

The Sojourner's Truth

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“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”

February 21, 2024

The Milestones Honoree for Volunteerism



Bishop Pat McKinstry, Worship Center

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Bishop Pat McKinstry: A Passionate Dedication to Faith and Service

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

The **YWCA Milestones Awards Event** has been an emblem of recognition for women of northwest Ohio who embody outstanding leadership qualities.

As we prepare to celebrate *Women's History Month*, it is with great honor that we shine a spotlight on **Bishop Pat McKinstry**, an embodiment of service, recognized with the prestigious *Milestones Volunteerism* honor.

Bishop McKinstry's story unfolds beautifully, spanning over five decades of preaching the Gospel. Her sermons, recognized among the nation's most dynamic, such as in *Gospel Today Magazine*, compose a symphony of worldwide spiritual resonance. From her humble beginnings as an evangelist at the tender age of 11 within the Church of God in Christ, McKinstry's journey has been marked by a passionate dedication to faith and service.

For over half a century, the resounding voice of Bishop Pat McKinstry has echoed the Gospel's timeless truth. A captivating orator, she assumed the mantle of pastor in the United Methodist Church in the late '80s.

Her narrative took a pivotal turn in 2008 when, fueled by a divine calling, she inaugurated her own sanctuary — **Worship Center of Toledo**— nestled on 2210 Collingwood Boulevard. From this sacred pulpit, Bishop Pat McKinstry weaves together the threads of family, education, and a Bible-based message that resonates in the heart of God's children.

Born into a family deeply rooted in faith, Bishop McKinstry's early introduction to the Gospel set the stage for a lifetime of service. "I am grateful to God that He chose me to live a life of service," she shares, a sentiment that echoes through her decades-long journey in ministry.

Spiritual Shepherd and Family Matriarch

As the esteemed pastor of Worship Center Church, Bishop McKinstry not only leads her congregation with unwavering devotion but also exemplifies the essence of familial bonds. Married for over 50 years to Luther McKinstry Jr., she is not only a spiritual shepherd but also the nurturing heart of her family. Her son, Luther McKinstry III, follows in her footsteps, pastoring the Worship Center of Atlanta, continuing the legacy of faith across generations.

In 2015, the composition of McKinstry's ministerial opus reached a significant crescendo as she assumed the official title of Bishop, a title that echoes not only her personal growth but also represents a triumph over

historical constraints. McKinstry reflects on her journey, highlighting the era when the notion of a woman in the pulpit faced resistance, contrasting it with the present, saying "A wonderful shift has occurred. It's a blessing that women are now graciously embraced in ministry."

Empowering Minds, Transforming Futures

Bishop Pat McKinstry's commitment to education is not just a facet of her life; it is a profound testament to her intellectual pursuits. Armed with a Bachelor of Education in Administration, a Master of Psychology, and Doctorate degrees in both Theology and Divinity, she stands as a scholarly beacon within our community. Her dedication extends beyond her personal accomplishments serving as the founder and CEO of **Rise and Shine Academy**, and the CEO of **McKinstry Midwest College of Theology**, underscoring her commitment to nurturing minds and empowering futures.

The McKinstry legacy also embraces this profound commitment to community upliftment. In a beautifully orchestrated symphony of benevolence, today Bishop McKinstry's grandchildren, Tashlai McKinstry Burney, EdD, and her husband Calvin Burney Jr., EdD, stand at the helm of Rise and Shine Academy, as principal and superintendent, nurturing their strong family legacy of education.

... continued on page 8



Bishop Pat McKinstry



TARTA CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

We thank the NAACP and those in our community who helped celebrate Rosa Parks Day. Her courage to take a stand by taking a seat inspired revolutionary change in our nation.



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A Prodigy and The Paradox of Recognition

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

The Truth Contributor



A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own hometown and among his own people.

- Holy Bible (Matthew 13:57, NLT)

As a testament to Toledo's vibrant cultural history, the city has been the birthplace of numerous exceptional Black artists, musicians, intellectuals and innovators. Yet, while these gifted individuals receive accolades from afar, they mostly remain underrecognized in their own backyard.

Bob Dietsche, in his book *Tatum's Town: The Story of Jazz in Toledo, Ohio*, recounts a British journalist's astonishment at the city's failure to honor Art Tatum – an international jazz legend.

The journalist, who was visiting Toledo to write Tatum's biography described the city's failure to recognize the giant in their midst as, "A fact that will eternally embarrass the city and forever mar Toledo's reputation." He went on to add, "If Tatum had been born in London, there would be a bust of him in the London Museum."

