

**Volume 81 No. 3**      *“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”*      **November 29, 2023**



*Valerie Simmons-Walston, UToledo Special Advisor to the President for Community Engagement and Strategic Partnerships*

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# An Open Letter to Thomas Winston and Rosalyn Clemens

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

The Truth Contributor

*Economic advancement must be the next big move in the life of African Americans.*

*- Eddie N. Williams*



Dear Esteemed Black Economic Leaders: Housing and Community Development Director Clemens and Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority President and CEO Winston,

As a profoundly concerned member of our Toledo community, I am compelled to bring to your attention the alarming findings of a recent research study conducted by Lending Tree. This comprehensive analysis, assessing the economic prosperity of Black households across the 100 largest metropolitan areas in the United States, reveals Toledo in a troubling position. Our city, regrettably, ranks "dead last" in terms of economic prosperity or "thriving" for Black Americans.

The research analysis paints a dreadful picture of the challenges faced by our Black community. For example, in Toledo, Black householders are grappling with the lowest median household income among these cities, a mere \$31,106. This severe disparity is not merely a number. Still, it reflects deeper struggles, translating into hardships in affording basic living necessities, the dire straits associated with a lack of financial security, and severely limited opportunities for economic advancement. These challenges ripple through various aspects of Black life, affecting access to quality housing, education and healthcare and setting up barriers that hinder generational progress.

Moreover, the high rate of unemployment among Black residents, one of the worst in the nation, points to a local job market that consistently fails most Black Toledoans. The lack of employment opportunities directly impacts the immediate financial stability of African Americans. It also contributes to disparities in broader social issues like increased crime rates, health problems, and a general decrease in life satisfaction.

The educational attainment gap within Toledo's Black community is also alarming. The notably low percentage of Toledo's Black adults holding higher education degrees suggests shortcomings in our local education system and systemic barriers to higher education. This gap not only limits job opportunities and earning potential but also perpetuates a cycle of economic disadvantage.

Another pressing issue is Toledo's Black community's lack of wealth accumulation. A significantly low percentage of Black households earn over \$100,000, limiting investment opportunities like home ownership. This challenge has profound implications for long-term financial security and the ability to provide a stable economic foundation for future generations.

The comprehensive economic environment of Black Toledo, characterized by a high poverty rate and a median household income lower than the national average, suggests that these racially-generated economic disparities are occurring within a larger framework of city-wide economic challenges. Therefore, addressing these issues is not just a matter of improving numbers but fundamentally enhances the quality of life and opportunities for the Black community in Toledo.

In light of these findings, your roles as leaders in the economic community are more critical than ever. Your influence, expertise, and deep knowledge of the local economic landscape uniquely position you to spearhead initiatives that can transform these concerning statistics into narratives of success and resilience.

We urge you to expedite new strategies and initiatives directly addressing these disparities in addition to those in your current portfolio. These fresh interventions might include mentoring young entrepreneurs, advocating for equitable economic policies, investing in educational programs, and collaborating with local businesses to create job opportunities. You might also consider bringing new partners to the table such as faith-based entities. For example, in Washington, D.C. a faith-based organization has as its mission to incubate entrepreneurs and facilitate businesses, which has conscientiously created hundreds of jobs for those who have had the most difficult time finding them. Nevertheless, I am certain that your leadership and commitment can change the dismal narrative for Black Toledoans, turning challenges into opportunities for growth and prosperity.

Toledo's bottom ranking among metro areas reveals a city grappling with profound racial and economic inequality and necessitates a focused and sustained effort from all sectors of the city – government, business, public and higher education, faith-based, non-profit, community organizations, and individual residents.

Yet, it is also an opportunity to lead, innovate, and make a lasting impact. In these trying times, we look to you for guidance, action, and inspiration. Let us work together to create a Toledo where economic disparities are a thing of the past and every resident can thrive.

Thank you for your dedication and service to our community. Your leadership and vision will guide us toward a brighter economic future..

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

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### November 29

TARTA Business Open House: St. Charles Hospital Boardroom; 8 – 10 am; Discussion about new routes and services in Oregon with TARTA personnel; 419-245-5213

### December 16

St Marks Baptist Church Christmas Celebration: "The Wiseman;" Featuring the Fellowship Community Choir Toledo; 5 pm; 2340 N. Holland-Sylvania

# COVID-19 Was 'Bloody Sunday' for America's Racial Health Disparities, Yet There is Little Progress

By Hazel Trice Edney

Guest Column

Thousands of Black people had protested and many had died at the hands of police, white supremacists and racists as they engaged in non-violent campaigns to win the right to vote.

Still, America did not fully sit up and hear their cries until "Bloody Sunday", March 7, 1965. On that day TV cameras showed protestors being brutally attacked and beaten by the Alabama State Police as they marched peacefully from Selma to Montgomery across the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

It was only then that the United States government took decisive action. President Lyndon B. Johnson, a week after "Bloody Sunday", adopted the words of the civil rights leaders and declared before the nation in a televised speech to Congress, "We shall overcome."

Within a few months, the United States Congress adopted the Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965 and it was signed into law by President Johnson on August 6 that year. In a nutshell, the VRA prohibited any activities by anyone to abridge the right to vote.

More than 58 years later, Black doctors on the front lines against racism in medicine across the U. S. had hoped that the revelation of racially disparate suffering and death amidst the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID 19) would become the "Bloody Sunday" for revealing the truth about health disparities in America and escalate the long struggle to end them. But that has apparently not happened.

"I compare this now to the civil rights movement. We were really burdened with discrimination and brutality etcetera for many years," says Dr. Louis Sullivan, MD, founder of the Morehouse School of Medicine, and pioneer of the 15-year-old government agency now known as the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities. "But, the incidents such as the Birmingham police treatment of Blacks on the Edmund Pettus Bridge revealed to the nation those things that had existed for a long time. So, in a way, I see that the Coronavirus has had the same impact. Health disparities has been an issue for years. But people have not been aware or haven't really understood or taken it as seriously as many of us who were working with disparities have taken it. But now we are confronting this. And I am hoping that this really results much more in resources and attention and research and care to be devoted to the elimination of these disparities."

Dr. Sullivan is among leading Black physicians and HBCU administrators who agree that health disparities in the Black community – and the racism at the root of it – has been revealed to be far worse than anyone thinks. They say the disparities still must be dealt with through racial and cultural coalitions, increase in Black medical professionals and strengthening of public policies.

"Covid 19 has really pulled the scab off the sore of the underbelly of our mistreatment as Black Americans," says Dr. Rahn Bailey, MD, chief of the Psychiatry Department at Louisiana State University. "It's a long story, but a pertinent and a salient one. So, when an additional stressor like the COVID 19 or the Coronavirus presents itself, we already have a subscript in American life where whatever is bad happens worse to African-Americans. We have less health care access; we have fewer hospitals in our communities; we have less access to providers or specialists; very often we get less optimal medication or management. We have data to support that."

