act might mean to defendants in the future, Williams' press conference last week was focused primarily on the State's actions leading up to this particular trial and how law enforcement's negligence placed his client's freedom at risk.

"If the State of Ohio had taken the time to look at all the video evidence and listen to all of the witnesses without bias, these charges would never have been filed," said Williams decrying the fact that a critical piece of evidence, a video of the incident, had been lost.

The October 2022 shooting incident began with a dispute inside of a bar at 1776 Arlington Avenue when the victim, Weisinger, began an altercation with a member of the group Garrett was with. During Garrett's testimony at trial, he said that he stayed away from the dispute involving his party and Weisinger and his friend, Michael Binns, who was known to be armed.

Eventually the action spread out into the street as the two men began running toward Garrett and a single gunshot rang out from another party. When Binns and Weisinger reached for what appeared to be guns, Garrett, who had a concealed carry license, brought his weapon out and fired, killing Weisinger.

Although no gun was found on Weisinger, the police failed to detain



Attorney Joshua Williams and Vontae Garrett

Binns who was later seen on video going through the pockets of his friend and police also failed to retain a copy of a video from a private residence, according to Williams, that would "have exonerated" his client. The video was "either negligently misplaced or lost," said Williams and "that misstep may be the form of a lawsuit."

According to Williams, the homeowner showed the video immediately to police who then downloaded a copy of it onto a police-issue phone. At trial the homeowner testified that the video also contained audio in which Weisinger could be clearly heard exhorting Binns to "shoot."

That video, said Williams, "could have reduced his bond ... it could have exonerated him. They had at least 90 days to find it ... they never tried any investigative techniques that we hold our law enforcement [officials] to."

On Thursday, Williams said that his law firm is considering a lawsuit against TPD due to the department's "malfeasance and gross negligence" for its failure to safeguard the evidence that, by itself, would have exonerated his client in the initial phases of the investigation.

Garrett, who has lost nine months of his life, a job and his possessions, will be trying to resume his law enforcement career, he said, even as he acknowledged the difficulty in doing so with the cloud of such an incident hanging over his head. Garrett and Williams will be making a decision soon about bringing the lawsuit against the Toledo Police Department.



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The Park Hotel on Knapp and Broadway Demolished

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

Demolition began at the former Park Hotel on Knapp and Broadway St. Wednesday, morning November 8. The former hotel will be razed and transformed into Lucas Metropolitan Housing residential housing for homeless young adults ages 18-24 with a tentative opening of 2025.

The Park Hotel has stood for over a century in the Middlegrounds neighborhood near the railroad station. Built in 1909, the hotel served as a rest stop for travelers until closing its doors in 2001. Since then, the building has been in disrepair for over two decades. This project by LMH aims to give new life to the structure and a new life to those it will serve.

Homelessness is an issue that affects many in Lucas County. Young adults who are no longer eligible for foster care or other childcare services are often underserved and overlooked. This young people in this demographic often stay at friends' homes and in cars while often going unnoticed. The vulnerable group is at heightened risk of depression, substance abuse and becoming victims of human trafficking. Issues of homelessness also affect people of color to a greater extent.

According to Michael Hart, director of Lucas County Homelessness Board, during 2022, 1590 individuals under the age of 24 experienced homelessness in Lucas County and that number is increasing. He stated that 592 individuals in Lucas County could qualify to live in the new housing.

The development of the Park Apartments is a partnership among Lucas Metropolitan Housing, Lucas County Commissioners, the City of Toledo and Lucas County Homelessness and other area resources. The new structure will be a \$15 million four-story building that will provide safe, affordable housing and a wealth of resources to help this vulnerable population.

The building will offer a multifaceted approach to tackle the issues by providing the young adults with education, employment and mental health services.



The Park Hotel was opened in 1909 and closed in 2001

The project received \$9.7 million federal loan through incoming housing tax credits, \$3.2 million from the City of Toledo and \$750,000 from Lucas County. Additional funding includes an affordable housing program subsidy from the Federal Home Loan Bank, the Huntington National Bank, Premier Bank and the Ohio Housing Finance Agency, said County Commissioner Lisa Sobecki.

The demolition should be completed mid-December, with groundbreaking tentatively anticipated in the spring of 2024. The construction will take 14-18 months with the new apartments opening in 2025. The Lathrop company will manage the construction.

Supporters at the event weathered the cold and rain under a tent provided by LMH. Gerken noted that the discomfort among those who attended reflected the reality that those the building will serve face daily. Pete Gerken reflected "When I go home and I'm going to get warm today, I'm eat a pretty good meal and I'm going to be happy," stated Gerken "I will feel better about that knowing in the future people and youth will have the same opportunity I have."