This pattern of overlooking homegrown talent underscores a broader issue of local recognition that is not limited to Tatum but extends to Stanley Cowell, a jazz prodigy whose significant contributions have yet to be fully acknowledged in Toledo.

Cowell's story, from his early life on the 'power block' of 900 Woodland Street to his influential career in music, embodies the need for Toledo to honor its black cultural icons, ensuring their legacies are not just remembered but revered for future generations.

The Formative Years in Toledo

Stanley Cowell's early years were shaped by a rich tapestry of influences that nurtured his prodigious musical abilities. Cowell's father, Stanley, Sr., a prominent businessman, owned Stanley's Hamburger Grill and built the Collingwood Motel, the first motel in the city limits of Toledo. The elder Cowell also built the Kirkwood on Telegraph Road. Cowell recounted in past interviews, "All the musicians that would come to town I would meet because in those days especially because of segregation they would stay in the black community." This provided him with the unique opportunity to meet numerous jazz luminaries passing through Toledo, a city renowned as a mecca for jazz artists and enthusiasts.

Stanley Cowell's path to jazz immortality took root at 962 Woodland, a neighborhood steeped in African American cultural, intellectual, profession-

... continued on page 12



Stanley Cowell

Mum's the Word ... for Now

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

As some of you may know, over the years, I have had various contacts with certain personalities that, to some, might seem somewhat unsavory as to their quirky character and dubious methods.

However, I have been able to still utilize those "sources" to my advantage since we have a "quid pro quo" sharing arrangement about information that may come my way, and what information may come their way.

I am not one to be unduly shaken by listening at the keyhole to certain personalities who, if they were exposed to the sunlight of truth, would sound both outlandish and beyond the pale of common sense.

In a moment of confession, I was at a certain marketplace and an individual whom I have known for decades contacted me to meet him there for a "exchange" of data for my perusal and comment.

I arrived at the market ahead of time and causally camped out near the frozen foods section (pizzas, to be exact) and waited for my contact, who, for purposes of security, will be called, Rufus.

When Rufus arrives on the scene, he is always dressed in military camos and he fakes a left leg limp. When I made eye contact with Rufus, he walked past me as if he never noticed me, circled around and came back the other way and stood about three feet from me, now carrying a box of shredded wheat and a tube of garlic infused bologna.



... continued on page 12



'An Evening with State Representative Elgin Rogers, Jr.'

State Rep. Elgin Rogers (D-Toledo) will host 'An Evening with State Representative Elgin Rogers, Jr.' on Thursday, February 29 from 5:00-7:00 pm at the McMaster Center of the Toledo Lucas County Public Library Main Branch.

The town hall event will give Rep. Rogers the opportunity to provide constituents with legislative updates, as well as receive feedback on the needs of the community.

The event, which is free and open to the public, will feature music from legendary jazz singer Ramona Collins and light refreshments. Space is limited so please RSVP by Friday, February 16th to Rep44@ohiohouse.gov.

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Celebrating Black History Month

By John E. Warren

The San Diego Voice & Viewpoint Newspaper

This year, perhaps more than ever, we need to be especially mindful of Black History. This time of banning books from local libraries, especially those that tell of the history and struggle of Black Americans against slavery and racism, pose a threat to both our presence and our future. It has often been said that if you don't know where you come from, you will have no idea of where you are going. Well, African Americans in particular must remember that we are here today because of strong ancestors who did not allow the circumstances under which they lived, to stuff out their dreams of a future for themselves and their descendants.



John E. Warren, PhD

We must remind ourselves that we are not to be defined by others; that we are not disadvantaged, or handicapped; that we are born with a right to equality and that we have always demanded equity even though others have tried to deny it to us. We are "We The People". We must not allow the changes that have been removed from our bodies to be placed on our minds. We have the ability to remove ourselves from poverty by using the tools in our hands. We must remember that we now possess everything that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke of when in his 1957 speech he said "give us the ballot and we will place the right people in office to in essence, further our cause. Today, so many of us have not because we will not use that which we do have. We have freedom of movement, of thought and how we use our minds. Yet, so many choose to squander these freedoms on how others tell us we should think and dress and what we should be with the few dollars that so many of us waste on things that are not necessary. We have freedom of worship, yet so many of us don't bother to pray until we find ourselves in crisis.

In addition to Black History, Carter G. Woodson, left us a most valuable

book, "The Miseducation of the Negro". It's time to honor is gift of Black History with our own personal contributions to the times in which we live and those we share this life experience with. Only when we engage in this level of thought and activity while making black history a daily experience, can we truly honor what we have been given beyond the month of February each year. Where do you stand and what are you doing with what you have been given? Let's move beyond complaints and expectations by others to what each of us can do right where we stand. Let's get back to defending ourselves and not allowing others to do it for us.