The data indicates racial disparities across the board:

- Exact numbers on COVID 19 infections, hospitalizations and deaths are fuzzy, largely because states initially did not track the pandemic by race. But, the Kaiser Family Foundation reported last year that though racial disparities narrowed as the pandemic subsided, during the surge associated with the Omicron variant in winter last year, disparities in cases once again widened with people of color, including African-Americans at 2,937 per 100,000 people, compared to cases among White people at 2,693 per 100,000. This number is astronomical given that America is

approximately 12 percent African-American and 59 percent white. The New York Times reported that "during the height of the Omicron variant, Covid killed Black people in rural areas at a rate roughly 34 percent higher than it did white people."

The broad disparities continue among other diseases:

- According to the National Cancer Institute, Black men die of prostate cancer at twice the rate of white men.
- Although Black women have a four percent lower rate of breast cancer diagnosis, the death rate for Black women is 40 percent higher than white women, according to the American Cancer Association.
- America's leading cause of death, heart disease, causes one of every three deaths in the U. S. But African Americans and Latinos experience "double the rate of premature deaths" from heart disease compared to their white counterparts, according to the National Institute of Health.
- According to the CDC, "Black women are three times more likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause than white women. Multiple factors contribute to these disparities, such as variation in quality healthcare, underlying chronic conditions, structural racism, and implicit bias."
- Black children have a "500 percent higher death rate from asthma compared with White children", according to the Harvard School of Public Health.
- The disparities even persist in treatments and care. For example, of amputations, Black patients lose limbs at three times the rate of white patients, despite progress in diabetic research, according to the NIH.

Despite the COVID 19 disparities that drew a new focus to the issue of racial health disparities, ending the racial gaps in deaths is still a struggle, says Dr. Yolanda Lawson, MD; an obstetrician and gynecologist, who serves as president of the National Medical Association, which has a membership of more than 50,000 Black physicians.

"It's not that as a Black OB/GYN I didn't know this. I've always known" of the disparities, Dr. Lawson said in an interview. "But I thought with awareness we would see a turn around. We would see changes."

She pointed out that after the videotaped killing of George Floyd by now imprisoned Derek Chauvin, "everybody got onto the equity bandwagon. Yet, here we are still talking and we know that there's still this wide gap."

... continued on page 4



Dr. Louis Sullivan, MD



Dr. Yolanda Lawson, MD

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COVID-19...continued from page 3

In addition to racism, pure and simple, researchers have often laid health disparities at the feet of what is called "social determinants;" which, in a nutshell, means common lifestyles of particular groups of people that often stem from systemic racism.

For example, at least one report written jointly by researchers at KFF and the Epic Research Network, said Blacks and Hispanics suffered more infections and deaths during the height of the COVID 19 pandemic because they were at greater risk of exposure to the virus "due to their work, living, and transportation situations. They are more likely to be working in low-income jobs that cannot be done from home, to be living in larger households in densely populated areas, and to utilize public or shared modes of transportation."

Likewise, economic and social circumstances such as poverty and food deserts often lead to illnesses like heart disease, diabetes and cancer.

"And even when there are solutions such as the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which assured that approximately 20-35 million adults, who previously had been uninsured, received coverage by Medicaid, there would still be cracks in the system," says, Dr. Randall Morgan, MD, an orthopedic surgeon who is president/CEO of the Cobb Health Institute, the research arm of the National Medical Association.

"So, it's a tough problem. Oh, it's huge. It's horrible. In some cases it's inhumane," Dr. Morgan said. "But, people have to accept what's available for them. And so much of that depends on where you live and what your income is and what your level of education is - the social determinates of health."



Dr. Randall Morgan, MD

Despite the glaring disparities, advocates on the front lines have often run into brick walls when trying to call attention to them and trying to raise funds to end them.

For example, Bill Thomas Jr., an advocate for proton therapy treatment at the Hampton University Proton Therapy Cancer Institute, has been leading a near-futile battle for more money to end cancer disparities as the HBCU's associate vice president for governmental relations.

"We are just trying to figure out how to communicate this particular matter to the General Assembly so they support it financially to save lives," Thomas told WAVY Radio in Virginia during a rally. "We are not building roads, we are not building casinos," Thomas said. "We are trying to ease human suffering and save lives."

In an interview, Thomas pointed to observations made by former Virginia Gov. L. Douglas Wilder, concerning the Commonwealth's underfunding of HBCUs - both public and private. In a recent op-editorial, Wilder quoted a Goldman Sachs report in the Richmond Times-Dispatch titled, "Historically Black, Historically Underfunded."

Wilder's op-ed stated that "public HBCUs have 54 percent less in assets per student" than public predominately white universities while "private HBCUs have 79 percent less than private" predominately white universities.

Like Wilder, Thomas asks the question, "why the legislature and the current administration cannot redress the wrongs of legal discrimination?"

Support to undergird the programs of HBCUs could indeed be one of the key answers to the problem of health disparities, Lawson says. With an increase in Black doctors, more hospitals in Black neighborhoods and more medical programs at HBCUs, health disparities could begin to close, she said.

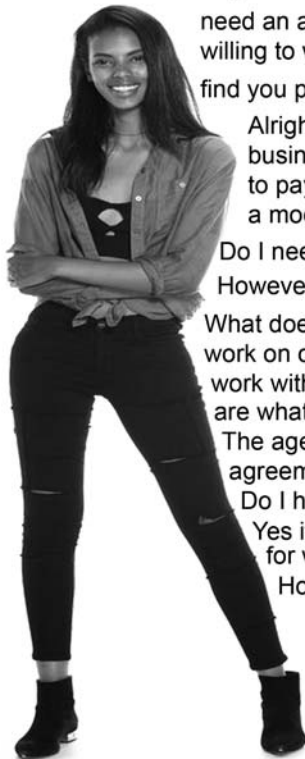
An NMA program called Project Impact 2.0 has two goals, Lawson says - first, to increase the number of African American researchers and to increase the numbers of Blacks included in research studies.

But just like with the civil rights successes, Lawson adds, the battle will take people of all races and walks of life working together.

"We at NMA hope to become a unifying voice. I think one of my strengths is building alliances with others. I think by building alliances, you create louder voices. And I want to call people to task so that it's not just words and great manuscript. I want to see impact at my community level. I think NMA lends to that. We have over 130 state and local societies; we're divided into six geographic regions and we have 26 different medical specialties that are represented within the organization," Lawson says. "We have the infrastructure to do this - to not only bring a voice to the national level in the way of policy and advocacy, but again, make a community level impact. It just has to happen."

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# TightenUp419 Event Addresses Gang and Gun Violence

By Dawn Scotland  
The Truth Reporter

TightenUp419 hosted a leadership outreach on Saturday, November 18 at Ternion Training and Education Center on Hill Ave. The nonprofit hosted the event to reach out to local community leaders to support at-risk youth that are significantly impacted by gang and gun violence.

Antione Rayford and Courtney Nunn, two Toledo natives, formerly spent time incarcerated together. "I went into to prison at 17 and [he] went to prison shortly after... we met in prison after being taken off the Toledo streets," said Rayford. "We founded an organization in [prison] targeted at gangs. We were able to bring violence down in North Central Correctional Institution by forming a program...so when we got home, we wanted to keep it going. So that's what we're doing."

