



Volume 81 No. 6

“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”

December 20, 2023

The Black Wall Street Community Development



The Juice, Stalwart Magazine and The Truth Bring Black-Owned Businesses Together

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Entrepreneur Holds Annual Christmas Basket Giveaway

The Truth Staff

Saturday, December 16 was a big day for Terrie Cook, founder and owner of Simply D'Vine Boutique. The day began with the shop's annual Christmas Basket giveaway. Cook and her sorors at Gamma Phi Delta Sorority, Inc. once

again pulled together the stuff and stuffing that holidays are made of.

The boutique and the sorority handed out 50 baskets to the early arrivals when the shop opened at 9:00 a.m. All the baskets were gone within minutes.



Gamma Phi Delta Sorors



The Christmas baskets



Preparing to open and hand out the baskets



Waiting for Christmas baskets

A MESSAGE FROM THE LUCAS COUNTY RECORDER

The new year is upon us.
Are your important documents up to date?
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The Lucas County Recorder creates and keeps complete records of all documents regarding real estate transfers, liens, and other personal matters, including:

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Entrepreneur Becomes An Author

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

Dozens of family members, friends and supporters celebrated local entrepreneur-turned-author, Terrie Cook. The book signing was held at her retail clothing store, Simply D'Vine Boutique, on Saturday, December 16, 2023.

The book is 259 pages and was released in November 2013 and entitled, *The Audacity To Phenomenally Become Her! Volume II It's Not Personal – It's Business!* The book visionary, Tyra James, collaborated with 16 different women of various backgrounds to create the book.

The stories captured are a collection of life lessons, where each of the 16 women authors one book chapter. The narration of each chapter invites the reader to experience life through someone else's shoes. These experiences include personal and professional struggles from women who are deemed by society and their peers as successful.

Terrie Cook's chapter is entitled, 'Trust God, Stay the Course,' and she hopes

... continued on page 4



Terri Landry Cook

Like Sands Through the Hourglass

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq
Guest Column



Like sands through the hourglass, so are the days of our lives.

- MacDonald Carey

As the year draws to a close, Toledo's political landscape is poised at another pivotal crossroads, mirroring the intricate narratives of a classic soap opera. The city is abuzz with anticipation and strategic alignments once again as the tenure of the term-limited City Council President Matt Cherry approaches its finale.

This dramatic scene comes hot on the heels of the unresolved cliffhanger surrounding the selection of a successor for retiring Lucas County Commissioner Tina Skeldon-Wozniak, further intensifying the drama in Toledo's political theater.

The quest to identify Cherry's successor transcends merely filling a vacancy. It has evolved into a complex narrative of shifting alliances, the emergence of dark horse candidates and a delicate balance of power and ambition. Echoing the central themes of a gripping soap opera, Toledo's politics are also rife with intricate power dynamics, unexpected plot twists and the potential for surprise developments.

Amidst this dynamic backdrop, public and behind-the-scenes alliances have formed and may dissolve as circumstances and interests change. Rivalries between factions, each vying for influence, power or public approval, further add layers to the unfolding melodrama.

However, unlike the fictional world of soap operas, the stakes in this political dilemma are real and tangible. The decision on who will become the next Toledo City Council president will directly impact real lives and shape our community's future.

Among the notable cast members in this real-life drama, Nick Komives is currently the central character, having emerged as the front-runner.

Carrie Russell Hartman, a favorite in Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz's political bloc, has indicated her support for Komives, valuing his guidance and counsel over the years. This endorsement speaks volumes in the theatre of Lucas County Democratic Party politics, where alliances can often dictate the trajectory of such races. Hartman and Komives have been tight for several years, coming up and working on Party campaigns together. While acknowledging Komives' capabilities, Hartman's decision also underscores the intricate network of political loyalties at play. It provides him with a leg up for the appointment.

Yet, the contest is far from decided. Theresa Morris and John Hobbs are also in the mix and present strong candidacies. Morris, in particular, carries the informal endorsement of Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, adding a layer of

... continued on page 4

Community Calendar

December 22

Christmas Vendor Market: She Deziigns Event Hall; Presented by Bag Lady Financial; 4 to 8 pm: 419-450-2307

December 26 – January 1

Frederick Douglass Community Association Kwanzaa Celebration: Doors open at 5 pm nightly, celebration starts at 6

December 28

Padua Center Annual Kwanzaa Celebration: 4:30 to 7:30 pm

January 15

LoSalem Baptist Church Annual MLK Celebration: 10 am; Guest speaker will be Pastor Marquisa Horton of the Corinth Baptist Church; Following the service, there will be a symbolic march around Savage Park, (weather permitting), and free lunch given at the MLK Kitchen for the Poor.

January 25

Wayman Palmer YMCA Vision Board Workshop: 5:30 to 7 pm; 1) Create a vision; 2) Develop a visual representation of goals; 3) Receive clarity & tools to stay accountable:

Gifts From Santa Claus To

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq
Guest Column

Well, a jolly Ho!Ho!Ho! to all, and for those who like to open their Christmas presents before Christmas Day, I am presenting the following presents in the hopes that I will not have to come down that tight chimney again before another year is out!

Yes, I did check my list twice to see if the following recipients have been naughty or nice, but I will let the gifts speak for themselves!

To: The Toledo Library System, a gift of gratitude for your astute programming and opening your doors to non-typical library events and your emphasis on the importance of reading. Great job! Keep it up! It is needed.

To: Romules Durant, superintendent of Toledo Public Schools, a time out for your inability to move the needle as it regards K-3 reading scores. This is a chronic problem for the school system, and they have yet to radically change their agenda as to reaching those at-risk kids. However, kudos for the various programs that high schoolers can undertake as to career choices. Need to bring in a "no-excuse" director of reading and speech so that no child can hide behind being a functional illiterate.

To: Parents of kids in public schools. Yeah, you know who you are. The ones who do not check upon your kids' homework to see that it is properly completed. The ones who do not attend parent-teacher conferences about your kid being the class clown or not regularly attending classes. You get three lumps of coal in your stocking bag.

Education starts at home. If you can't do it, then seek out help from those who can assist you. If you are not motivated enough to help raise a generation of literate kids, my suggestion is stop having babies who will be educationally neglected because you are lazy or don't have the vision to see that your child needs your input to make it to the finish line.

To: The Black churches and pastors in Toledo. You get five lumps of coal in your offering plates! For decades, you have intentionally refused to coalesce around collective economics that would have lifted "forgotten" segments of your community out of crime and poverty because you were and are terrified to share your weekly tithes and offerings with the less fortunate.