Lucas County Children Services Board Names 2024 Slate of Officers

County Commissioners also appoint new member

At its January 2024 meeting, the Lucas County Children Services Board named its slate of officers for the 2024 calendar year and announced that it is welcoming one new member.

• Suzette Cowell was named board chair. Cowell is CEO of the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union. She has served the LCCS board since 2009.

• Johnetta McCollough, recently retired executive director at TASC of Northwest Ohio, was elected vice chair. She was first named to the LCCS board in 2012.

• Alethea Easterly, founder of Quality Time Learning Center, will hold the position of secretary. She joined the board in 2021.

• Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, will serve as board treasurer. The pastor of Center of Hope Baptist Church was named to the LCCS board in 2019.

* Kathy Vasquez, who has served as board chair since 2021, was named immediate past president. Vasquez, a retired University of Toledo administrator, has served on the LCCS board since 2015.

The LCCS board names its own slate of officers from members appointed by the Lucas County Commissioners. Cowell announced that the Commissioners have appointed Timothy Meyer, vice president at the Lathrop Company, to the LCCS board. He began his term at the January 2024 meeting.

The mission of Lucas County Children Services is to lead the community in the protection of children at risk of abuse and neglect. This is accomplished by working with families, service providers and community members to assess risk and coordinate community-based services resulting in safe, stable and permanent families for children.



Suzette Cowell

Modeling is a career, it is not an activity.

If you are seriously thinking about getting into acting or modeling you are going to

need an agency that will be willing to work with you to find you paid assignments.

Alright let's get down to business, Do you have to pay to be a client of a modeling agency? NO

Do I need to pay for photos? Yes, However not out-of-pocket....

What does that mean? Agencies work on commission and some will work with you, now that digital photos are what they work with.

The agency will have that in your agreement.

Do I have to sign with the agency? Yes if you want to be considered for work through the agency.

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Toledo Urban FCU's Angela Cattlodge Is Here to Serve the Community

By Dawn Scotland
The Truth Reporter

Angela Cattlodge is the current Electronic Service Manager at Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union but she started as a teller – right out of high school. Now with over 24 years of experience she is knowledgeable about all aspects of the credit union industry.

Originally from Toledo, she graduated from Waite High School, and started working at TUFUCU in 2000.

“Throughout junior high and high school I used to go with my aunt to take your daughter to work day and she worked at Fifth Third. I took accounting in high school and knew it was something I wanted to do. Right after high school I started here. Being from the eastside I had never heard of Toledo Urban, a Black owned and operated credit union. I didn't have to go to Fifth Third-- I could work for us.”

Angela was there for the original groundbreaking of the first location on Dorr St. During her time at TUFUCU she's served as a teller, account manager and now electronic service manager.

She moved to Columbus for six years where she worked in a mainstream credit union and brought that wealth of experience back to Toledo. “We did a lot for our community – but the community that we served wasn't the community we served here.... I missed helping us.”

She also came back for family “I found out I was about to become a grandmother, so I came back in 2021.”

Tragically, Cattlodge's granddaughter Desire Hughes was murdered in a road rage shooting in 2022 at 7 months old while riding with her father in the passenger seat.

“I was able to celebrate her for 7 months...she was murdered on April 27, 2022. Her murderer was sentenced on the anniversary of her death April 27, 2023.”

“Justice was served... and now I can start the healing process with my daughter.” The loss has been grave for the family. Desire was her first granddaughter and her daughters' first child. “We miss her... I'm just glad the trial is over... that was hard.” The perpetrator is now serving life in prison. While dealing with extreme loss Angela is still able to serve and continues to help the community.

Cattlodge works back and forth between the two locations with the new expansion of the second branch on Monroe St.

“I handle a lot of the debits and credits coming in electronically. So, anything that posts to a members account via ACH or debit card or if they write a check – I make sure it hits their account correctly. I make sure it hits the right member's account. Things under that umbrella.” She is also a notary public.

Her favorite part about working at the credit union is the annual African



Angela Cattlodge and Suzette Cowell of Toledo Urban FCU

American Festival the TUFUCU hosts. “I love working on the festival. I think that's a big plus for the community. Just to see everybody come together.”