Remarks included: Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) President and CEO Joaquin Citron Vega, LMH Chief of Staff Rachel Gagnon, Ohio State Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson, Lucas County Commissioner Pete Gerken, Lucas County Commissioner Tina Skeldon, Lucas County Commissioner Lisa A. Sobecki, City of Toledo, Manager of Tenant and Landlord Services Coleena Ali, Lucas County Homelessness Board Director Michael Hart, The Lathrop Company Special Projects Division Manager Ryan Gundy.

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Publication Date 11/23

The Power of Abstraction: From The 313 to the 419

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

Stepping into an art museum is like entering a cultural time capsule, where each exhibit becomes a portal to a different era or emotion.

Then we have the grand gallery of the abstract art form, where each perspective contributes to the rich mosaic of interpretation, transforming museums into realms where every observer becomes an explorer of the sublime.

In a social media post, Toledo Museum of Art's Director of Belonging & Community Engagement said, "How it starts is how it finishes..."

And it started with a bang as members of The Power of Abstraction, a group of abstract expressionists from Detroit, visited the Toledo Museum of Art (TMA) and the 419 for two days of amazing fellowship, Museum touring, a showcase of their artwork and the stories associated and plenty of unforgettable bonding."

Rhonda Sewell, whose multi-faceted role includes helping to reimagine TMA's approach to community outreach, was selected several years ago as the Toledo Museum of Art's first Director of Belonging & Community Engagement, a historic achievement.

Sewell's account of the The Power of Abstraction 313and419unite museum event on Halloween weekend, painted a vivid picture of a vibrant cultural exchange between Toledo and Detroit.



Detroit Artist Nicole Josette Eddie

"This event not only celebrated abstract art, it also strengthened the bonds between our two cities," shared Director Sewell.

The Toledo Museum of Art brought together members of The Power of Abstraction, a group of artists from Detroit and TMA's own 419 participants for two days of some pretty dynamic creative interaction.

"Abstract art can be enigmatic, and understanding the stories behind the artwork provides context and deeper meaning for viewers," explained Geno Harris, Power of Abstraction founder.



Detroit Artist Kelly Marie Burke

Collaboration between Toledo and Detroit, emphasizes the shared commitment to art and art-

...continued on page 9



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Power of Abstraction... continued from page 8

ists, while fostering a sense of belonging both areas can share. It highlights the idea that art knows no boundaries, transcending geographical limits to bring people together. This kind of collaboration encourages the exchange of ideas, perspectives, and artistic practices, enriching both our cities culturally.

"This collective emphasizes that art can be a unifying force, fostering a sense of community beyond the constraints of location," explained Sewell.

The event kicked off with an abstract art showcase at TMA, providing a platform for artists to share their work and the stories behind it. The power of storytelling through art was evident throughout the event.

This type of TMA event and the sharing of artists' stories, played a pivotal role in humanizing the arts for everyone.

"The common thread that many artists say is: I'm not a good speaker," said Harris and his professional partner, Javier Andres Gonzalez.

"Our abstract art group meetings in Detroit are run like artist talks. We encourage artists to bring in their work and just start talking about it and their process. The more we practice sharing our thoughts with an audience, the more we will connect to our consumers," Harris added.

"We explain to our artists that their art sitting on the wall will not speak for them in all ways," said Harris. "Art also needs the artist to represent it. Something this group helps us do is build connections with our community."

The steps of TMA served as the backdrop for a group photo, becoming a symbol of shared tradition and community. Choosing that location for a group photo is a powerful gesture that connects the event to the museum's historical and cultural significance.

"The iconic TMA steps also represent a visual symbol of unity, tradition, and shared experiences, serving as a testament to the role of cultural institutions in building and preserving community heritage," Sewell explained to participants.

Given Toledo's moniker as the Glass City, a glass blowing demonstration in the TMA Glass Pavilion fit the bill for the next display of the city's artistic heritage and expertise. Toledoans are known to celebrate both local artistry and heritage traditionally within the museum's walls.

"We always strive to emphasize the importance of preserving and showcasing traditional crafts and skills at TMA," said Sewell.

Demonstrations such as glass blowing also provide a hands-on and interactive experience for attendees, connecting them directly with the artistic process and the community's history. It underscores the idea that art is not just about the finished product but also the craftsmanship and creativity behind it.

Participants then had the opportunity to explore TMA's historic galleries and exhibitions, deepening their connection with the museum's rich artistic heritage. TMA has historically done an exemplary job showcasing the importance of preserving and promoting cultural and artistic history. Museums, like TMA, act as repositories of human creativity, and such tours allow participants to connect with the past, gaining a deeper understanding of how art has evolved over time. It also reinforces the idea that art is a continuum, and each generation adds to the collective cultural narrative.

In the hallowed halls of the art museum, if you feel as though you are an informed viewer, then that's akin to possessing a key that unlocks hidden chambers of meaning. It's like donning glasses that reveal the intricate brushstrokes and whispered narratives embedded in each piece of abstract art. As an informed observer, you become a skilled navigator, traversing the canvas like a seasoned explorer decoding a cryptic map.