The organization, TightenUp419 was officially founded this year as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The mission is to reach at-risk youth and positively impact their perspective on life through a mentorship and leadership program. The organization's

vision is to eradicate gun and gang violence by bringing at-risk youth together, getting them to embrace peace, and stand in solidarity.

"Out here, we figure if we reach the leaders of the community, guys with influence over these young guys. If we reach them we can have them reach one of these young guys that are at risk... and get them to think and [do] different. We want [the youth] to be surrounded with positivity from the same guys who influenced them before but on a good level," said Rayford.

Rayford is an HVAC instructor at TTEC and Nunn now has a successful job in the trades in Columbus, OH where he makes a six-figure salary. The two ultimately would like to teach at-risk youth trades to ensure that they have a better future.

TightenUp419 will include training for leadership as well as mentorship for youth throughout the year. Speakers for this event included Donna Malone, spokesperson for Toledo Moms Demand Action; Sharon Henley, spokesperson for Sisters 4 Unity; first keynote speaker Toriono Henry, second keynote speaker



Antione Rayford and Courtney Nunn founders of TightenUp419

DeAndre Gaston and an introduction of DJ Flex Production. Refreshments were provided.

# Money Talks: Connecting Lenders to Minority Businesses

The Truth Staff

Over 100 minority-owned businesses were present on Tuesday night, November 14, at the Glass City Enrichment Center to meet "traditional and non-traditional lenders," said Erik Johnson of Ivy Development and one of

the event organizers.

Money Talks, a minority and disadvantaged business networking event, was organized to enhance minority-owned businesses' connections and knowledge about available financial resources.

The event is hosted by City of Toledo, Ivy Development Agency, Lucas County, Metroparks Toledo and the Minority Business Assistance Center.

The Enrichment Center is a new Metroparks facility on Front Street at Morrison Drive.



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# Valerie Simmons-Walston: Turning Obstacles into Opportunities

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

In the fusion of academia, Valerie Simmons-Walston's journey at the University of Toledo unfolds as a vibrant narrative. From assuming the mantle of Associate Vice President of Student Services, orchestrating a symphony that included Residence Life, Housing, the Student Recreation Center, the Counseling Center, and the Student Union, to her rise as the Interim Vice President/Vice Provost — she is a sight to see, a beam of light waltzing through our Glass City corridors of leadership.

Walston was appointed to the position of the University of Toledo's **Special Advisor to the President for Community Engagement and Strategic Partnerships** back in July 2022. In this role, she's proven herself to be a true educational maestro, leading the University's orchestra of community collaboration with Rocket pride. As a virtuoso in weaving bonds, Walston manages a joint advisory board uniting community luminaries and UToledo stalwarts alike.

Beyond UT's ivory towers, Walston embraces the rhythm of community service. "As Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Club of Toledo, I stepped into the spotlight during the Hussain lecture series, where I shared my wellness journey," explains Walston.

As co-mistress of ceremonies at the African American Festival/Concert, she commanded attention in a crowd of 4,000, leaving an indelible mark. Her commitment also extends beyond Toledo as an active contributor to service projects through her sisterhood with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

"It was a real honor to be recognized for my outstanding community engagement in July 2023," shares Walston. "It was one of my proudest moments receiving the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union's service award."

In a stream of upcoming endeavors, 2024 promises new movement. "I support the Women's Day initiatives for St. Paul's Baptist Church and was honored to be asked to take the baton as the chair for the American Heart As-

sociation Heart Ball," she shares.

All-in-all Miss Valerie is an amazing role model, composing the next verses of her impactful melody in the grand opera of leadership and community service.

She encourages residents to visit the University and to get involved.

The University of Toledo's innovation section of its website showcases a crescendo of entrepreneurial spirit, spotlighting UT's LaunchPad incubation program. Since 2014, over 250 entrepreneurs have danced through its doors, creating an arrangement of nearly 250 jobs and orchestrating a financial cadence with nearly \$30,000,000 in sales revenue and professional investment.

Walston goes on to explain: "78 percent of 2017 College of Business and Innovation graduates found employment in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan. A statistic we are very proud of!"

In the expansive landscape of educational advocacy, Valerie Simmons-Walston navigates the shifting tides with a commitment to inclusivity. Recognizing the challenges posed by the Supreme Court's decision in SFFA v. Harvard and SFFA v. UNC, which altered the trajectory of affirmative action, Walston remains steadfast in fostering educational opportunities for people of color.

In the heart of Ohio, where traditions are woven into the fabric of communities, Walston embraces the inclusive ethos that defines her approach. She understands that the Midwest and Ohio, often regarded as incubators for success in academia, can serve as beacons of inspiration for the nation. In NW Ohio, where challenges and triumphs echo through the corridors of education, Walston champions a narrative that transcends boundaries.

In the face of adversity, Walston saw an opportunity to create a model

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Valerie Simmons-Walston

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**GENERAC**

Valerie Simmons-Walston... continued from page 6

that reflects the diversity and resilience of the Midwest. She envisions an educational landscape that not only defies the limitations imposed by recent legal decisions but also stands as a testament to the region's commitment to inclusive excellence.

"UToledo launched a new initiative in 2022 to enhance its community engagement efforts," she shares.

In the domain of Community Engagement and Strategic Partnerships (CESP), a tale unfolds—a story of interconnected pillars that form the very foundation of collaboration and community harmony Walston practices.

"I not only engage with stakeholders and collaborate with community leaders, I also keep a thorough documentation of our efforts," she says.

"We ensure that the conversation on educational opportunities becomes a chorus of voices that best represent the University of Toledo. I encourage dialogues that span across demographics, fostering an environment where everyone's narrative contributes to the collective story of progress."

Walston goes on to explain UT's 8 Pillars of Community Engagement and Strategic Partnerships—each pillar a guardian of a unique stepping stone.

**1. Intentional Data Collection:** In the quiet chambers of the university, CESP plays the role of a wise scribe, diligently collecting data. Every piece of information becomes a chapter, weaving a story that chronicles the profound impact on the community and the bonds forged in the name of strategic collaboration.

**2. Strategically Focused Communication:** The communication orchestrated by CESP is not a chaotic cacophony, but one that is carefully composed and strategically played. Each note resonates through the campus, amplifying the history of partnerships and initiatives that echo like a magical tune.

**3. Sustain University Classifications:** As a protective guardian, CESP watches over the classifications of Carnegie and IEP. *The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, is a framework for classifying colleges and universities in the United States. An Individualized Education Program is a legal document under United States law that is developed for each public school child in the U.S. who needs special education.* Like a mystical artifact, these classifications are preserved, ensuring that the legacy of excellence reverberates through the University.

**4. Support Service-Learning, Academic Engagement & Student Success:** In the vibrant garden of learning, CESP is the nurturing soil where seeds of service-learning, academic engagement, and student success take root. Each student's journey becomes a blooming flower, enriching both the university and surrounding communities.