Community Calendar

February 22

Toledo African American Chamber of Commerce and Women of Toledo Speed Mentoring Session: A Black History Month Special; 5:30 to 8 pm; TolHouse: 567-970-7172

The State of Black Toledo: The Urgency of Now; The Frederick Douglass Community Association; 6 to 8 pm

Ohio Legislative Black Caucus – Lucas County Annual Meeting: Mott Branch Library; 6 to 8 pm

February 24-25

Soulful Praise Black History Month Gospel Concert: Friendship Baptist Church; Food Trucks, pop-up shops, gospel concert; Saturday – noon to 4 pm; Sunday – 1:30 to 5 pm – concert at 5: utoledo.edu/studentaffairs/omss

February 29

An Evening with State Rep. Elgin Rogers: Main Branch Library; 5 to 7 pm

March 10

Indiana Avenue MBC: First pastoral anniversary for Rev. William and First Lady Brittany Foster; 10:30 am and 3:30 pm

White House Celebrates Descendants of Civil Rights Leaders for Black History Month

By Joy Young

Special to The Truth

More than 100 descendants of civil rights trailblazers gathered Feb. 13 in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building in Washington, D.C.

They had gathered on Feb. 13 for Descendants' Day, part of the Biden-Harris administration's celebration of Black History Month.

Among them were family members of Emmett Till, Rosa Parks, Malcolm X, Ida B. Wells, Rosa Parks and Harriet Tubman. Vice President Kamala Harris welcomed the descendants.

"There's so much happening in our country and in the world right now that I think challenges us all to ask, 'What kind of country do we want to live in?'" Harris said. "And in order to adequately answer that question, I think it is imperative to understand where we are and came from."

Representative Terri Sewell said the descendant's efforts to uphold the work of those who came before them.

"Each generation must fight to preserve the progress of the past and to advance it," Sewell said. "So to the families here today, we say thank you for the perseverance, the personal sacrifice, and the tireless work to preserve and protect the work of your ancestors," she said.

Stephen K. Benjamin, director of the White House Office of Public Engagement, followed shortly after to recap the initiatives of the Biden-Harris administration.

He highlighted the administration's accomplishments of providing an estimated 5.5 million Black households with affordable internet, increasing healthcare coverage for African Americans by nearly 50 percent, and pioneering an executive order to make Juneteenth a federal holiday.

Kenneth B. Morris, a descendant of both Booker T. Washington and Fred-



Vice President Kamala Harris

erick Douglass, was the final speaker, emphasizing the power that descendants have to foster collaboration that could help tackle modern problems.

"This historic event marks the beginning of coalescing the descendants' families and like-minded leaders and organizations to catalyze transformative positive societal change amongst the most significant challenges faced by our country," Morris said. "As Fredrick Douglas said, without struggle, there is no progress. "As descendants, we have the responsibility to finish what our ancestors started."

Rodericka Applewhaite, director of Black media at the White House, said the request to gather at the White House was presented to the Office of Public Engagement for present foundations to share initiatives to collaborate with the White House.

The Descendants' Day event is one of many activities on the weekend itinerary for the family members of the iconic figures, according to NBC News.

NBC News reported that the invitees will visit the Lincoln Memorial, the Supreme Court and the U.S. Capitol. There will also be opportunities for group discussions and collaborative dialogue.

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Pat McKinstry... continued from page 2

Bishop McKinstry's influence extends beyond the pulpit. Through numerous audio selections, including "In the Prayer Garden with Dr. Pat," "War Dance-Undignified Praise," and "It's a New Dew," she imparts the essence of The Protocol of Prayer, Praise, and Worship. Additionally, she penned her wisdom in the literary realm with her works "Praise Break" and "Pastors: We Still Need Them," a testament to her ability to convey profound spiritual insights through the written word.

"It was an honor and surprise to be recently elected President of the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union Board of Directors," shares McKinstry, who also serves as a member of the Board of Trustees at TARTA.

Bishop McKinstry's leadership on the credit union board ensures a focus on financial education and inclusion, aligning with the YWCA's mission to eliminate racial and economic disparities. By actively participating in the governance of these vital institutions, she contributes to the creation of equitable opportunities, amplifying the voices of the underserved.

Doing Good is Always in Style

Impeccable in both substance and style, Bishop Pat McKinstry radiates a distinctive elegance that extends far beyond her spiritual leadership. It speaks to a holistic approach to leadership—one where substance and style coalesce, creating a presence that captivates both hearts and minds.

"Dress well, feel good. It's the first step in facing life's occasions with confidence and a positive spirit," shares Bishop McKinstry.

Whether she's engaging in deep conversation, delivering a sermon, or leading a community initiative, her glasses are a symbol of both clarity of vision and a fashionable flair that is uniquely hers.

"It's so important to focus on the good. Looking good, feeling good, being good," she explains. "Last year our church took that concept and adopted a school to make a difference in the lives of students doing good things."