Your "fear" of each other and working together around money is baffling especially since such cooperation would work to your benefit and increase your membership numbers.

How sad it is to see so many Black banks (aka: the local Black churches) in the Black community with ministers who pay lip service about uplifting and helping their members prosper but when it comes time to share the wealth, they run and scatter and hide behind their pulpits, shaking in their boots! You are neither hot nor cold!

To: The agency that runs the operation in which Greyhound parks their buses.

You get a lump of coal in your stocking since you are ineffectual in demanding

That Greyhound either shapes up or ships out of Toledo! Their service is

... continued on page 4

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Entrepreneur Becomes An Author...continued from page 2

to inspire readers.

"The book really captures our stories, the stories of how each of us became entrepreneurs," said Cook. "I hope that people are inspired after reading my chapter. People should learn to trust God and trust the process, especially if God gives something to you. My chapter talks about the process of opening my business, pitfalls that I experienced, doubts that I had to overcome, personal struggles, family obligations and even what we experienced during my first year of business."

In addition to Terrie Cook's chapter, the book features one chapter from each of these women: Tennielle Archbold, Evelyn Allen, Dawn Borzon, Bridget Burel, Veronica Dudley, Tiffany Mack Fitzgerald, Erica Gamble, PhD., Bridget Green, Rhema Josey, Wendy Labat, PhD., Tatiana Lopez, Andrea Bishop-Marbury, Danielle Montgomery, Brittany Robinson, and one chapter with three authors: Kindra Sumner Wright, Barbara Miller and Kimberly Sumner.

Individuals can purchase a copy on Amazon or at the boutique. Simply D'Vine Boutique is located at 3606 W Sylvania Ave, Unit 10 in Toledo. The boutique is open Thursday and Friday from noon to 6 p.m. and Saturdays 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. According to the company website, Terrie always loved fashion and one day God gave her the name Simply D'Vine. She slept on that dream for over 20 years, and the store finally opened in August 2014.



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Perryman...continued from page 3

intrigue to her candidacy. While Kaptur remains non-interfering in city council intricacies, her influence is subtly felt, adding political left to Morris's potential candidacy.

Morris also has acquired a notable connection with the Point Place community, especially in the aftermath of the June 2023 tornado. Her presence and support during this crisis have significantly boosted her standing.

Another intriguing aspect of the race is the significant representation of women on the council, raising the possibility of a female president. This development could represent a meaningful shift in the council's dynamics. Teresa Morris, currently serving as President Pro Tempore, brings crucial experience to the table. Cersandra McPherson and an unnamed dark horse candidate have also been mentioned as potential contenders. However, realizing a female presidency hinges on the strategic alignment among the seven councilwomen, who represent a majority of the 12-member governing body.

Adding to the complexity, there are rumors of potential departures from the council and corresponding shifts within Mayor Kapszukiewicz's administration. These potential movements could open new avenues in the administration and alter the balance within the city council. Katie Moline's potential move to the auditor's office, depending on the Lucas County Commissioners' appointment outcome, could create a council vacancy, further complicating the presidential contest.

In this climate of uncertainty, the council's historically last-minute decision-making process adds an element of suspense. The histrionics of our local politics' fluid and dynamic nature is underscored by its enigmatic and often 11th-hour resolution of such decisions.

As Toledo stands at this political juncture, the support and alignment of individual council members with the various candidates will be crucial.

The upcoming decision leans toward Komives, given his growing support
... continued on page 7

Tolliver...continued from page 3

appalling and there is no end in sight as to them getting their act together for efficient and on time services for the patrons who need such bus services.

To: Kudos to **Will Lucas** for his imaginative and visionary outlook for Toledo and his well-received TolHouse venue on Summit Street. For this, Lucas gets a well-deserved, Ho!Ho!Ho!

To: The upcoming January 2024 event in which **Reverend Floyd Rose** will be celebrated for his prior decades of civil rights activism in Toledo. A most needed observation of a civil rights warrior. For this event deserves three pats on the back of the sponsor(s). Santa has got your back!

To: **Toledo City Council** for championing *Section 8 Housing*. There is a housing shortage across the country and the additional housing in the Southland shopping district will be most welcoming to those who need such shelter...despite the naysayers! For this act, Santa will give to you the plate of cookies and milk that is normally left for him!

To: **The MetroParks** System of Toledo! Wow! Great job done with the new downtown park. It is a jewel in your crown. Great vision. Keep it up! You qualify for a ride in my sleigh guided by Rudolph!

Well, that is all for now. I gotta get back to the North Pole and finish up with zip coding all these presents! Just a note to your parents out there. Quit asking for all of these gun toys for your kids!

Give them books and toys to stir up their curiosity and imagination...not how to shoot someone!

Contact Lafe Tolliver (your secret Santa), at tolliver@juno.com

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Ohio NAACP Addresses Academic Segregation in Public School Systems

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

The Ohio Conference of NAACP hosted a press conference on November 30 to address academic segregation in Ohio's public school systems. The Taskforce on Best Academic Practice Models for Black Students offered recommendations and identifies 10 school districts as the best schools in Ohio for Black children.



Tom Roberts

"Academic segregation in Ohio's Integrated Public School System is unacceptable and is not in accord with the 14th Amendment, United States Supreme Court decision in Brown vs. Board of Education or the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title VI," stated the task force.

"From 2013- 2017 Ohio had one academic goal for all Ohio students. In 2018, that was switched. It was switched to academic segregation. It lowered the targets and benchmarks and goals for black students," remarked Tom Roberts, president of the Ohio NAACP. The task force was created to improve and correct outcomes for Black children.

The Goals of the Taskforce are to develop and execute the following items:

1. To propose a National NAACP network, website, template of Best Academic Practice Models for Black students
2. To present specific school districts/schools as Best Academic Practice Models for Black students
3. To align thinking around the concept of Best Academic Practice Models for Black students

The Ohio NAACP Taskforce started with a request from the National NAACP to Sybil Edwards-McNabb, former NAACP Ohio Conference State President, to have Ohio represented in a 19-state conference on Every Student Succeed Act (ESSA) to be held in Chicago and Houston.

Upon completion of the conference, the Ohio Task Force was requested to participate in the Washington, D.C. ESSA Conference hosted by President and CEO Thomas J. Donohue of the United States Chamber of Commerce and the President and CEO Cornell Brooks of the National NAACP.