**5. Showcase Signature Partnerships:** Like treasured relics in an ancient gallery, CESP proudly displays its signature partnerships. Each partnership is a masterpiece, telling the story of a harmonious collaboration between the university and its esteemed allies.

**6. Enhance Community-Based Health Care Initiatives:** CESP, a healer in its own right, is embarking on a quest to enhance community-based health care initiatives. It's quickly becoming the guardian local of well-being, fostering a landscape where wellness blossoms as a collective endeavor.

**7. Champion Internal/External Collaborative Partnerships:** CESP stands tall as a champion, a bridge between realms of internal and external collaboration. Like a skilled diplomat, it forges alliances that transcend boundaries, creating a tapestry of unity.



Valerie Simmons-Walston

**8. Ignite Forward**

**Thinking: Innovation & Technology:** In the ever-evolving landscape, CESP emerges as a beacon, lighting the way for forward thinking. It's a magical flame of innovation and technology, guiding the university towards a future illuminated by progress.

Walston goes on to explain, "We also have 4 Areas of Engagement:"

**1. People:** Each individual meeting is a chapter in the enchanted book of connection. Whether it's a dialogue, a relationship-building endeavor, or a collaborative discussion, every touchpoint paints a unique interaction, adding depth to the narrative.

**2. Projects:** Projects, like the chapters of an epic saga, are the long-term tasks that compose the opus of impact. Their outcomes resonate through internal and external partnerships, shaping the story of CESP's influence.

**3. Partnerships:** The dance of partnerships is a choreography of reciprocity. From *Toledo Excel* to the *University of Toledo Foundation*, each partner contributes to a synchronized performance—a dance that enriches the community and brings joy to every corner.

**4. Media/Speaking Engagements:** CESP, like a seasoned storyteller, engages in media and speaking engagements. It narrates tales of community impact, with each event and partner becoming a captivating chapter in their evolving saga of collaboration.

In Walston's vision, the Midwest becomes not just an incubator for academic success, but a crucible of inclusivity. "By embracing the diverse perspectives and experiences within our region, I aim to illuminate a path forward—one where equal access to education thrives, irrespective of the

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# The Fall Expo Extravaganza

*The Truth Staff*

Small businesses, a DJ and several food trucks gathered at St. Clement Hall on Saturday, November 18, for the Fall Expo Extravaganza, one of a number of expos that Donnetta Carter, the Social Butterfly, organizes and hosts during the year.

The Fall Expo brought together 55 vendors to share their wares, products and information with an estimated 450 attendees.

The next Expo is scheduled for Saturday, April 6, 2024, also at St. Clement Hall.



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# Scott Students Treated to Thanksgiving Dinner

By Dawn Scotland  
The Truth Reporter

The Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union treated 30 Scott High School students to Thanksgiving Dinner at the Toledo Country Club on Thursday, November 16, for having perfect attendance for the first quarter of the school year.

"We're treating them like kings and queens", said Suzette Cowell, president and CEO of the Urban Federal Credit Union, "with a full course Thanksgiving dinner for them." Students walked into the country club while receiving roses and were welcomed by members of the local community.

"We started last year," said Bishop Pat McKinstry, board president of the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union and leader of the Worship Cen-

ter. "The local church adopted Scott and the community first furnishing the uniforms for the cheerleaders for perfect attendance." The church then grew their effort to the class with the most perfect

...continued on page 10



Valerie Walston of UT; Mija Marti of Toledo Tomorrow; Bishop Pat McKinstry; Scott HS Laurie Zellman; Suzette Cowell, of TUFCU; present roses to Scott High School students



King Towbridge, freshman at Scott High School, enjoys his plate



Scott High School students and Scott High School staff



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- What happened in the beginning, middle, and end of the story?
- What problem did the characters face? How did they solve their problem?
- What did you like, or not like about this book?

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# Dear John Burnett

Dear John Burnett,

I recently read your article in one of our local community newspapers, (The Sojourner's Truth- Oct 4, 2023). In it you described a recently introduced proposal, within the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, as a denial of free choice. It appears you've described Sen. Marco Rubio's proposal, which introduces a prohibition from purchasing snacks, fruit juice and soda as "limiting options, and denying the deserved exercise of the freedom of choice."

I agree with you that SNAP recipients are in need. But I strongly disagree that they are "fully capable of making their own food choices". Because they do not!

Need I describe the circumstances of lives lived, near the poverty line? Most "choices" are circumscribed by slick advertising and targeted marketing. Why do you think "snacks, fruit juice and soda" are

so readily available in certain areas? What nutritional value would the medical and health communities assign to the "choices" you so eagerly wish to preserve?

Marco Rubio is no advocate for much more than the dollars he shepherds. And as a self-proclaiming Republican, I recognize your need to service ideas above people.

About this issue, Rubio is right. Albeit perhaps for the wrong reasons.

You, however, as an educator, are not only wrong, but duplicitous. You're professing to promote freedom and independent values, while simultaneously dictating self-inflicting damage upon the health of the underprivileged.

Your concern is masked as the wolf in the hen house.

Ty Renfro

## Scott Students... continued from page 9

attendance last year and a few weeks ago provided a food truck for the top 80. Now they are at the top 30 students.

"I'm so excited to be here, it's a great opportunity and a great honor for us students to be here today and I appreciate those who made it possible for us to be here today," remarked Kamet Jacob, junior at Scott High School. Many expressed that they had never been to the country club before. The students also received goody bags from the University of Toledo and gifts from the Port Authority.



Scott High School students with perfect attendance arrive at Toledo Country Club Thursday

Donations from Bishop McKinstry; Thomas Winston, CEO of the Toledo Lucas County Port Authority, and Suzette Cowell in the amount of \$1,000 each will be provided to the two seniors at Scott High School with perfect attendance. Both students to be awarded \$1500 each.

Latonia Reid, as-

sistant principal of activities at Scott High School, thanked the organizations for the support from the community "It means a lot to the school to have so many supporters...a lot of times all they get out is the negative news. We appreciate you recognizing us and supporting us in our positive endeavors as well."

**Speakers included:**  
Suzette Cowell, president and CEO of the Urban Federal Credit Union  
Phil McWeeny, president of Toledo Country Club  
Bishop Pat McKinstry, board president of the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union and leader of the Worship Center  
Pastor Timothy Pettaway, lead pastor of Walk the Word Church  
Thomas Winston, president/CEO of Toledo Port Authority, keynote speaker  
Mija Martin, education specialist, Toledo Tomorrow  
Valerie Walston, special advisor to the President University of Toledo for Community Engagement Strategic Partnerships.



Scott High School students receive roses upon entering Toledo Country Club

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# For Too Many Kids Getting Outside Is Easier Said Than Done

By Ben Jealous  
Guest Column

Last week, after a restful Thanksgiving, my family made a deliberate choice to #OptOutside on Friday. #OptOutside is a growing movement in which participating organizations and companies close their doors on Black Friday, give their employees a paid day off, and encourage all of us to embrace the serenity of nature instead of succumbing to the frenzy of Black Friday shopping. I'm an outdoors enthusiast, from a long line of outdoors enthusiasts.