On the other hand, if you feel you are an uninformed gazer in the museum, that's akin to a stroll through an enchanted forest, where every artwork is a mysterious creature waiting to be discovered. Each brushstroke becomes a trail to follow, and colors evoke emotions like the changing hues of an elusive sunset. You, the observer, much like an adventurer, rely on intuition and emotion to navigate this abstract landscape.

For the unaware museum-goer, the artworks may resemble a foreign language, a collection of symbols and shapes without a decipherable code. It's like wandering through a dream, where the beauty may be felt but the significance remains elusive. Metaphorically, the informed art buyer becomes a collector of rare gems, appreciating the abstract pieces as precious stones with unique facets. Yet, the uninformed buyer, in contrast, might resemble a gardener picking flowers based on instinct, drawn to colors and forms without analyzing the botanical intricacies. Pretty cool.

In the early evening hours, attendees were given a warm reception at Tol- House, where Detroit artists were welcomed by members of Toledo City Council and vocalist Ramona Collins, adding to the sense of community.

The event extended to a visit to River House Arts, hosted by gallery owner Paula Baldoni, a local gem and full-service gallery located in the historic Secor Building in downtown Toledo.

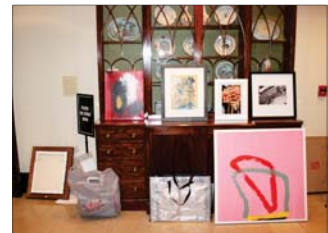
Their exhibitions are always changing and always free and open to the



Detroit Artist Jared Wood



Toledo Artist Simone Spruce



public. (Gallery Hours are by appointment.)

The final send-off brunch and ceremony at Brim House, was where farewells were bid and the experiences of the gathering were celebrated. This final

... continued on page 12

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Tanya, UTMCMC primary care patient

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO
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The Greater Toledo Realist Association's Masquerade Night

By Dawn Scotland
The Truth Reporter

The Greater Toledo Realist Association held their second annual Masquerade Night at the Casino Fundraiser at St. Clement's Hall Saturday November 4. The proceeds of the fundraiser will support future programming for the organization and provide a \$1,000 donation to MLK Kitchen for The Poor.

"It's a party with a purpose," stated founding president of TGRA Rob Pasker. "We're coming together to raise funds for our mission of 'fighting for democracy in housing.'" Pasker along with 12 founding members created the branch in 2019. "We're an organization of the premier Black real estate professionals and our allies within our northwest Ohio region. Our mission is to educate our community, advocate on behalf of our community and also elevate our businesses in the process."

The Greater Toledo REALTIST® Association (GTRA) is a trade association whose mission is to build a supportive infrastructure to become a positive and dominant influence in the Ohio real estate market. They aim to represent a unified voice for African Americans and other underserved populations, brokers, agents, affiliates and the clients they serve.

The group is a local board of The National Association of Real Estate Brokers, Inc. (NAREB®), that was formed in 1947 by African American real estate professionals out of a need to secure the right to equal housing opportunities, regardless of race, creed or color.

The goal locally, said Pasker, is to increase the Black home ownership rate. "76 percent of white households own their properties while only 36 percent of Black households own their properties," he stated. "The majority of Americans build their net worth by owning their homes. That homeowner gaps equates to a wealth gap and that wealth gap equates to every other gap you can think of... education, health, opportunity – so we want to put more Black people in homes. Point blank period."

The organization is not just an organization for realtors but anyone who is interested in breaking down barriers in Black homeownership. Within the organization there are lawyers, brokers, contractors, event planners and title reps. "It's an organization for people that are passionate about the people," remarked Pasker.

Guests enjoyed food, raffles, casino games, silent auction and prizes. Music was provided by DJ Big Lou the Mayor and Montrice Terry served as the master of ceremonies. Area supporters as well as regional officers were present. The group presented Harvey Savage Jr. with a \$1,000 donation for the MLK Kitchen for The Poor for his dedication to the community.

Greater Toledo Realist Association Board Members are President – Rob Pasker, 1st Vice President- Tiffany Jones, 2nd Vice President - Kimberly Dixon, Treasurer - De'Lisa Moore, Director - Brenda DuHart, Director - Faye Smith, and Director - DeLise Simmons

Sponsors of the event: Gold Sponsor- Fifth Third Bank; Silver Sponsor- Huntington Bank, KeyBank, Par Excel Events; Bronze Sponsor- Liberty Title Company, Inc. and 360 Keepsake Mobile Photobooth

2023 Awards for exemplary members of GTRA:

- Partner of the Year – Faye Smith (Fifth Third Bank),
- Affiliate of the Year Award – Brenda Duhart
- Realist of the Year Award - De'Lisa Moore

For more information on the organization contact at Greater Toledo Realist Association (419) 969-3992 or visit toledorealists.org or www.facebook.com/TOLEDOREALISTS.