Upon the election of the current Ohio NAACP President, Tom Roberts (2017 to present), the Task Force was asked to continue the work and to help engage the Ohio Department of Education, State Superintendent Paulo DeMaria, State Board of Education President, Laura Kohler, and Ohio State Board of Education Vice President, Charlotte McGuire. The State of Ohio Collective, a 501(c)(3) think tank, joined the work in 2020 adding state-wide support, research, scope, and analysis to the project. The reports can be viewed online.

(source: ohnaacp.com/taskforce)

"We have begun to meet with our school boards to share with them the work of the task force and to work with our local units and leaders in several school districts to help them understand this new paradigm... We must work to improve the student's levels of achievement and set high expectations.

We know that if we set the expectations high, they will achieve them," said Roberts.

Roberts stated that all of the best schools for Black students in Ohio had in common both high poverty and a large number of Black students. He identified Steubenville being one of the best if not the best in the state of Ohio. These following schools will serve as models in identifying and creating the best academic practices for black children by the taskforce.

Top Ten Best Academic Practice Schools in Ohio For African American Students

1) EAST GARFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - 41% AA - 100% POVERTY

<https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/school/overview/032433>

2) STEUBENVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - 28% AA - 100% POVERTY

<https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/school/overview/036020>

3) TOLEDO EARLY COLLEGE - 30% AA - 100% POVERTY

<https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/school/overview/009038>

4) STEUBENVILLE WELLS ACADEMY - 21% AA - 100% POVERTY

<https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/school/overview/040246>

5) TOLEDO TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL - 17% - 99.8% POVERTY

<https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/school/overview/146373>

6) **YOUNGSTOWN EARLY COLLEGE - 70% AA - 100% POVERTY **

<https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/school/overview/000520>

7) CLEVELAND EARLY COLLEGE - 82% AA - 100% POVERTY

<https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/school/overview/018408>

8) CLEVELAND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE - 90% AA - 100% POVERTY

<https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/school/overview/019406>

9) AKRON EARLY COLLEGE - 36.8% AA - 100% POVERTY

<https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/school/overview/009145>

10) AKRON STEM HIGH SCHOOL - 38% AA - 100% POVERTY

<https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/school/overview/013231>

(source: www.naacp-youngstown.org/best-academic-practice-schools)

The meeting was presented by:

President Tom Roberts, NAACP Ohio State Conference

President Co-Chairs, Task Force Members

James Brown, President, Mahoning County

George Freeman, Jr., President Emeritus (Honorary Co-Chair)

Technical/Research Co-Chairs

WilliAnn Moore, President Emeritus (Toledo)

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Tina Skeldon Wozniak Honored by Hundreds in Last Official Meeting Before Retirement

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Editor

Lucas County Commissioners held their last official meeting of the year last week but not in their usual meeting place. Their chambers were far too small for the expected crowd and for the last official meeting of Commissioner Tina Skeldon Wozniak's career. They moved the event next door into City Council chambers to accommodate the many co-workers, friends, family and well-wishers who wanted to witness Wozniak's retirement ceremony.

"Her legacy is outstanding," said Commissioner Pete Gerken whose career as an elected official has been nearly similar to those of his fellow commissioner. Gerken began his career as an elected official by entering Toledo City Council in 1996; Wozniak joined him there in 1997. Skeldon Wozniak moved over to the Commissioners' offices in 2002 and Gerken joined her in 2005.

This is a celebration," said Gerken of his fellow commissioner's last meeting, even as he also noted how "bittersweet" the occasion was.

Praising Skeldon Wozniak's "courage and determination, Gerken also commended her "consistent character and consistent leadership" through the years of "trials and tribulations."

Gerken listed a few of the accomplishments the Commissioners have enacted over the years during Skeldon Wozniak's tenure such as curbside recycling, a smoking ban, the Huntington Center, the downtown Hilton Hotel, the renovated convention center, the Lucas County Improvement Corporation, to name a few.

He also spoke of her strength during the difficult times.

"We went through the recessions together but with Tina there was no complaining, no wringing of hands."

Gerken also told of Skeldon Wozniak's penchant for putting people together to address issues. "Tina loves her some task forces," he said sparking a roomful of laughter.



LC Commissioner Tina Skeldon Wozniak



Unveiling the upcoming Tina Skeldon Wozniak Behavioral Health Unit

At her urging, the commissioners relied on a variety of citizen task forces addressing issues such as the foreclosure crisis, the Toledo Zoo, the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, the Health Department and TARTA.

"She's been my sister," Gerken said summing up what his partner on the Board of Commissioners has meant to him and to the community.

Lucas County Commissioner Lisa Sobecki also had plenty of kind words for her colleague. Sobecki praised Skeldon Wozniak for her leadership and her ability to listen to others. She spoke of Skeldon Wozniak's initiative in bringing about the county office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion as well as the Workforce Development Board.

"Tina has been a consistent champion for families and children," added Sobecki.

Skeldon Wozniak, a licensed independent social worker, earned her bachelor's degree in social work from Bowling Green State University and a master's degree in social work from The Ohio State University.

She comes from a long line of prominent Toledoans. Her grandfather, Frank Skeldon, helped found the Toledo Zoo. Her uncle, Phillip Skeldon, was a Toledo Zoo director for 27 years and was instrumental in expanding the zoo and enhancing its facilities.

Ned Skeldon, Skeldon Wozniak's father, also served as Lucas County commissioner for eight years and was key in bringing the Mud Hens baseball team back to the city in 1965.

Skeldon Wozniak was appointed as a Lucas County commissioner in 2002 to fill the unexpired term of Bill Copeland who retired because of health concerns. She was elected in 2004 to the seat and re-elected by wide margins four times after that.

The Truth Colours Gallery

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NAACP...continued from page 5

Jimma McWilson, Director, CAAA
State and Unit Presidents' Letters and Petitions against ODE'S 54.8 for Black Students vs 84.3 for White students

State President, Tom Roberts
Dayton President, Derrick Forward
Mahoning County President, James Brown
Toledo President, Willie Perryman
Lima President, Ronald Fails
Portage County President, Renee Romine
Akron President, Judy Hill
Canton President, Hector McDaniels
Warren President, Annette McCoy
Springfield President, Denise Williams
Sandusky, Darlene Walker
Ross County, Adrienne D'Souza
Elyria President, Ardelia Tolbert
Ashtabula President, Liz Pinner
Youth Council Presidents
Dayton, Escalajah Draper
Youngstown, King Swiggett
Toledo, Christal Moreland

“She’s a Wonderful, Wonderful Person”

By Fletcher Word
The Truth Editor

A room filled with 75 people who gathered to appreciate and celebrate Suzette Cowell, CEO of Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union, on the occasion of her birthday, generated as much love as could possibly be imagined – both for the honoree and by her as well.