In 2023 the Worship Center decided to adopt neighboring Scott High School. "We began with our church providing uniforms for the Scott High-school cheerleaders as an incentive for perfect attendance," explains Bishop McKinstry.

"The initiative grew to encompass the entire class with the best attendance."

This heartwarming initiative treated the winning students to a lavish full

course Thanksgiving Dinner at the Toledo Country Club, a gesture of appreciation for their flawless attendance during the first quarter of the school year. As students entered the country club, they were greeted with roses, a tangible expression of the community's acknowledgment of their dedication.

"If leaders do something similar in every community, we will stop trouble and reward goodness," McKinstry adds.

Rewarding good behavior stands as a testament to a visionary approach in nurturing not only success but also instilling lifelong values. In a society often focused on reprimanding shortcomings, constructive initiatives are a breath of fresh air—an acknowledgment that positive reinforcement can be a powerful catalyst for environments conducive to learning and personal growth.

By adopting a strategy that rewards good attendance, Bishop McKinstry plants the seeds for responsible adulthood. Her approach is a practical application of life lessons, teaching that dedication and consistency yield positive outcomes. It's an investment in the students' understanding that their actions today lay the foundation for their success tomorrow.

Fostering a Culture of Positivity & Praise

The narrative of giving back, recognizing excellence, and fostering goodness is not merely a tradition; it proves the power of service and the profound impact that can be achieved when community leaders dedicate themselves to making a positive difference in the lives of others.

It's a strategy that not only shapes responsible adults but also lays the foundation for a community that thrives on encouragement, empathy, and the belief that every positive action contributes to the collective well-being.

The YWCA's Milestones Volunteerism honor for Bishop Pat McKinstry elevates her individual story to a collective anthem of empowerment. It's a testament to a life well-lived, inspiring women to tread boldly, break barriers, and leave an indelible mark on the canvas of their chosen paths.

On behalf of our community and all those whose lives you've touched, we extend heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering dedication, visionary leadership, and compassionate faith-driven service. Your commitment to uplifting others is a beacon of inspiration, aligning seamlessly with the mission of the YWCA to create a world where everyone can flourish.

The YWCA 29th Annual Milestones: A Tribute to Women Awards will be held at the Glass City Center on Tuesday, March 19, 2024



Milestones honoree Bishop Pat McKinstry - in yellow - and her supporters Toledo Clerk of Court Vallie Bowman English, Toledo Urban FCU CEO Suzette Cowell, Quality Time CEO Aletha



Happy Black History Month

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-Frederick Douglass

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MHR SB of Lucas County Celebrates Black History Month

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Publication Date 02/24

Toledo Library Black History Meal

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

The Toledo Lucas County Public Library (TLCPL) collaborated with Welcome Toledo-Lucas County (TLC), Women of Toledo (WOT) and SAME Café Toledo to celebrate Black History. The February 10 event was held at the downtown library inside of the café.

"Thank you for coming here today," began Mely Arribas-Douglas, TLC Specialists. "Today we're celebrating black history."

"At Women of Toledo our mission is to educate, engage and empower," began Sierra Ortiz, WOT Associate Director. "We're happy to be here, volunteer and partner today. We support programs like this that are important to the community."

The Café was filled to capacity as guests enjoyed the meal prepared by renown Chef Mae Merveilles Tshitenge, who prepared authentic Congolese cuisine. Guests dined on famed coleslaw, aromatic rice, mouthwatering mikate, flavorful tshake madesu and succulent grilled chicken.

"Thank you. Thank you," said Chef Mae. "I want to thank my team. Thank you to Café Chef Schmidtke and your team. Thank you to each of you for coming out here today and hope you will enjoy this meal."

In addition to preparing the meal, Chef Mae completed a cooking demonstration and answered audience questions.

The library's Black History plan is called the BIG IDEA (Build, Improve, Grow with Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access). The remaining Black History programs by branch:

- Kent, Vintage Collection Sneakers on Feb. 15 and 22, 5:00pm-6pm
- King, Summer of Soul film screening on Feb. 17 from 2:00pm-4:00pm; Small Town Pride Book Club on Feb. 26 from 6:30pm-7:30pm
- Lagrange, Black Boy Joy, Feb. 20 5:30pm-6:30pm
- Main, Black History Month for Kids, Feb. 17, 2:00pm-3:00pm
- Mott, Step into Black History, Feb. 23, 3:30pm-5:00pm
- West Toledo, Poonam Dance on Feb 20 from 4:00pm-5:00pm; Simple as Water film screening on Feb. 23 from 1:00pm-3:00pm; and An Afternoon with Little Amal on Feb. 24 from 2:00pm-5:00pm.