As a dad, I try to instill a strong love of nature in my kids and make sure they reap the vast benefits of spending time outside in and among nature. However, I'm aware that my family's ability to enjoy the outdoors is a blessing that's been denied to far too many other Black families. Like pollution and climate change, inadequate access to nature is not a crisis shouldered equally.

Sadly, it won't surprise you that it falls hardest on people of color and low-income communities. A study of park accessibility by the Trust for Public Land concluded that "systemic racism and redlining have led to chronic disinvestment in parks and recreational facilities in marginalized communities."

The result is one that perpetuates a cycle of inequality: "too few parks as well as parks marred by cracked asphalt, barren fields, and broken play equipment." All people, and especially children, need easy access to safe, clean outside spaces for healthy bodies and minds.

Yet one third of all Americans – among them, 28 million children – don't have any sort of park or natural space within a 10-minute walk of their home. According to analysis of 2017 demographic data by Conservation Science Partners, people of color were three times more likely than white people to live in an area that is considered nature deprived, with people who identified as Black or African American being the group most likely to live in one of these areas.

Sixty-eight percent of people who identified as Black or African American lived in a nature deprived area. Seventy percent of low-income people did. And a whopping 76% of low-income people of color lived in a nature deprived area. Lack of nature access is not only an issue of one's physical proximity to a park or green space.

People of color, especially Black people, have an unfortunate history in this country of segregation and exclusion from public lands and natural places. We've been met with threats and violence while in nature. And for too long we were even excluded from the conservation movement fighting to protect natural lands.

The consequences of this are still felt today. What does this nature gap and nature deficit mean for our kids? Years of studies have shown that children who spend less time outdoors are more likely to deal with physical health problems, ranging from childhood obesity to vitamin D deficiency, as well as reduced motor skills development and higher rates of emotional illnesses like anxiety and depression.



Ben Jealous

Meanwhile, we also know that when kids spend time in nature, besides the general benefits of exercise, it helps build confidence, reduce stress, and promote creativity. So, closing the nature gap, as a goal, should be a priority to all of us who have fought long and hard to close the opportunity gaps faced by our kids and our communities.

That's why I'm glad that this week marks a broad, rejuvenated push for Congress to pass the bipartisan Outside For All Act, which would increase access to nature and opportunities for outdoor recreation in urban and low-income communities. By codifying the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) program into federal law, the Outdoors For All Act would make the immense benefits of local parks more equitable and accessible to all.

Those benefits, according to the office of U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla, one of the bill's sponsors, include job creation, shade and tree cover, and clean air, as well as "new trails, green spaces, playgrounds, cultural gathering spaces, and more." It all adds up to healthier bodies and minds for our children, and building more of a shared understanding, for all of us, of why spending time outdoors and protecting nature are so critical to our wellbeing.

Ben Jealous is executive director of the Sierra Club, professor of practice at the University of Pennsylvania and author of "Never Forget Our People Were Always Free."

*Valerie Simmons-Walston... continued from page 7*

challenges that may arise," she says.

On the University of Toledo's website, a poignant encore comes from the heart of its students, who, during the fall semester, volunteered over 18,500 hours. Their altruistic endeavors, a powerful journey through tutoring, mentoring, serving meals and beautifying neighborhoods, compose a story that reverberates beyond the classrooms. In this symphony of service, 2,168 undergraduate students, learning through hands-on experiences, contributed over 380,000 hours—a testament to the University's commitment to enriching lives and composing a legacy of community impact.

As the story continues to unfold, the 2023-2024 CESP forecast becomes even more than just a plan; it's a celebration of aspirations, committees, and upcoming dates—a crescendo building towards a future where community engagement is not just a task but a way of life. Each committee plays a distinct role in this enchanted masterpiece, ensuring that the rhythm of impact continues to echo throughout the University of Toledo, creating a tale for generations to come.

Through her inclusive leadership, VP Valerie Simmons-Walston is transforming the narrative while turning obstacles into opportunities. The Midwest, under her stewardship, has become a beacon not only for academic accomplishments but for a harmonious and diverse approach to education—an approach that resonates far beyond state lines, inspiring others to emulate the inclusive successes of our Glass City.

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# *The Black Angels: The Untold Story of the Nurses Who Helped Cure Tuberculosis* by Maria Smilios

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

No disrespect meant.

You won't tolerate it anyway, so that's a good thing. As a human being, someone who walks and talks, forms ideas and creates concepts, you absolutely, righteously demand that others give you the respect you want. The respect you deserve. Even if, as in *The Black Angels* by Maria Smilios, getting it takes decades.

Edna Sutton hated her job sorting papers in a downtown office.

True, it didn't require housekeeping or service, as did most jobs for Black women then, and she appreciated that. She wasn't interested in being someone's maid; instead, science "set her mind alight," and Edna dreamed of becoming a nurse. She would only be allowed to work in a Black hospital, though; and there weren't many of those in Savannah, Georgia.

But there were up north and in the summer of 1929, when she was told of a hospital in New York that was "recruiting" Black nurses, Edna applied for a position. She'd be caring for tuberculosis patients, and the job promised to further her education.

In early 1930, she became a part of the Great Migration when she boarded a train to Harlem.

For decades, Edna Sutton and her fellow Black nurses did the work that white nurses would not do, tending to the poorest of the poor who often came from overcrowded tenements to Sea View on Staten Island. Sanity was a wish for those nurses: hand-washing was stressed, but masking was not. Sometimes, masking was frowned-upon.

Some were reminded the hard way that tuberculosis was airborne and

c.2023  
Putnam  
\$30.00  
428 pages

highly contagious.

And yet, despite long hours and putting themselves in constant danger, raises and promotions were out of reach for the Black nurses, mostly due to Jim Crow laws. They struck, to no avail; the NAACP urged New York City's mayor to change the law, but he dragged his feet.

To gain respect and recognition, the nurses would need "something huge... something like a war." With their help, a cure for tuberculosis would take even longer...

Imagine a disease that you can catch from a cough or sneeze, one that steals your ability to breathe and puts you in the hospital, gasping for air and grasping at life. The story of that disease is a big part of a hidden history, and not just *déjà vu*.

Knowing what we know about pandemics, in fact, makes *The Black Angels* feel closer to home, and it makes the personal and medical sacrifices of Edna Sutton, Missouri Meadows-Walker, and Virginia Allen feel larger. Read, and recent events bring a sense of dread to the tale. Read, and you'll know the frustration involved. Author Maria Smilios then casts a wider story net that takes readers to the periphery for further understanding, to two world wars, to Harlem, medical research, and the political atmosphere of New York, 1945.

Beware: the extraneous coverage goes deep and it may distract from the larger story of Black heroism and history. Go with the dive, though, and you'll find that *The Black Angels* is a pretty respectable read.