Organized by her son Eric Cowell and the staff and board of TUFUCU, Cowell’s surprise birthday celebration on Saturday December 16 has held at the Hilton Inn Downtown and, somehow, it truly was a surprise even as a notable list of those in the Toledo community were informed and held the secret close.

The event was moderated by Valerie Simmons Walston, University of Toledo’s special assistant to the President for Community Engagement and Strategic Partnerships. Then followed numerous tributes to the guest of honor by those who have worked with her over the years, those who are part of her family and those whose lives she has changed for the better during her stewardship at TUFUCU.

“She’s a wonderful, wonderful person,” said Richard LaValley, Toledo Urban Foundation Board president, one of the first speakers. “I see all she has done to make this a better community.”

Lavalley’s words were echoed by a number of speakers and their testaments to Cowell’s decades long work in the service of the community.

Speaker after speaker – Aletha Easterly of Quality Day Care; Thomas Winston, CEO of the Toledo Lucas County Port Authority; Delise Simmons, real estate agent and former assistant to Cowell; Ray Wood, former president of the Toledo NAACP; Reggie Williams, executive director of the Frederick Douglass Community Association; Andre Cowell, Suzette’s nephew, to name a few – related their individual experiences of how often Cowell supported, inspired or worked tirelessly to change and improve their lives.

Cowell herself, surprised for only the first time in her life she later related,

wrapped up the celebration by recounting some of her past health issues and struggles that she was able to overcome by the grace of God. She also took the opportunity to thank virtually everyone in the room for the



Aletha Easterly and Suzette Cowell



Bishop Pat McKinstry, Valerie Walston, Rev. Tim Pettaway



Delise Simmons



First Lady Sheila Cook, Clerk of Court Vallie Bowman-English, Bishop Edward Cook



George Cowell and Andre Cowell with Andre's two children

Perryman...continued from page 4

within the council, strategic endorsements, and status as the longest-serving council member who has publicly thrown his hat in the race and is actively working with the other members to gain their support.

However, the final outcome remains open in the ever-shifting sands of Toledo politics.

In summary, the race for the Toledo City Council presidency is a dramatic and evolving narrative, reflecting the complex interplay of personal loyalties, strategic interests, and the broader political currents within the city.

Like the sands of an hourglass, so are the days of our lives in the saga of Toledo’s ever-changing and unpredictable politics.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at drdperryman@enterofhopedbaptist.org

impact each has had in her life – indeed virtually all of the 75 attendees had a close personal relationship with the honoree.

Not lost in the celebration was the success that Cowell has had in her guidance of the fortunes of TUFUCU. A second branch will be opening on January 4 on Monroe Street across from Swayne Filed. A groundbreaking for the TUFUCU resource center, across the street on Dorr from the current institution, will happen soon. And is a third branch a possibility in the not-too-distant future?



Surprise!!!



Suzette Cowell and Family



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St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church Host Health Fair Sponsored by ABC/ Health Care and Area Office on Aging

On Saturday December 9, 2023, the St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church hosted a "Health Fair" sponsored by ABC/Health Care and the Area Office on Aging from 9:00 a/m till 12:00 noon. Parishioner's, family members, neighbors and friends from all around were present. Participants had to have a valid ID.

The Fair sponsored influenza shots and COVID-19 vaccines. Each participant received a \$100.00 gift card from Kroger's or Meijers. It was a great turn out, and great protection for all involved. A great way of helping the Community fight disease. Pre-registration was required, as well as walk in's were accepted.

There were members from St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church as well as other churches in the Community. Deacon and Mrs. Leroy Bates from the Indiana Ave. Baptist Church were present; Larry Sykes from First Church

and many others. More than 75 people were in attendance.

Sister Mary Reed and Sister Deborah Barnett were able to register all of the attendees. There were staff members from ABC as well as Area Office on Aging available to be of service and attend to all members receiving the vaccines.

Church leaders extended their thanks to Sister Regina Russell and other staff from Area Office on Aging for a job well done. "I am grateful to God for an opportunity to assist in any way possible to help our community fight disease" said the Rev. Dr. James H. Willis, Sr., the Senior Pastor of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church.



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TTEC 2023 Graduation Ceremony at Friendship Baptist

By Angie Hayes

The Truth Reporter

Ternion Training Education Center, TTEC, is an education center that provides high quality training programs to support learning, personal development and community contribution. TTEC supported 2023 class Graduation by hosting The Graduation Commencement Ceremony December 13 at Friendship Baptist Church.

The event began with graduates preparing and getting ready for the procession and recognition and presentation of diplomas. Sixty-five students maintained a successful and complete educational process and received recognition and congratulations during the Graduation Ceremony.

The ceremony itself opened with motivational speakers and prayers. The following information was provided by staff and participants who supported the successful accomplishments of all students.

"I'm super proud of them, all of our graduates lead wherever they go," said Compliance Director Tywana Gilford.

"Incredible graduates of TTEC, today we are here to celebrate the future growth," added Shannon Carter.

Stephanie Boutte, TTEC President: "You have no idea how wonderful these graduates are. It's a great pleasure that we are here to celebrate these amazing graduates. Today we not only acknowledge their graduation, but also their growth and success. Your journey is beginning, this is not the End, The Beginning. I congratulate you and love you all."

Pastor Duane Tisdale started his communication in prayer and then added the following statements: "Congratulations to you, I am so proud of you. What you have accomplished doesn't only affect you, it affects family too. Great benefits. Don't make or find any stopping point. Perseverance means never giving up. It's the perseverance and effort required. Upon graduation, effort and perseverance each graduate student has successfully maintained. Congratulations. Have a principle of continuous improvement, to keep making everything better. Keep making yourself better."

"Since we are in God's presence, I must acknowledge His grace," said graduate Shawn M. Johnson. "I'd like to give a shoutout to Friendship Baptist for allowing us to be here. To my fellow graduates of 2023...we did it. We started here for a reason to provide a better lifestyle for ourselves and family.... WE MADE IT.. To the entire class of 2023, we made it and love

...continued on page 12



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Toledo Black Wall Street... continued from page 16

happened where they circulated the money and everybody came up.” said Battle-Gaines.