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Mely Arribas-Douglas, TLC Specialists (left) and Sierra Ortiz, Women of Toledo Associate Director



Mely Arribas-Douglas, TLC Specialists



Latest Credit Card Rules Hurt Black Businesses the Most

By Roy Hodge, President of the Toledo African-American Chamber of Commerce

Guest Column

Nothing can transform a community like thriving small businesses. When those businesses are successful, they create jobs, brighten neighborhoods, and reinvest and grow in the communities they serve. But businesses don't just magically appear. They require hard work and, just as importantly, capital and investment. Today, access to credit is under threat by new banking rules proposed in Washington, D.C. – and Black entrepreneurs will be hit harder than most.

The rule in question is a reduced cap on credit card late fees, which have been lumped in the same bucket as hidden junk fees targeted by the Biden administration's Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB). There is already a reasonable cap on these fees, \$30 for the first late payment and \$41 for a second, but the CFPB wants to cut them to \$8. While junk fees simply exist to extract more money from customers, credit card late fees serve an important purpose: they incentivize people to pay their bills on time. When more people pay their bills on time, credit becomes less expensive and more widely available. When fewer people pay their bills on time, credit becomes more expensive, and banks are less willing to extend credit and loans. It's as simple as that.

For Black entrepreneurs in Toledo and across Ohio, the peril in this policy is evident. A recent study from the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies found that approximately 60 percent of black business owners had trouble obtaining capital. There are numerous reasons for this, ranging from stricter lending rules to less available collateral to a lack of banking options and relationships in Black communities.

The reduced late fee cap would only exacerbate each of these issues, making it even harder for Black business owners to get the credit they



Roy Hodge

need to start and expand their businesses. Lending standards would become even more stringent and risk-averse. Collateral requirements would become even higher. Black businesses that do have access to credit will see their costs increase dramatically and likely have to cut expenses elsewhere by limiting employee hours or raising costs for customers. Those who don't have access to credit may never get off the ground. And those who use credit cards to cover both day-to-day expenses and unexpected expenses could be forced to turn to other funding sources, such as payday lenders who target minority communities. In Ohio, these lenders demand the highest interest rate in the country, at 591 percent.

Lowering the cap on late fees would be bad enough if the consequences stopped there, but they don't. The small banks that actually do serve Black communities and businesses in Toledo would have a harder time extending credit – both to businesses and to everyday customers throughout northwest Ohio. Unlike the big banks, these community-based institutions simply don't have the resources to absorb the losses that accumulate when people fail to pay their bills on time. They will be forced to tighten credit lines, raise interest rates, and eliminate basic services like free checking accounts.

The CFPB thinks its rules would protect consumers, but they are completely wrong in this case. Lowering the cap on late fees would only serve to shift costs from those who fail to play by the rules to those who do. Black businesses, which already face numerous hurdles to credit and capital, will only face more obstacles. Black-owned banks will be at an even greater disadvantage to the big banks who too often ignore us. And the Black community in Toledo and throughout Ohio will ultimately pay the steepest price for this politically motivated rule that policymakers in Washington, D.C. would be better off abandoning.

Roy Hodge is the President of the Toledo African-American Chamber of Commerce

First Black Sorority... continued from page 16

"Today, we are privileged to acknowledge and honor those who have shown exceptional dedication and accomplishment in their pursuits, contributing significantly to the enhancement of our beloved Toledo community. To those being honored, we extend our deepest gratitude for your unwavering commitment and for the remarkable impact you have made," shared Nicnora Robinson, president of Alpha Lambda chapter, via souvenir booklet.

Greetings were also delivered by Aeneas Glover, the Iota Iota chapter president. Special acknowledgements were delivered by Felicia Roberts-Dunston, invocation delivered by Debra Brock, program initiative presented by Katrina Barry, and poem recited by Kayleen Powell.

"I would like to extend thanks to the Founder's Day Committee for working so diligently and being passionate enough to create this wonderful program. I want to thank the members of Alpha Lambda and Iota Iota for helping host this wonderful event," noted Glover.