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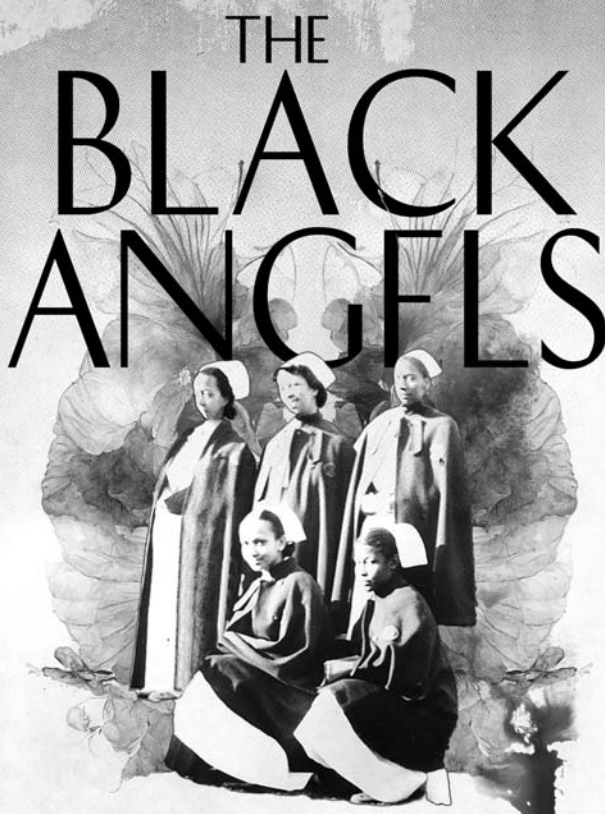
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The Untold Story of the Nurses  
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MARIA SMILIOS

# A Holiday Book Gift List, Part I

By Terri Schlichenmeyer, *The Book Worm*

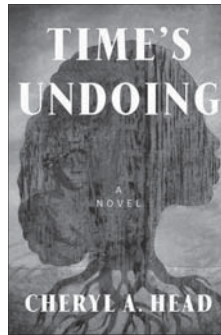
The Truth Contributor

One thin line.

There you are, you've just crossed off your last person, thereby finishing your Holiday Gift List for the year. But oops, you forgot that one hard-to-buy-for aunt, and you haven't gotten anything for your babysitter. And, and, and... you're out of ideas. So how about something to read? See if these great books don't give you some guidance...

## FICTION

The novel lover who's always doing good things for other people may enjoy unwrapping *Just Do This One Thing for Me* by Laura Zimmermann (Dutton). It's the story of a daughter who always does what her free-spirited mother asks of her – even if it gets her in trouble. Wrap it up with *Time's Undoing* by Cheryl A. Head (Dutton), a novel about a woman who's determined to learn how her great-grandfather died, and how what it means to her safety. Bonus: this book was based on the author's own family history.



The reader who loves twisty tales of sister love and rivalry will want to unwrap *How to Care for a Human Girl* by Ashley Wurzbacher (Atria), the story of two sisters, two pregnancies, and a whole pile of resentments. Pair it up with *Before You Found Me* by Brooke Beyfuss (Sourcebooks). It's a tale of choosing your family and sticking together.

Is there a horse lover on your gift list? Aha, then look for *Girls and Their Horses* by Eliza Jane Brazier (Berkley), a novel set in the world of competitive show-jumping, where one mother's wish to give her daughters an opportunity she always wanted could lead to death. Wrap it up with another mean-girl novel, *Under the Influence* by Noelle Crooks (Gallery Books), a novel about a woman who gets a job with an influencer. Does she live to tell? Wait a few days, then ask your giftee...

Here's a nicely complex novel your giftee will love: *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride (Riverhead Books). When a new housing development is being constructed in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, builders found a human skeleton. The people in the neighborhood know who the bones belonged to, but they're not talking. This book about racism, community, and survival will make a great gift.

Mystery lovers will rejoice when they unwrap *Mrs. Plansky's Revenge* by Spencer Quinn (Forge), the story of a seventy-something widow who's scammed out of all her money. Law enforcement says the crime is impossible to solve, but your giftee will know better... Wrap it up with *The McMasters Guide to Homicide 1: Murder Your Employer* by Rupert Holmes (Simon & Schuster), a book about an unusual school where murder is the main focus.

If you've got someone on your list who loves books of magic and spells, then look for *Black Candle Women* by Diane Marie Brown (Graydon House). It's a tale of three generations of Montrose women who live in the same house, stick to home, and keep their own company. Everything's fine until one of them brings home a boy whose presence opens up an old family secret that will change everything. Wrap it up with *Wade in the Water* by Nyani Knrumah (Amistad), a novel of a white woman who befriends an 11-year-old Black girl, and the relationship between the two in a racially-divided southern city.

Does your giftee have keen memories of high school? Then *Speech Team* by Tim Murphy (Viking) may be the thing to wrap. It's the story of a suicide, a teacher who may have been the root of it years ago, and the middle-age search to close old wounds.

Of course, the vampire fan on your gift list is going to want *Vampire Weekend* by Mike Chen (Mira), the story of Louise Chao, who finds out that the life of a vampire is actually pretty boring – although she does have punk rock shows to look forward to. And then a teenage relative arrives at her doorstep and everything changes... Give it with *Rook* by William Ritter (Algonquin Young Readers), a book about a girl who could see other realms and creatures, and she knows her gift can be used for good. But there's chaos on both sides of the curtain, and her parents want her home. Can she save both worlds, and her own life?

For the future homeowner on your gift list, wrap up *Perfectly Nice Neighbors* by Kia Abdullah (Putnam), a thriller filled with revenge and regret. When your dream home is perfect but the folks next door aren't, what do

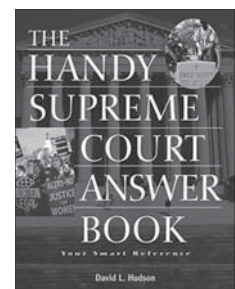
you do? Wrap it up with *Our Hideous Progeny* by C.E. McGill (Harper), a book about old family homes and ancient family secrets.

You've got a reader on your list that would love a seafaring tale of pirates and ships, don't you? That's why you want to wrap up *A True Account: Hannah Masury's Sojourn Amongst the Pyrates, Written by Herself* by Katherine Howe, a novel about a professor who finds and reads the journals supposedly written by a woman who snuck onto a pirate ship to find treasure hundreds of years ago. But the journal is missing some crucial information. Was that on purpose?

If your giftee loves to immerse themselves in series-mystery books, *To Catch a Storm* by Mindy DeJia (Atlantic Monthly) will be the gift they'll love. It's a new series featuring a physicist and a psychic; this first book is set in Iowa during inclement weather. You can't go wrong, eh? Wrap it up with *The Killer Speech* by Kevin Kluesner (Level Best), a thriller set in Wisconsin, featuring a politician and an FBI agent.

## GENERAL NON-FICTION

Your giftee follows politics, rapidly. So why not give them *The Handy Supreme Court Answer Book, second edition* by David L. Hudson, Jr., J.D. (Visible Ink Press). This easy-to-understand book is filled with Q&A information on how the SCOTUS works, why it's important, and some insight to the nine people who sit on what may be the most controversial court ever. Pair it with *Grifters, Frauds, and Crooks* by Richard Estep (Visible Ink Press), for a great look at law, order, and the lack thereof.