The Board of Directors of the GTRA present Harvey Savage Jr. with a \$1000 donation



Tyneka Forrest, Harriet Harvey, Valarie Robinson, Harvey Savage Jr., Angela Savage and John Savage



Guests enjoy casino games, raffles and prizes at GTRA Masquerade Ball

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Nikola... continued from page 16

Just as a skilled sculptor molds clay with their hands, the artist is the curator of her own reality, shaping her existence through the alchemy of their thoughts and focus. "The art gallery of the mind is boundless," says Welcome-Bovell. The Truth Colours Gallery is the expanse where the brushstrokes of imagination can bring life to whatever masterpiece you desire.

"I love doing artistic commissions throughout the Glass City," she says. "Painting is my love, and on any material."

Life is not just about the serious pursuits or our burdensome obligations. It is a grand carnival, a medley of pleasure, joy, exhilaration, and amusement, where the brush of an artist's thoughts can paint a world not chosen by others or even by the former self, but one forged right here, right now, in the vibrant hues of our desires and dreams.

"Artists have to embrace creating the world they choose," insists gallerist Welcome-Bovell. "We are the maestros of our own reality. I want everyone to experience my art, so for me, I go through different phases of creation."

"In some seasons of life it takes days or months for an artist to complete a project, making the work more expensive. In my current season as a designer I prefer spending less physical time so that my artwork can be more monetarily accessible."

Nikola Welcome-Bovell's approach to educating her clients and fellow artists shines brilliantly.

"First, decide your goals as an artist. Then, when we are able, as artists, to

Autumn Gineen... continued from page 16

House of Ginnie offers classes on a first come first serve basis. "I love teaching others of all ages how to sew," says Autumn.

Television shows like Project Runway invite viewers to participate actively in the co-creation of fashion. They challenge the notion that fashion should mirror reality, encouraging a departure into the realm of subjective interpretation. The importance of the clothing we wear everyday lies in its role as a catalyst for comfortability and personalization.

Much like an artist who forges a masterpiece with a palette of colors, Gineen uses fabric as her canvas and the sewing machine as her brush, bringing to life the visions she has cultivated from her mothers' teachings. She doesn't just sew; she threads the needle of history with innovation, crafting fashion that's not just beautiful but resonates with the soul.

"Creating clothing is liberating. When my client feels good in a design they are paving the way for new movement in their life," says Gineen. "I'm always pushing my personal boundaries of creativity."

Autumn Gineen's various collections foster a climate where her customers are free to experiment, pushing the limits of conventional aesthetics. Her fashion sense is a beacon of inspiration, encouraging a continual exploration of the infinite possibilities within artistic expression.

"I have several ready-to-wear collections and I take clients by appointment," she shares.

As a fashion designer, Autumn is connecting generations through the delicate stitches of tradition while seamlessly embracing the avant-garde.

The Autumn Gineen clothing brand is absolutely thriving! Her designs collectively reinforce the idea that fashion has the power to transcend borders, create connections, and bring people together. The collaboration, storytelling, and her choice of a significant venue like The Sojourner's Truth offices contribute to her impact in northwest Ohio, emphasizing the role her style plays in fostering a sense of belonging and community among the fashionable.

Follow House of Ginnie on Facebook for updates and visit at 7 E. Bancroft

make our art accessible to more clients, I like to think of it as spreading our work around to more people. If that's the goal, of course."

The Truth Colours Gallery walls are painted in countless shades.

This gallery is a mosaic of culture, woven with threads of diverse backgrounds, each piece telling a story, painting a picture, and sculpting a memory. They are the custodians of our heritage, the guardians of our future, and the mirrors that reflect the multifaceted facets of our society.

All the artwork displayed exhibits as one vibrant canvas, daubed with the rich, oft-overlooked hues of Black culture. "We are not just a place that sells art, we are sacred storytellers," states the artist.

Inhabiting your physical body as an artist is like stepping onto a grand stage, a stage where the spotlight is directed at your unique personality and mind. Your thoughts, like the painter's brush, are the instruments with which you breathe life into your surroundings, casting vivid strokes of creativity onto the canvas of the world.

Art is not limited to the confines of flesh and bone; it's a channel for the energy that sculpts entire worlds, an oracle of intelligence that births galaxies, and a repository of knowledge that beckons from the cosmos. This cosmic symphony flows through all of us, fueling all creative endeavors with joy and enlightenment.

The threads of ancestral wisdom and contemporary innovation blend seamlessly into a vibrant rainbow of artistry at The Truth Colours Gallery.

Stepping into THIS art gallery and event space is akin to stepping into a painter's dreamscape, a sculptor's realm of form and finesse, a photographer's frozen moment of time. It is a theater of emotions, where the audience, silent and contemplative, becomes an integral part of the performance. Aka: You won't regret visiting.

In the ever-racing noise in our modern world, art galleries like this emerge as serene oases where one can pause and drink from the wellsprings of inspiration. They are the secret gardens of our minds, where ideas sprout and flourish, roots intertwining with ancient echoes of history.