Award honorees:

- Jovita Robertson, current teacher, awarded Legacy of Excellence Award
- Curtina Keetion, entrepreneur and owner of K'Janée Boutique, awarded Shot Caller Award
- Alissa Mauter, entrepreneur and owner of Helping Hearts, awarded Young Gifted and Black Award

- Yvonne Mitcham, retired nurse and social worker who focuses on community entrepreneur support, awarded Trailblazer Award
- Darlene Sweeney-Newbern, civil rights advocate, awarded Social Humanitarian Award
- Shanda Gore, leadership developer and strategist, awarded Community Change Agent Award
- Bishop Pat McKinstry, author and pastor of The Worship Center, awarded Icon Award
- Ann Colbert Battles, long-time sorority member with a demonstrated history of service and leadership, awarded Sisterhood Award

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. was founded on January 15, 1908 at Howard University located in Washington, D.C. Locally, Alpha Lambda Chapter was established at the University of Toledo in 1928. Iota Iota was chartered at Bowling Green State University in 1972. Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter was chartered in 1952. Current Zeta Alpha Omega chapter leadership: Richelle Watkins, president; Katrina Barry, assistant president; Malinda Powell, recording secretary; Cassandra Adams, corresponding secretary; Traci Johnson, treasurer; Andrea Price, assistant treasurer and parliamentarian; Cheryl Phillips, financial secretary; Treva Jeffries-Martin, assistant financial secretary; Valerie Walston, public relations; Katina Johnson, Alpha Lambda advisor; Leigh Utley, Iota Iota advisor; Desiree McGee, historian; Marcia Brown, and Sgt. At Arms.

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Tolliver... continued from page 3

He smiled and nodded to me and placed in the frozen food section a small brown envelope, wished me a good day and he was gone.

I casually retrieved the envelope, placed it in my shirt pocket and left the store along with a purchase of canned tuna fish and a loaf of whole grain bread.

When I left the store, I scanned the parking lot for any “lingering” individuals or unusual car traffic before I entered my car and drove to the nearby Swan Creek Park.

Rufus was there parked in a retro Jeep and we both casually walked to a nearby bench. Rufus took out a large folding knife and cut hunks of the bologna and ate them, all the while I was waiting for him to speak.

Finally, Rufus cleared his throat and stated that the envelope was the latest conspiracy theories that were about to be dumped on the unsuspecting American public by a Dark Web far right-wing operator known as PP33. PP33 is one of the most widely listened to podcasters in America. His audience is high over eight million listeners and counting.

When Rufus handed the following list of new “information” that PP33 was ready to disburse to his intellectually challenged listeners, I knew that the upcoming general elections would be free for all with animus on both sides of the aisle.

As you can ascertain from the concocted gibberish, these deranged talking points were cobbled together to advance the agenda of a nigh defunct GOP that has totally capitulated to the wiles and whims of its new Dear Leader, Donald Trump.

For the life of me, I do not see how anyone with two working brain cells and any access to Google or a library could not discover that these swamp gas dreams are of no value but only inserted into the heated political race for the singular purpose of dis-information and confusion of the voting populace.

Here they are in no particular order:

(1) Currently making the rounds: Taylor Swift is an agent of a clandestine PsyOp plot to have her immense following vote Democratic. The GOP is terrified of such a popular personality being able to persuade key young voters in Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Nevada.

(2) The discovery of secret medical records that indicate that Joe Biden is bi-polar and is taking heavy medications for advanced memory loss.

(3) Joe Biden is going to release billions of barrels of oil in September so as to lower gas prices to that of \$2.50 to \$2.75 per gallon and to do so without congressional approval.

(4) The Biden administration is in secret talks with Mexico to have their government take in almost 600,000 migrants during the months of July and August and Biden will pay Mexico over \$10 billion for such “housing” of the migrants. This will show that his administration is tough on the border crossings.

(5) Kamala Harris and Joe Biden have agreed that if Biden wins, he will spend only two years of his term and then resign, and Kamala Harris will have the remaining two years to run the country; and for the people to get used to a Black woman being president of the US of A.

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(6) The Biden administration, if they win another term; and also win the House and Senate, will “pack the court” with four moderate to liberal justices to offset the current conservative court.

(7) The Biden administration, if they win another term, will outlaw AR-15's and other similar assault rifles and place a “use” tax on all gun manufacturers of \$200 per rifle and \$300 per handgun.

PP33 believes that these conspiracy theories, when properly placed in certain media markets, will cause a hue and a cry that will be virtually impossible for the Democrats to effectively counter before Election Day.

After downing another huge chunk of smelly garlic bologna, Rufus smiled, got up and limped away.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com

Perryman... continued from page 2

al, and activist traditions. The 900 block of Woodland was known as the “Power Block” and was teeming with pioneers like J.B. Simmons, Jr. – the first African American elected to the Toledo City Council in 1945 – and provided a rich backdrop for Cowell’s initial musical ventures. Notable neighbors included George Bush, a Black pharmacist (Pocock’s Drug Store), and the esteemed Doneghy family (Joseph and Charles), further enriching the environment that shaped Cowell’s early life.