The horror-movie-lover on your gift list will absolutely want *The Exorcist Legacy: 50 Years of Fear* by Nat Segaloff (Citadel Press). It's the story of the movie, its making and the outrage and controversy it led to... but it's also about the crowds, creators, and fans who made it a classic. Wrap it up with *Say Hello to My Little Friend: A Century of Scarface*, also by Nat Segaloff, also from Citadel Press.

The connoisseur of fine liquor will want to unwrap *Last Call at Coogan's: The Life and Death of a Neighborhood Bar* by Jon Michaud (St. Martin's Press). It's a biography of a drinking spot, but also of the people who loved it and could be found inside it. Wrap up *A Good Mom's Guide to Making Bad Choices* by Jamilah Mapp and Erica Dickerson (Harper One) with it. It's sharp, hilarious, and a good reminder that you can make mistakes and the kids will probably be just fine.

For the giftee who likes to think big, *Age of the City: Why Our Future Will be Won or Lost Together* by Ian Goldin and Tom Lee-Devlin (Bloomsbury) may be the perfect gift. It takes a deep dive into how cities have shaped the world in the past, and how they may be the answer to a lot of the problems that citizens in the future will face. Wrap it up with *Bold Ventures: Thirteen Tales of Architectural Tragedy* by Charlotte Van den Broeck (Other Press), a book about builders and buildings they didn't live

...continued on page 14

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*Holiday Book Gift List... continued from page 13*

to regret.

If you've got a pop culture fan on your list, or a Millennial, wrap up **Wannabe: Reckonings with the Pop Culture That Shapes Me** by Aisha Harris (Harper One). Harris, of NPR's Pop Culture Happy Hour, takes a look at growing up in the 1990s and all the fun, irritating things that came with it. Pair it with **The Perennials: The Megatrends Creating a Postgenerational Society** by Mauro F. Guillen (St. Martin's Press). Imagine a world with no more Boomers, GenXers, or Millennials. It's a world where we're not categorized, and your giftee may love reading about that.

The person on your gift list who loves love will be thrilled to unwrap **Love Stories** by Trent Dalton (Fourth Estate), a collection of quick, super-short man-on-the-street stories of finding, having, and losing love. Swoon. Pair it with **"Your Difference is Your Strength"** by Kris Ferraro (St. Martin's Essentials), a book about knowing, loving, and accepting yourself. Or try **The Joy Strategist** by Grace Harry (Andscape Books) and wrap it up for someone you love who also loves books.

For the person on your gift list who wants to but more communication in their relationship, wrap up **The Power of Language** by Viorica Marian (Dutton). This intriguing book looks at the way we speak and how we can tap into unique abilities of our minds. Wrap it up with **Mother Tongue** by Jenni Nuttall (Viking), a book of language, vocabulary, and the meanings of words that women have created, hated, and embraced.

Your giftee who devours books on social issues will want to unwrap **No Human Contact** by Pete Earley (Citadel Press). Ripped from today's headlines, this book takes a look at solitary confinement in prison, and what a pair of inmates did to change how prisons work. Wrap it up with **The Serial Killer Next Door: The Double Lives of Notorious Murders** by Richard Estep (Visible Ink Press), for a full look at some of the people inside those prisons.

If there's a sneaker lover or a collector on your gift list, don't give another pair of shoes or fancy laces as a gift. Instead, wrap up **A History of Basketball in Fifteen Sneakers** by Russ Bengtson (Workman). Full of pictures, history, side-bars, and more, this book will make a buckets fan smile, too. Readers who can't get enough of sports, period, will want to read **Banana Ball: The Unbelievably True Story of the Savannah Bananas** by Jesse Cole with Don Yaeger (Dutton), the story of baseball, but not quite.

There's a lover of the paranormal on your gift list, isn't there? Then you want to wrap up **Encounters: Experiences with Nonhuman Intelligences** by D.W. Pasulka (St. Martin's Essentials). Has your giftee seen a UFO or had an angel encounter? Have they been to other dimensions and want to explore more? Yep, this is the right gift – and it'll be even better if you wrap it up with **The Afterlife Book** by Marie D. Jones and Larry Flaxman (Visible Ink Press), a book on Heaven, Hell, this side of life, and that side.

Who doesn't get their dog a gift? You do, of course, so wrap up **Fifty Places to Travel with Your Dog Before You Die** by Chris Santella and DC Helmuth (Abrams Press). Hiking, swimming, romping here and abroad, this is a book your pup can really sink his teeth into, and it's a good bet he'll let you borrow it. And if you have a (human) giftee who craves similar adventure, wrap up **Reading the Glass: A Captain's View of Weather, Water, and Life on Ships** by Elliot Rappaport (Dutton), a book that's meant for the anyone who dreams of giving up the landlubber's life.

For the person who cares for animals that don't get a lot of press, you won't go wrong if you wrap up **Of Time and Turtles** by Sy Montgomery (Mariner), a book about a turtle rescue and the volunteers who work hard to save shells and lives. Pair it up with **Kings of Their Own Ocean: Tuna, Obsession, and the Future of Our Seas** by Karen Pinchin (Dutton), the story of more than just a fish.

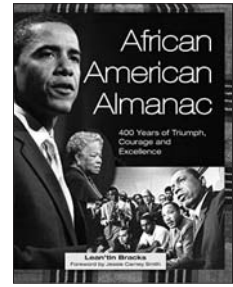
And here's a book that will make someone smile this holiday: **Family, Friends, and Neighbors: Stories of Murder and Betrayal** by Richard Estep (Visible Ink Press). Your true crime fanatic will love it.

#### HISTORY

If your giftee loves reading about Black History, then you can't go wrong when you wrap up **The First Migrants: How Black Homesteaders' Quest for Land and Freedom Heralded America's Great Migration** by Richard Edwards and Jacob K. Friefeld (Bison Books). It's the story of the people who headed to the plains decades before the Great Migration, and how their move changed the country.

For the person who devours history, look for **African American Almanac: 400 Years of Black Excellence** by Lean'tin Bracks, PhD (Visible Ink Press). This second edition is full of history, mini-biographies, things your giftee might not know, and best of all: it's completely updated. Also look for **Before the Movement: The Hidden History of Black Civil Rights** by Dylan C. Penningroth (Liveright). More history. More stories.

The person on your list who enjoys real-life mysteries and history will want **Unearthed: A Lost Actress, A Forbidden Book, and a Search for Life in the Shadow of the Holocaust** by Meryl Frank (Hachette Books). For much of her childhood, Frank's aunt Mollie strove to ensure that the kids in the family never forgot what had happened during World War II to the Jews. When Frank inherited a book filled with secrets, she went in search of a missing link to that story. Wrap it up with **The Ghost Tattoo: Discovering the Hidden Truth of My Father's Holocaust** by Tony Bernard (Citadel Press), the story of a son who learns the secrets of a concentration camp that his father finally told.