“People like having support – so it’s not just them out there trying to fight the system,” she continued. “There’s a lot of interesting businesses that all of us are becoming aware of [here at the summit] so that we can do business with each other... and it can be the beginning of a new paradigm shift... because a lot of [the idea that we can’t work together] goes back to slavery,” remarked Battles- Gaines. “We’ve just got to overcome that.”

“[Quite a few] connections have been made already. People are getting contracts and business from just showing up... We’re just out here in individual silos trying to make it happen – let’s come together.”

BWCD attracts like-minded businesses owners, nonprofit leaders, and supporters at every stage of the business. There is no invitation or charge – just an opportunity to grow together and support and grow our community of businesses.

This event was held at the Entrepreneurs Club (222 Fasset St.) owned by Black entrepreneur Vince Evans. Organizers of BWCD include Toni Battle-Gaines, sales manager at WJUC 107.3 The Juice; Rick Hogan and Debra Hogan, owners of WJUC 107.3 The Juice (Fleming Street Communications); Fletcher Word, owner and publisher of The Sojourner’s Truth Newspaper; and Stayce Fowler, owner and publisher of Stalwart Magazine. The leaders wore newly designed custom-made apparel by black owned designer Kristi Knighten, owner and designer of KK Apparel.

The inaugural kickoff event in August served as marketing and advertising support by the Black media. The next featured a Black banker providing information and financial advice and resources. The event last week hosted samples from local businesses, networking, and an opportunity to celebrate our people on the journey.

Designers, bakers, architects, nonprofit leaders, bankers, restauraners, realtors , brokers, childcare centers, boutique owners, bloggers and podcasters all convened in an elevated evening with a similar mission: sharing information, ideas and contacts while celebrating each other’s accomplishments-- from grand openings to features and specials.

Vince Evans, owner of the Entrepreneurs Club and multiple nonprofits and businesses, remarked “I work with a lot of entrepreneurs to help them grow and be more successful because as my journey went I ran through a lot of problems...if we would work with each other and helped out each other it would make our journey a lot less troublesome.”

He stressed the importance of doing better for our race by unifying and supporting each other and circulating our money within our community. “Let’s work together as a race... every other race [works] together to help each other prosper, as a race we do more tearing down each other than we do helping each other grow... that’s the way to break everything that we

have a problem with... because we won’t work with each other.”

“The biggest thing is sticking together. With unity and with numbers we can do a lot more than being divided. United we can do a lot.” Evans recited a poem he wrote entitled Growing Pains about his journey as an entrepreneur.

Vendor Asia Banks-Franklin has two businesses: CoySocial, in which she creates logos, branding, flyers, business cards and Von Lee and Company a handbag company that she designs. She’s originally from Detroit and served as one of the vendors at the event. “I’m looking for connection in the community and to build [my] brand, she shared, “There’s no support like our people... also [as an introvert] things like this give me the opportunity to be a little bit more comfortable with showcasing the things that I am skilled at doing.”

Vendor Chanell Phenix, owner of Be Sweet Treats, LLC, creates confectionary treats and make individual strawberries, cake pops, cocoa bomb- everything sweet. She has been in business for seven years and shared her reasons for attending the summit “I’m hoping to gain more exposure, it’s Christmas season and I have a Christmas menu out.” She hoped to sell more orders for the holiday season.

Another vendor at the event, Andre Ballard of Ballard Architectural Studio, a Toledo native and owner of his business for 23 years, stated: “I design all over the country. Right now, I’m currently designing in about nine different states [with licenses] in each state. I do mostly commercial, but my love is residential.” In Toledo he designed the Local 500 banquet facility. He returned to northwest Ohio in 2018 and is a professor of construction and architecture at Bowling Green State University in the School of the Built Environment.

Guests also enjoyed samples from various businesses: fried fish from Bertha Mae’s Kitchen, drinks from Bottles Up Bartending (owner Shanie Sample) and treats from Be Sweet Treats.

The group is now creating committees to continue the growth of the project and further the mission. The next event will be held in February with more details to come. To learn more about BWSDC visit Facebook @ Black Wall Street Community Development.



Stayce Fowler and Lenora McIntyre



Rick and Deb Hogan



Vince Evans, owner of the Entrepreneurs Club gives remarks and recites his poem

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Metroparks DEI Director Honored

By Minority Supplier Organization

Felica Clark, director of diversity, equity and inclusion for Metroparks Toledo, is the recipient of the 2023 Minority Supplier Buyer of the Year Award from the Ohio Minority Supplier Development Council.

The honor was in recognition of her leadership of Metroparks strategy to increase purchasing from minority-owned businesses. She accepted the honor November 17 at a gala in Gahanna, OH.

In her role at Metroparks, Clark has worked with the Council and its members to expand opportunities for minority-owned companies in the Toledo area.

"There are many talented business enterprises in our community that have so much to offer, but may not have a foot in the door with local buyers of their products and services," Clark said. "It is important to Metroparks and our whole community that everyone have the opportunity to play a part in our growth. What we are creating here at the park system is a culture of inclusivity, where everyone is invited to participate."

"I and the OMSDC team has worked closely with Mrs. Clark, Matt Killiam and Metroparks Toledo leadership team to develop and implement a qual-

ity supplier diversity program," said Calvin Brown, assistant vice chair of the Northwest Ohio region of OMSDC. "Metroparks Toledo has been the public sector standard in Northwest Ohio, and we are extremely fortunate to have them as a member of the OMSDC."

The Ohio Minority Supplier Development Council (Ohio MSDC) is a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization dedicated to providing a direct link between Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs) and its Corporate Members. Founded in 1972, the Ohio MSDC certifies minority businesses, provides MBEs with access to procurement opportunities, and assists Corporations in the development and maintenance of effective corporate supplier diversity programs. Over the past four decades, Ohio MSDC has been a bridge between corporate America and minority owned businesses. Every year, Ohio MSDC's Corporate Members spend over \$7 billion with MBEs certified by the Council.



Felica Clark

D.C. Renames Anacostia Street After 'Mayor for Life' Marion Barry

By Afia Barrie and Nya O'Neal

Howard University News Service

Hundreds gathered in D.C.'s Ward 8 at the intersection of Good Hope Road and Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue in Anacostia on Saturday to see the reveal of a new street sign: Marion Barry Avenue.

Set to the backdrop of Go-go music from Experience Unlimited, fronted by Gregory 'Sugar Bear' Elliot, the street-naming ceremony was filled with families roaming the event. Vendors, food trucks and booths with free snacks and activities for youth set up by the Department of Parks and Recreation lined the streets.