To visit go to www.thetruthtoledo.com/Gallery

Democrats and Abortion Rights Supporters... continued from page 4

In one of the most interesting political contests around the nation, in New York, Yusef Salaam – one of the famed "Central Park Five," the group of Black teens who were accused of assaulting and raping a white female jogger in 1989, then convicted and sentenced to prison before ultimately being exonerated based on DNA evidence – was elected to New York City Council, representing central Harlem.

Salaam, who was arrested, tried and sentenced at the age of 15, spent nearly seven years in prison before being freed.

Salaam, a Democrat, ran unopposed in the general election after winning his primary contest in a landslide.

"For me, this means that we can really become our ancestors' wildest dreams," said Salaam in an interview just before the election.

Locally, in Lucas County, the state Issues 1 and 2 passed with overwhelming support, with much greater margins than reflected in the statewide margins – 63.82 to 36.18 percent for Issue 1 and 61.08 to 38.52 percent for Issue 2

In Toledo, the only competitive races were for several for City Council seats. John Hobbs II, representing District 1, was victorious over Shaun Strong 61.92 to 37.25 percent; Sam Melden, representing District 5 won over Tom Names 67.38 to 31.75 percent and Carrie Hartman, seeking election to her appointed at-large seat, topped Kristi Kille 68.28 to 28.88 percent.

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Perryman... continued from page 3

dently and determine the right way to go, which has made you a rising leader.

Hobbs: As an African American male, I understand that if I stand for the truth, I will often have to stand alone. But my resolve is clear: I won't be swayed by what's advantageous for city council or the administration but by what genuinely serves the best interests of our city's people and District 1's constituents. If I have to stand alone in doing that, I will because I'm man enough.

I do as much research as I can to understand the way something is and how it operates. If that means I have to stand alone in voting a particular way, that's what I will do. Knowing at the end of the day, I can sleep at night because I made a conscious decision to do the right thing.

Perryman: I talked with you when you were first appointed. You didn't know much about things, yet you both listened to the people of District 1 and were willing to be mentored by others. You both asked for help and gave help. What are the most important things you've learned?

Hobbs: One critical insight I've gained during my tenure is the complexity of enacting change. Coming in, I assumed I could quickly initiate action on issues as a council member. However, I quickly learned that a majority of seven votes is required to pass any measure. This was a revelation to me, as I was unaware of the need for the support of six other members to effect change. So, I've learned the importance of securing these seven votes, which often involves persuading others to share your perspective, a challenging task when agendas differ.

Another key lesson is the reality of differing perceptions of what is right or wrong and how to navigate these differences. Working collaboratively with fellow council members is essential. For instance, Councilwoman Grim and I successfully allocated ARPA funds for medical debt relief, and together with Councilwoman Moline, we redirected approved funds to improve unimproved streets. So, learning that it takes a cooperative approach to accomplish objectives like preserving the Frederick Douglass Center has taught me the value of teamwork and strategic alliances in achieving council goals.

Perryman: Anything else you want to add or emphasize?

Hobbs: I am thankful for District 1 leading the way. We are one for a reason. District 1 became a leading example in community engagement, spearheading initiatives like town halls, community meetings, and neighborhood block watch. Our approach has led to tangible changes, such as the police resuming patrols on foot and by bike within our community, directly responding to the needs articulated by District 1's constituents.



The media covered these meetings like crazy, so I just want everyone to know that I truly have a heart to serve and will continue to serve my district and the citizens of Toledo with every fiber of my being. While I acknowledge that I'm not perfect, there is never an intention to do anything else but the will of God in my life.

Perryman: How do you respond to your opponent's offer to assist as a block watch leader following his congratulatory call acknowledging your victory?

Hobbs: I will collaborate with any block watch or town hall leader to improve our community. That's what I'm here to do and what our community and city need. I will continue to work to enhance our neighborhoods, supporting small businesses and ensuring safety. I'm committed to working with every fiber of my being for those things.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at drdlperryman@enterofhopebaptist.org

Power of Abstraction... continued from page 9

component of the event ensured that attendees parted on a positive note and that everyone made it home safely.

"Never forget we're still allowed to have child-like fun as adults, too," says Director Sewell. "Our goal is to always foster a global dialogue through art."

Our Toledo Museum of Art provides inclusion of all cultures and age groups within its museum galleries and their various exhibitions are paramount. Museum staff, curators, historians and artists alike transform our lo-

cal and city spaces into vibrant crossroads of perspectives and art.

Imagine the museum as a mosaic, one with each culture contributing a unique piece to the overall narrative. The collective importance lies not just in representation but also in the celebration of the community's diverse voices, ensuring that every observer, regardless of background, finds a reflection of their own story in the art on display.

An Art Museum should be a place where the elderly walk hand in hand with the young, where cultures intertwine, and where the richness of the human experience is celebrated.