That same World War II buff may want to read **Fragile Cargo: The World War II Race to Save the Treasures of China's Forbidden City** by Adam Brookes (Atria). This story starts nearly two decades before the war, bringing readers a story that's exciting, chaotic, and brave.

Another book for your historian is **Getting Out of Saigon** by Ralph White (Simon & Schuster), a book by a man who tried desperately to get his entire staff of a bank out of harm's way and the Vietnam War's path. Staff and their families, that is, 113 people, and it's a harrowing tale.

For the giftee who loves to read about unusual connections, here's what to give: **Wingmen: The Unlikely, Unusual, Unbreakable Friendship Between John Glenn and Ted Williams** by Adam Lazarus (Kensington). How did an astronaut and a baseball player become the best of chums? Give the book as a gift this year, and then ask...

## How to Host the Holidays Affordably

*Special to The Truth*

From getting your home ready for guests and finding the perfect gifts to preparing a delicious meal, the holidays can seem overwhelming and expensive – but they don't have to be. Take the following steps to save time and money on seasonal essentials.

#### Prepping Your Home

To get your home ready for holiday hosting, begin by decluttering surface areas such as tables and kitchen counters. Next, take an inventory and purchase any additional cleaning supplies you'll need for a deep clean. Remember, air care products like festive candles or sprays can freshen cleaned spaces. Next, decorate by sprinkling different holiday décor pieces in the rooms' focal points. For example, add themed table settings in the dining room and wrap holiday garland around fixtures such as the fireplace mantle or staircase.

#### Making the Menu

Food is a unifying component of any holiday celebration. To get started, set a menu that consists of a variety of appetizers, light snacks, side dishes, entrees and desserts to accommodate guests' cravings and preferences. Consider using healthier variations of the season's comforting and tasty dishes with DG Better For You recipes, which include Potato Crusted Chicken and Green Bean Casserole. Before heading to the store, write your grocery list in advance and make a plan to purchase private brand products to stretch your budget further.

#### Gift Guide

Shopping for the perfect gift for everyone on your list can be easy when using DG's holiday gift guide found at [dollargeneral.com](http://dollargeneral.com). Consider placing three self-care products such as soap, a face mask and a bath bomb into a decorative basket with tissue paper to shine on presentation. To have children of all ages jumping for joy, save on national toy brands at your local Dollar General such as Melissa & Doug, LEGO, Fisher-Price, Play Doh, Barbie, Pokémon, L.O.L. Surprise!, ZURU 5 Surprise and more.

For additional savings, use DG's app for digital coupons and weekly ads with new sales and promotions.

By planning ahead, you can celebrate this season in style and within budget, giving you more time to create lasting memories with friends and family!

*Courtesy StatePoint*

# CLASSIFIEDS

November 29, 2023

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## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FLOORING REPLACEMENT & INSTALLATION SERVICES RFP23-R012

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Flooring Replacement & Installation Services in accordance with RFP23-R012**. Received in accordance with law until **December 08, 2023 at 3:00 PM EST**. 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 PROPOSALS BASIC ELECTRICAL SERVICES RFP23-R013

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Basic Electrical Services in accordance with RFP23-R013**. Received in accordance with law until **December 08, 2023 at 3:00 PM EST**. 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 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](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.



## PASTOR WANTED

Southern Missionary Baptist Church is seeking a pastor. For more information, go to the South Baptist Facebook page.

## NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR DESIGN PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

The Toledo Lucas County Public Library is accepting qualifications from design professionals to provide services for its New Washington Branch Project. The Project is anticipated to include renovation of an existing 55,000-square-foot structure for a new Washington Branch and ancillary Library services. Interested firms may request an RFQ from Mike Graybeal,

Director of Operations/Deputy Fiscal Officer at [Mike.Graybeal@TOLEDOLIBRARY.ORG](mailto:Mike.Graybeal@TOLEDOLIBRARY.ORG). Qualifications will be accepted until 12:00 p.m. local time, DECEMBER 8th, 2023.

## 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/69656> for more detailed descriptions.

## Public Bid Advertisement (Electronic Bidding) State of Ohio Standard Forms and Documents

Project # 1130-23-301 (2)  
University Utility Infrastructure  
Improvements – Ph2  
The University of Toledo  
Lucas County

**Bids Due:** 2:00pm, December 29, 2023, through the State's electronic bidding system at: <https://bidexpress.com>

**EDGE Participation Goal:** 5.0% of contract of the contract sum with EGDE-certified business(es) AND additional 10% EDGE-certified OR Diverse Supplier vendors including MBE, WBE, VBE, BSVI, SDVOB, and LGBTBE

**Domestic steel use is required per ORC 153.011.**

Contract	Estimated Cost
General Contract	\$1,140,000

**Pre-bid Meeting:** Tuesday, December 5th, at 10:00 a.m. – Plant Operations Building – Room 1000, The University of Toledo, 2925 East Rocket Drive, Toledo, OH 43606

**Walkthrough:** Immediately following Pre-bid.

**Bid Documents:** Available electronically at: <https://bidexpress.com>

**Project Contact:** Osborn Engineering Company, Kurt Lohrmann, 614-556-4272, ext.5021, [klohrmann@osborn-eng.com](mailto:klohrmann@osborn-eng.com)

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR PROJECT BASED VOUCHERS RFP23-R001 N

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](http://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.



# New Creation Ministries Church

*Special to The Truth*

On the evening of Sunday, November 19, there was spiritual energy in the air as New Creation Ministries Church had its grand opening at the Summit Event Center in downtown Toledo.

Pastor Eric and First Lady Cheryl Slack have planted a new church in Toledo after pastoring for 10 years in Grand Rapids, MI. The message for the evening was delivered by Bishop J. Drew Sheard, Presiding Bishop and Chief Apostle of the Church of God In Christ. Bishop Sheard leads the Church of God In Christ, headquartered in Memphis, TN, the largest Black Pentecostal denomination in the world. Bishop Sheard, who resides in Detroit, MI and Pastor Slack have been friends for over 40 years.

Local pastors, relatives, friends and well wishers came and received good music, good preaching and good fellowship in the service. "The pandemic impacted the Church model, significantly" Pastor Slack stated. "It's tough to get people back in Church and I believe God wants us to use other means such as virtual service and community events to serve the community and deliver the Gospel message."

The key is creating a team with one focus and goal, to improve the quality of lives of everyone in the congregation. The Event Center will be the new home for the Church. Pastor Slack loves the space and the fact that it's on the TARTA bus line and everyone feels comfortable coming downtown for events and activities, so why not Church.

Pastor Slack stated, "I believe in a diverse congregation because I firmly believe that we are better when we worship together." "Now that we've had the grand opening, the real work begins to fill this place with souls."

That is the ultimate goal. Keep your eyes on this Church.



*Pastor Eric and First Lady Cheryl Slack*



*First Lady Debra and Bishop Jerry Boose of Second Baptist Church*



*Bishop J. Drew Sheard*



# Where could **lead** be in my home?

Lead can be found in the air, soil, dust and paint inside or outside of some homes and other buildings built before 1978.

[ToledoLeadSafe.com](http://ToledoLeadSafe.com)