"Ward 8, unofficially known as the Great Ward 8, is east of the river, the heart of the city," said Thennie Freeman, acting director of the parks department. "It is the home of former Mayor Marion Barry."

"There's a lot of talent and rich history located in Anacostia. ... So, anytime that the D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation has an opportunity to have an activation at Ward 8, we're extremely excited about it."

Barry, affectionately nicknamed "our forever mayor" by local residents, was the mayor of D.C. for four terms. In the middle of his third term in 1990, Barry was arrested in a sting operation by the FBI and the Metropolitan Police Department for crack cocaine use and possession. He served six months in federal prison. In 1995, after his release from prison, Barry ran for mayor and won. He then served as a Ward 8 councilman from 2000 until his death in 2014.

His various programs, like the Mayor Marion S. Barry Summer Youth Employment Program and his commitment to serving Ward 8, has left a lasting impact on Washingtonians. The phrase "Marion Barry gave me my first job" rang throughout the event, with everyone sharing how the late mayor impacted their lives.

The renaming of the avenue comes as another effort to recognize the Barry's

impact on the city. In 2014, an eight-foot statue of Marion Barry was unveiled at the John A. Wilson building. The One Judiciary Square Building was renamed in Barry's honor in 2020.

Speakers for the Anacostia event included Barry's wife, Cora Masters Barry, Mayor Muriel Bowser, Ward 8 Councilman Trayon White and Marc Morial, president of the National Urban League and former mayor of New Orleans.

"We know that Marion Barry challenges us to do more, to be bigger, to get up when we've been knocked down and to show the world who we are as Washingtonians," Bowser said. "And who we are, are people. We take care of ourselves, we take care of each other, we fight back when picked on and we love each other like Marion Barry loved us."

After the speeches, audience members and distinguished guests gathered underneath a blue tarp and pulled a string to reveal the new sign.

Southeast native Tammy Rogers regarded the day with a sense of pride. "He was one of those guys that I saw fall down and get back up and he let us know that we all can do that," she said.

"We can all rise above any adversities that come in our lives," Rogers said. "He did a lot for this city and I'm so, I'm so proud I'm able to be here today."

Michael Sterling and daughter, Assata, enjoyed the ceremony.

"It was a good family event," Sterling said. "It was a positive day. The weather turned out well, and it's good to see a lot of families, a lot of kids, just a lot of these people in general out and about for a good day."

Afia Barrie and Nya O'Neal are reporters for HUNewsService.com.

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Black Community's Retirement Woes Leading to New Ways to Save Money

By Hazel Trice Edney

Special to The Truth

A recent study has outlined a disturbing trend across the nation: Increasing retirement woes among Black people, coming from several angles that indicate some could choose to work longer or seek more palatable options for savings and income.

Either people aren't feeling on-track to retire, they're worried about outliving whatever savings they are able to accrue or their jobs don't offer fair retirement plans for people of color. These being common fears in the Black community, some just breeze over the thought of retirement as a pipe dream.

"Black and Hispanic workers have significantly less access to employer-sponsored retirement plans than do white counterparts, exacerbating economic inequity and hampering the ability of people of color to build financial security later in life, according to researchers," AARP reports. "Among private sector employees ages 18 to 64, more than 53 percent of African Americans and about 64 percent of Latinos do not have access to a workplace retirement plan, compared with about 42 percent for white workers and 45 percent for Asian Americans, a [July 2022 report](#) from the AARP Public Policy Institute found."

According to the latest [U.S. Census data](#), more than 55.8 million adults are older than 65. That is nearly 17 percent of America's population that is "retirement age." Yet only half of Americans even have access to retirement plans. And although we know well what the gender gap is, what isn't talked about enough is the retirement gap. Generally, studies on savings show that the average Black family has lower savings than the disparity between the average U.S. family. It's unsurprising, then, that 54% of Black Americans don't have enough savings to retire – whether it be from system inequalities or otherwise.

All studies and reports on retirement are saying the same thing: People are worried about outliving their retirement savings. The retirement crisis is hitting all of the country, but as usual, disproportionately impacting Black and other racial minority communities. Nearly 40 percent of independent savers, specifically, aren't feeling on-track to retire. Independent savers are individuals

who do not have access to a retirement plan through their employers. Many in the Black and Latino communities fall under the independent saver category. Therefore, for many in these communities, retirement planning gets put on the backburner as more urgent expenses and matters arise.

But there are now new financial tools that every person can use to begin retirement savings. Recently, the financial industry recognized this issue and started to rollout new products that will open up access to professionally managed retirement vehicles at a lower cost and without the need for a workplace-based retirement plan.

For example, BlackRock recently launched the industry's only suite of [target date ETFs](#) (Exchange-traded Funds), which is a new investment tool aimed at curbing the growing number of people who do not have any retirement savings plans, or access to such. Investors that choose this new product will be able to easily select a fund closest to their target retirement date and make regular contributions as their own finances allow. This allows for recurring deposits, but also allows for more choice. Meaning if life happens and an unexpected expense comes up – which will certainly happen – and there's nothing left over for the month to invest, that's okay. However, this investment is professionally managed and is taken care of to make sure it's stable as retirement nears.

According to [BlackRock's Read on Retirement](#) report, 47 percent of independent savers lean on cash to build their retirement, creating a missed opportunity for potential investment growth which is important to achieving retirement goals. These new ETF funds allow for savers that might typically rely on stashing cash to instead put that into these ETF funds that will invest in a broad portfolio and turn out even more money.

Such strategies are often in line with initiatives such as Rev. Jesse Jackson's Wall Street Project, which encourages the financial industry to open up and reach out to communities that may not necessarily be aware of alternatives to their personal savings that they may need from day to day.

"If Corporate America could see the vast potential within our underserved minority communities, would Wall Street provide access to opportunities for economic growth and stability?" Rev. Jackson asks in a statement.

All of these retirement tools are built off of the idea that in order to encourage more retirement saving, we need to make it as easy as possible for people to build their nest egg. Retirement tools like these are for the people that don't have workplace retirement plans, those looking to complement their existing 401(k), or people that just want to boost their confidence in their retirement potential.

Most Americans are nervous; even stressed about retirement, savings, and finances in general. This is especially true for the Black community. These products may be the first of many from Wall Street aimed at further providing transformational solutions to the retirement burdens many have been feeling over the years.

For equitable economic contributions to family and to American society regardless of race or age, retirement savings and income must become straightforward and possible for everyone.