Follow TMA at www.toledomuseum.org.

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Laws of Annihilation by Eriq La Salle

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

One thing or another.

You have to choose, you can't have both. This one or that one, that or the other, think about it and then pick a side. Or maybe you don't even have to think about it. Maybe, as in the new novel *Laws of Annihilation* by Eriq La Salle, the decision was made decades ago.

c.2023
Lavette Books,
Poisoned Pen Press
\$16.99
413 pages

Agent Janet Maclin wasn't entirely unprepared for the news but still, it's tough to learn that you have incurable cancer and that death is near. The diagnosis explained her constant pain and the ravaging of her entire body on a daily basis but it didn't explain how she was going to break the news to her two partners in the department.

Detective Phee Freeman and Detective Quincy Cavanaugh were not just partners, but friends – maybe the only friends Maclin had anymore – and she was reluctant to share her news. She was not going to survive this, so why would it matter? They were busy enough on a huge case; there was no need to add anything else.

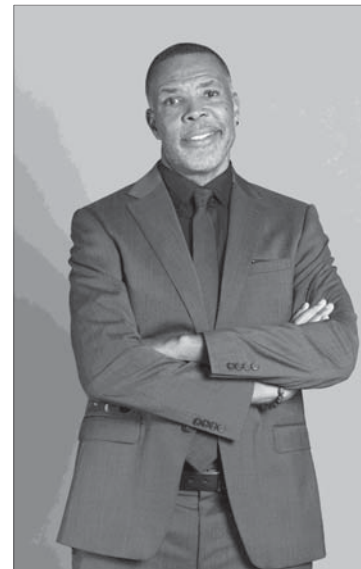
A young Black man had been caught spray-painting hate symbols on a Jewish synagogue and the mob that witnessed his deed chased the young man to his death. Did this lead to the bloody, gruesome murders of Jewish rabbis who had called for peace in the community? Were those deaths connected to the disappearance of a man named Spider, who was heavily involved in an Islamic group in Harlem and who was the young man's uncle? And where was Ezra Pearl, an influential man

in the Jewish community who'd been filmed leading the chase that caused the young man's death?

The Mayor of New York was calling for calm but with both sides demanding revenge, two people missing, and a killer (or two) on the loose, Maclin knew that calm wouldn't be that easy. Neither would solving what was a growing list of violent crimes.

As New York City seethed, she hoped she'd live long enough to see this end.

Crack open *Laws of Annihilation* and you might think you'd stepped onto a random sidewalk in a major city somewhere in America. The events in the book are entirely plausible, given current events in the world today and last summer's heatwave. You can almost feel the tension. You can almost smell it.

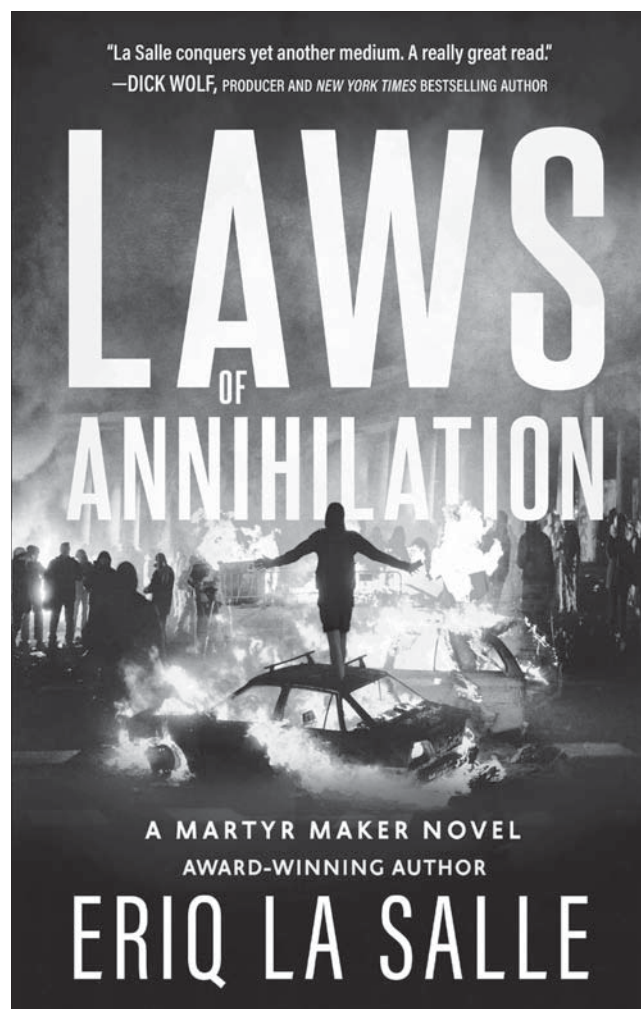


Laws of Annihilation The author, courtesy Crown Media United States LLC. Photographer - Allister Foster

That realism sharpens the vicious gruesomeness of the murders that pepper this story, as does the authenticity in the details pertaining to religions. The latter is subtle, as author Eriq La Salle leads readers to understand without detracting from the story itself.

And that story...? Well, let's just say that if you plan on sharing this book, you might want to get someone their own copy. Yours will be ripped from ferocious, eager page-turning...

It may go without saying that this thriller contains violence, profanity, and a relatively quick, relatively chaste bedroom scene, but a warning bears repeating. Still, if you love a good thriller with a decent cliffhanger, *Laws of Annihilation* is one thing you should read.



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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS DEVELOPER PARTNER(S) QUALIFICATIONS RFQ23-Q002

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Developer Partner(s) Qualifications in accordance with RFQ23-Q002**. Received in accordance with law until **November 15, 2023 at 3:00 PM EST**. For documents: 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 PROPOSALS CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS INITIATIVE (CNI) – GRANT WRITER SERVICES RFP23-R008

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **CNI Grant Writer Services in accordance with RFP23-R008**. Received in accordance with law until **November 30, 2023 at 3:00 PM EST**. For documents: 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.



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Essential Duties And Responsibilities

Supporting the Payroll Director in the day-to-day operations of the department and administration of department goals.

Minimum Qualifications

Bachelor's Degree majoring in Accounting or Certified Payroll Professional or equivalent work experience. Six (6) years of experience working in professional setting, with at least three (3) years in relation to payroll processing or equivalent.

To apply: email: tmbundy@co.lucas.oh.us

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR PROJECT BASED VOUCHERS RFP23-R001

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMH) will receive proposals for **Project Based Vouchers for the HCV program**. Interested parties should be owner/developers, management agent, and/or project sponsors for projects concentrating on Supportive Services. LMH has reserved up to 250 PBV for this rolling RFP. Received in accordance with law until **December 07, 2023, at 3:00 PM ET**. See documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street, Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements (Executive Order #11246). This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS LEAD RISK ASSESSMENT SERVICES (LRAD) RFP23-R011

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Lead Risk Assessment Services (LRAD) in accordance with RFP23-R011**. Received in accordance with law until **November 17, 2023 at 3:00 PM EST**. For documents: 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.



The Mosaic Family Zone's 2023 Beat Poverty Banquet

By Tricia Hall
The Truth Reporter

The Mosaic Family Zone organized its Beat Poverty Banquet, an annual free celebration, which was held at The Premier on November 9, 2023, and featured guest speaker Seth Kaplan, PhD.

Guests were officially welcomed by David Kaiser, executive director of the Mosaic Family Zone, then dined and participated in a silent auction. Auction items were donated and would benefit the Mosaic Family Zone, attendees had up to 40 different auction items as a selection: a coffee set, bird and flower painting, baking set, Dooney & Burke purse, fire pit set, portable grill and Toledo Zoo family membership.

"I want to welcome each of you to the Beat Poverty Banquet. Thank you for coming out tonight and I encourage you to support the silent auction and donate towards this cause," shared Kaiser.

The annual banquet provides an opportunity for organizers to share a verbal and visual report on progress, share resources, inspire, and celebrate milestones. Mosaic Family Zone noted four milestones that were highlighted as significant growth in the past year:

- Mosaic Early Learning Center, a preschool, opened in April 2023.
- Mosaic Classical Academy, a new charter school, opened in 2023.
- Nature+, an outdoor education program, in collaboration with Partners In Education completed one year of programming.
- The While Crew, a male teen mentoring program, initiated programming.

Additionally, the banquet provided an opportunity for Mosaic Family Zone to share progress towards the long-term investment and alignment with Geoffrey Canada, the founder of Harlem Children's Zone/William Julius Wilson Institute. The Institute created "cradle to career pipeline," through partnerships in 24 cities, four of which he is personally invested. One of those four cities is Toledo.

"We wanted to bring a proven method to Toledo after I attended a conference in 2009. There are ways to address poverty, food, clothing and shelter, but what else can be done to support those ways? We adopted a model, based off the Harlem Children's Zone called Pregnancy to Purpose and it all started in Toledo with Baby University," shared Kaiser.

The guest speaker, Seth D. Kaplan, PhD spoke about poverty. Kaplan is an expert on fragile states. He is a professorial lecturer in the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins Integrated Transitions,

and consultant to multiple organizations such as the World Bank, U.S. State Department, U.S. Agency for International Development and others. The speaker is also an author and he provided free copies of his book, "Repairing American Society, One Zip Code At A Time, Fragile Neighborhoods."

"It's hard to follow David, he lives and breathes this work, because neighborhoods matter," said Kaplan. "This book provides a framework for the problem, please take the book because how well a country does is all about relationships. We didn't have all of these problems two generations ago, relationships changed. Back then people lived in little societies that included churches, shops, markets and schools. They created networks that overlapped with systems and people felt responsible for each other."