"The road to shared economic security travels through two-way trade, where all are included, and none are left in the margins of the marketplace," Rev. Jackson states. "Industry by industry, the quantifiable gaps in opportunity and in access to capital for people of color-owned businesses define our agenda."

TTEC Graduation... continued from page 9

you all."

The action, acknowledgement and recognition of successful completion of the education process began with the presentation of diplomas. Diplomas were presented to 65 graduates: recognition of Certified Phlebotomy Technicians, Certified EKG Technicians, Certified Clinical Medical Assistants, HVAC/R Certified. Upon completion of Diploma distribution, the following information was provided to the attendees.

"Friendship Baptist Church opens their doors because of the accomplishments these students have made. The pastor feels that it's important for the Church to demonstrate support," stated Pat Sloan.

"All the training was no debt training. Everyone graduates with no student loans or debt. They are embarking on a strong future with credentials to compete in a global community," added Boutte.

Pastor Tisdale stated: "This is a life changing event. The graduates have become more disciplined and proud and ready for a strong future."

...continued on page 13

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Our Secret Society: Mollie Moon and the Glamour, Money, and Power Behind the Civil Rights Movement by Tanisha C. Ford

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

The One Percent has everything you do not.

A fancy house in a posh place. Designer clothing, fast cars. Friends in high places that know how to get things done. And money, they have lots of that. The One Percent has it all, and more – and as you'll see in *Our Secret Society* by **Tanisha C. Ford**, they once wanted you to have it, too.

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353 pages

Mollie Moon knew what it was like to struggle.

Born in 1907 in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, she and her mother lived in a boardinghouse meant for migrants when Mollie was a baby. Later, Mollie's new stepfather moved the family to Gary, Indiana, where Mollie witnessed "economic instability" caused by mill shutdowns. When she was ready to attend college, her mother hoped Mollie would become a pharmacist, which was "one of the most prestigious careers a Negro... could have in the 1920s" but that wasn't what Mollie wanted.

As a young woman, she left Gary and moved to New York City, to Harlem, hoping to "make a deep social impact." There, she met some of Harlem's elite performers and thinkers, whom she joined in Moscow, then on to Berlin. Rising Nazi influence forced Mollie home to New York where she met Henry Lee Moon, who would one day be her third husband.

With the contacts she'd made in her travels, the strategic friendships she enjoyed with both Black and white elites, and the feeling that "Negroes deserved a taste of the good life too," Mollie honed her skills as a fundraiser for the Harlem Community Arts Center, and then for National Urban League. She and Henry were "a racial-justice power couple" and they used that power to help large organizations to better the lives of Black people all over the country.



Our Secret Society author, courtesy T Darcy Rogers

As time passed and viewpoints changed, however, some "found it difficult to define the role Mollie played." She still had influence, Ford says, yet "she did not fit the mold of a civil rights leader." But someone waiting in the wings did...

Reading *Our Secret Society* is a little like taking a trip through time.

Author Tanisha C. Ford first transports readers back to a more genteel era when Jazz-Age

folks dressed for dinner, upper-crust youth enjoyed a new permissiveness, and higher-class citizens held salons in their homes to discuss world affairs. Ford makes this seem like a movie script from a period film, and it's oddly soothing.

But as the world changed, so does Ford's story and it's quite fascinating to see how Mollie Moon seized the social power she needed with determination, moving easily across racial boundaries at a time when such boundaries seemed like solid walls. Given this,

it's with dread that you'll approach the latter third of this book, as Ford takes readers to the 1960s and a little slippage of Mollie Moon's influence.

Still, you'll wish you knew Miss Mollie and for sure, you shouldn't miss *Our Secret Society*. You need to know about this almost-hidden slice of history. You'll like this book one hundred percent.

TTEC Graduation... continued from page 12

"I've grown a lot since attending TTEC," said graduate Devona Taylor. "I received my GED and enrolled in the Medical Assistant Program, which helped me grow from the inside out. I've grown so much, from a struggling to a successful story."

Upon the end of the diploma distribution and communication process, a time to socialize began and dinner, snacks and desserts were provided. The graduates were recognized and appreciated by all staff, family members and visitors who were present to observe the ceremony.

TTEC and Friendship Baptist Church provided significant recognition and acknowledgement of student success!

In Memorium... continued from page 15

2005. Hartford was instrumental in Nelson Mandela's visit to Detroit in 1990. Ebony Magazine named PA one of the USA greatest Black preacher's and most influential African Americans in 1994. PA, the former president of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, addressed the United Nations on South African Apartheid in 1989. PA met with many U.S. presidents and vice presidents.

Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan said "Detroit has lost a great champion and a great man. I was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Rev. Charles Adams, who was a tireless fighter for the people of Detroit, in particular our Seniors and Children. As a pastor of Hartford Memorial Baptist Church, Rev Adams did more than offer words of hope and inspiration from his pulpit, he created opportunity by purchasing and developing land around Hartford, including the Hartford Village Senior Citizen Community. We were fortunate to have him in our city and in our lives and he will be greatly missed. My thoughts are with his family, friends and the entire Hartford Community at this difficult time."

Funeral Home going were held at Hartford Church Dec 14 and 15. Details are online and Swanson's funeral Home.

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The Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities has announced that it is accepting applications for the position of Superintendent. The Lucas County Board of DD, located in Northwest Ohio and serving approximately 4400 individuals, has a long history of providing quality person-centered services to all eligible individuals in that community. Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities values diversity and is committed to providing an inclusive environment where every employee, individual served, family and provider is heard and respected.

They are seeking a Superintendent who will lead the organization forward in meeting its mission of improving LIFE for individuals so they reach their full potential. LIFE is the acronym for Lucas County's core values of Living Life, Inclusion, Freedom of Choice and Everyone has Worth.

Leading the organization and fulfilling the mission requires experience managing complex systems, as well as having a proven history of being innovative, collaborative, and able to represent the organization at the local and state level.