Mosaic Family Zone exists to enrich every family in the Old South End has access to services which are both wholistic and longitudinal, providing everything a family needs over a 20+ year continuum. The major focus is to beat poverty over a generation through education. In addition to the early learning center and academy, Mosaic Family Zone also includes Baby University which provides support for parents.



David Kaiser

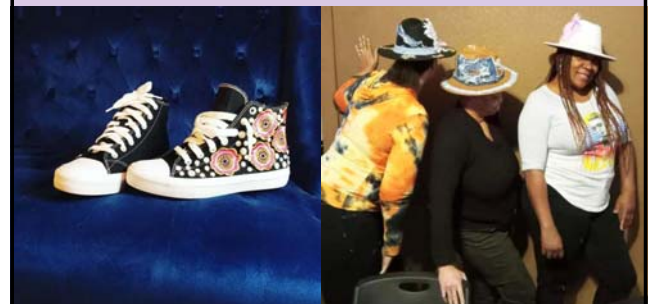


Guest speaker Seth Kaplan



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Nikola Welcome-Bovell and The Truth Colours Gallery

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

Art galleries, the sanctuaries of human creativity, stand as portals to a world where the mundane is transcended, and the soul is set free. Like beacons of enlightenment, The Truth Colours Gallery illuminates the tapestry of inner-city Toledo with the vibrant hues of imagination and vision.

Black-owned and operated art galleries are like lighthouses amidst the vast ocean of artistic expression, casting a radiant beacon of diversity and representation. The Truth Colours Gallery of art, located in Old Towne Toledo at 7 E. Bancroft Street, stands as a living testament to the resilience of creativity,



Nikola Welcome-Bovell



pushing against the currents of historical exclusion while illuminating the narratives and talents that have long been eclipsed.

"The Truth Colours Gallery of art is upstairs. Our event space is eccentric and inviting! House of Ginnie's custom fashion and alterations is downstairs. Our new location is great. The Sojourner's Truth offices have a special legacy of supporting the community while preserving heritage," explains Fletcher Word, publisher The Sojourner's Truth newspaper.

Who is the HGIC? (Head Gallerist In Charge)



Nikola Welcome-Bovell is the resident artist and head gallerist at the The Truth Colours Gallery.

"Yes, I am the artist behind the murals on these walls," she shares. "I also create many of the curated one-of-a-kind gifts here at the gallery."

Welcome-Bovell is a renowned artist from Guyana.

"I've been an artist from birth," explains Welcome-Bovell. "There's never been a starting point and there will never be an ending."



... continued on page 11

Autumn Gineen and the House of Ginnie

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

Fashion designers who possess the art of sewing, honed through the humble teachings passed down from their mothers, are like skilled weavers of an intricate quilt. They embark on a journey akin to stitching together the fabrics of tradition and innovation, crafting garments that are not merely clothes but vessels of culture and individual expression.



Autumn Gineen

Autumn Gineen is the resident fashion designer behind her self-titled brand. "The Truth Colours Gallery of art is upstairs. House of Ginnie is downstairs," says Gineen.



"To me sewing comes second nature. I've been sewing with my mom since I was young," shares the designer. "I love fashion. It's black & white or full of color, either or both."

In the realm of fashion design, juxtaposition takes on a transformative role. It becomes the dynamic interplay of forms, colors and textures, creating a visual poetry that transcends traditional boundaries.



Fashion serves as a powerful channel for creative expression, allowing designers like Gineen to communicate complex emotions and ideas beyond the confines of representational forms.

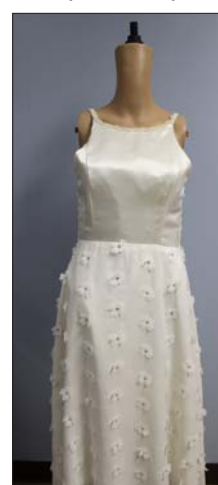
"I'm always pushing my personal boundaries of creativity, showcasing my clients' so-called 'flaws' as unique, exquisite features that add depth and character to their individual style," she says.

The importance of fashion lies in its ability to challenge conventional norms, inviting viewers to engage in subjective interpretation.

Fashion is a vehicle for dialogue, sparking conversations about perception, individuality, and the limitless possibilities

within our world. It prompts us to question, explore, and appreciate the beauty in the unexpected connections forged through contrasting elements.

When asked if she'd ever apply to Project Runway, Gineen says, "Sure. I'd be honored



to be a part of such a prestigious platform for showcasing my creativity and design skills."

Fashion design fosters a sense of liberation for artists and viewers alike. It encourages a departure from literal representation, inviting a more profound exploration of the human experience. "In this way, fashion becomes a dynamic force that propels the art world forward, pushing boundaries and redefining the very essence of artistic expression," explains Gineen "Learning how to sew is an artform, a symphony of both tension and harmony," she adds.



... continued on page 11