Qualifications:

Master's Degree in Public Administration, Business Administration, Education, Rehabilitation, Counseling, Social Work or related field from an accredited college or university

Five years full-time work with individuals with developmental disabilities, including three years in a management or supervisory capacity

Current Superintendent Certificate or ability to obtain certificate through Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

Residency: Residing in Lucas County is preferred, but not required

Starting Salary: Commensurate with experience and qualifications

Please email cover letter, resume and other relevant information to: apply@lucasdd.org

Application deadline: 5:00 PM, December 22, 2023

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS HQS/INSPIRE INSPECTION SERVICES RFP23-R014

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **HQS/INSPIRE Inspection Services in accordance with RFP23-R014**. Received in accordance with law until **January 19, 2024 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 HQS/INSPIRE MAINTENANCE SERVICES RFP23-R015 – RFP23-R020

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **HQS/INSPIRE Maintenance Services in accordance with RFP23-R015 – RFP23-R020**. Received in accordance with law until **January 19, 2024 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.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH), located in Toledo, Ohio is seeking experienced applicants for the following position(s): **LHSC Director**. For complete details, visit <https://www.lucasmha.org> and click on Careers. **Deadline: 12/29/23**. This is a Section 3 covered position. HUD recipients are encouraged to apply and are to indicate on the application if you are a LMHA Public Housing client or Housing Choice Voucher Program participant. Persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply. **NO PHONE CALLS**. Equal employment opportunity shall be afforded to all qualified persons without regard to age, race, color, religion, religious creed, gender, military status, ancestry, disability, handicap, sexual orientation, genetic information or national origin.



In Memoriam – Rev. Charles Gilchrist Adams – December 13, 1936 – November 29, 2023

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

The Rev Dr. Charles Adams (PA as many of us called him), the giant of a preacher who led the prominent Detroit church Hartford Memorial Baptist Church died at the age of 86 November 29, 2023 surrounded by his family.

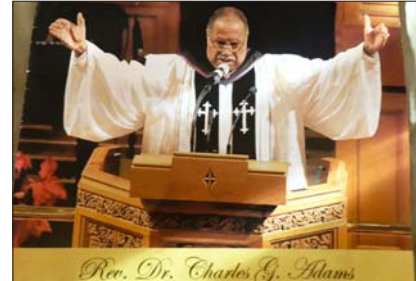
PA was known as “the Harvard Hooper” for his Ivy League intellect and his animated preaching style. He has an endowed Chair at Harvard University also. He was a tenured professor at Harvard Divinity School. PA and Dr ML King met at Morehouse University where PA taught and later was a board member. PA became pastor of Hartford Memorial Baptist Church in 1967 where he built a membership of over 10,000.

PA, “a social justice warrior” was marked by a stream of efforts to boost Detroit, including meals delivered to seniors; Head Start program for over 1000 kids; tutoring; bible studies institute. Hartford’s most successful ventures included purchasing land on 7 Mile Road to spark redevelopment with restaurants like McDonalds and businesses like Home Depot, which also created jobs. PA spearheaded a collaboration with Presbyterian Villages of

Michigan (where I am a board member) to launch Hartford Village Senior Community where I am also on the board.

PA became Detroit NAACP President in 1984 and led a boycott against Dearborn Michigan Businesses in protest of the city barring non-residents (Blacks) from its parks.

Hartford paid the rent of Rosa Parks, a civil rights icon, until her death in



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Alpha Phi Boule Inducts New Members

By Paul Hubbard, Secretary Alpha Phi Boule

Special to The Truth

On the evening of Saturday, December 9, 2023 at the Toledo Country Club members of Alpha Phi Boule’ of Sigma Pi Phi Boule Fraternity, Inc. met to induct three new members and afterwards hold their Christmas Dinner Party.

The new members inducted were Dr. Charles Lash, a urologist in Wauseon, Ohio; Jonathan Bridges, an economist at Jobs Ohio in Columbus, Ohio, and Mark Barnes, partner at Bugbee and Conklin in Holland, Ohio.

Sigma Pi Phi Boule Fraternity, Inc. is America’s oldest African American Fraternity Organization for professionals. The fraternity was founded on May 15, 1904. Alpha Phi Boule’ (Toledo Chapter) was founded June 15, 1971.

The members are corporate, medical, government, community and educational leaders in the Toledo metropolitan area. The late Judge Franklin was a major mem-



Boule Members



Dr. Mallory Williams, Mark Barnes, Dr. Charles Lash, Jonathan Bridges

ber in both the Toledo Boule and the National Boule. Archon Dr Mallory Williams, MD, is the current president and Archon Dr. Brian Dolsey, MD, is the incoming president.

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



The Toledo Black Wall Street Community Development Networking Event

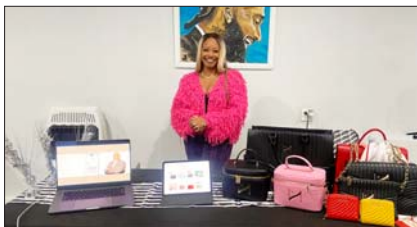
By Dawn Scotland
The Truth Reporter



Organizers of Black Wallstreet Community Development with apparel Designed by Kristi Knighten owner of KK Apparel (middle)



Owner of Maddie Joe Coffee presents his business



Asia Banks-Franklin, Detroit native, owner of Von-Lee & Company and CoySocial

"The calvary ain't coming. It's us," remarked Toni Battle-Gaines, originator of Black Wall Street Community Development.

It started as a networking event held by the Black-owned media in August of this year. WJUC 107.3 The Juice, The Sojourner's Truth Newspaper and Stalwart Magazine hosted an event providing marketing and advertising support to about 15 Black entrepreneurs.

"We were just going to have the one meeting and then the businesses that came said we should keep it going... because this community was forming," said Battle-Gaines.

The now bi-monthly event grew in October to about 36 participants and on Dec 13, with the Creative Summit at the Entrepreneurs Club, it has blossomed to over 60. "It's growing organically each time" she stated. The aim is to create a strong and supportive Black business community in NW Ohio.

The Black Wall Street Community Development's mission statement "is to empower a community of business owners through activities such as mentorship, networking, leadership coaching and financial literacy initiatives for advocacy, support and collaboration for each other that leads to equitable and generational wealth," shared Stayce Fowler, owner of Stalwart Magazine.

The prototype for the project is 'Black Wallstreet' the burgeoning Black business community in Tulsa, Oklahoma, which was infamously and tragically destroyed by white mobs over 100 years ago in 1921.

"[My ideas was that] we need to re-energize Black Wall Street. That whole phenomenon that

... continued on page 10



Shana Lee blogger 'Shana Was Here' presents her business to the summit



Shanda Gore, Ed.D describes her business to supporters



Representatives from the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union - Shariva Sutton, Jamezz McKinney, Angela Cattladge

THINK, ACT AND LIVE!

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Toni Battle- Gaines originator of the Black Wallstreet Community Development



Chanell Phenix owner of Be Sweet Treats, LLC