Early Musical Education and Influences

Stanley Cowell’s early musical education was a broad assortment of influences that intertwined rigorous formal training with Toledo’s lively jazz culture. Known as the “prize student” of piano teacher Mary Belle Shealy, who was affiliated with Warren AME Church, Cowell began his journey at Toledo’s Jessup W. Scott High School. He further honed his skills at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, eventually earning a Master’s degree from the University of Michigan. Influenced by jazz icons like Art Tatum and grounded in classical piano, Cowell was poised to master both jazz and classical domains. His extraordinary talent was unmistakable at just 14 when a performance with the Toledo Symphony Orchestra showcased his remarkable abilities and hinted at his future achievements in music.

A Career That Transcended Boundaries

Stanley Cowell’s career was defined by its innovation, versatility and unwavering commitment to excellence. A co-founder of Strata-East Records, his collaborations with jazz luminaries like Max Roach and Miles Davis significantly shaped the course of jazz music. These partnerships highlighted Cowell’s multifaceted talent as a composer, arranger and pianist, renowned for his unique blend of classical techniques with jazz innovation, captivating both audiences and critics. His discography, which merges jazz with classical elements, exemplifies his extraordinary skill and forward-thinking musical approach.

Among Cowell’s most distinguished collaborations was his work with the Heath Brothers, an acclaimed jazz ensemble featuring Percy Heath on bass, Jimmy Heath on tenor saxophone and Albert “Tootie” Heath on drums. This partnership allowed Cowell to fuse his classical expertise with his jazz fervor, enriching the group’s sound and enhancing their dynamic stage presence. His engagement with the Heath Brothers not only cemented his reputation in the jazz world but also demonstrated his adeptness in navigating intricate musical terrains.

In the early 1970s, alongside trumpeter Charles Tolliver, Cowell established Strata-East Records. This label became a haven for artists championing creative autonomy and artistic integrity. This endeavor marked a defining moment in jazz history, with Strata-East Records championing an abundance of groundbreaking albums, including Cowell’s Musiquarium, further solidifying his influence in the jazz domain.

Acclaim and Influence

Following his professional career, Cowell also made significant contributions as an educator, serving as a professor emeritus at Rutgers University’s Mason Gross School of the Arts, where he taught jazz piano and influenced many students.

Through his teaching, mentorship and influence on the next generation of musicians—his legacy is profound. Through his academic role, Cowell helped shape the careers of countless young musicians, imparting his extensive knowledge of jazz theory, performance, and history. His work in education, combined with his professional achievements, underscores his commitment to the growth and development of jazz music and its practitioners.

Cowell’s legacy is immortalized through his contributions to education as a professor emeritus of jazz piano at Rutgers University. His mentorship and



Stanley Cowell in 1980

... continued on page 13

Dear Black Girls: How to Be True to You by A'Ja Wilson

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

The envelope on the table is addressed to you.

It caught your attention because – who, besides politicians, utilities, and creditors sends anything in the mail these days? Still, it was a nice surprise, no matter what, like a throwback or something. And like the new book, *Dear Black Girls* by A'Ja Wilson, every letter means something.

From the time she was born until she was in fourth or fifth grade, A'Ja Wilson lived in a bubble. She didn't know it; she was only a kid, just being herself with no worries. And then, right before one of her best friends was having a birthday party, Wilson learned that the girl's dad "really [didn't] like Black people." Those few words shook Wilson's dad, they made her mother quietly angry, and they made Wilson doubt herself for many years.

It was her first reminder: "You're a girl."

Oh! And you're a Black girl.

Alright, good luck!"

With the help of her parents and her beloved grandmother, Wilson healed but she never forgot. She made sure to know her roots and her family's story. She was dyslexic, so she struggled, tried to fit in, and grew taller than most boys, which didn't help her self-esteem. Neither did the fact that at almost every point in her life, the color of her skin mattered in ways that it shouldn't have mattered. That included her activity on a basketball court.

Wilson was a young teen when her father first threw her a ball and she hated it, but by the time she graduated from high school, she'd found her way. She'd developed a good "Nonsense Detector." She got some therapy ("Ain't no shame in it."); she learned that when she did her best, there were still going to be haters; and she always remembers to be herself and to be a

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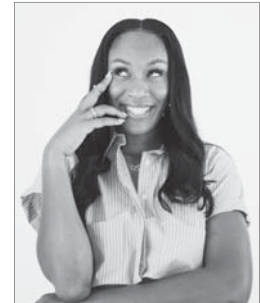
Remember, she says, "You don't have to be an WNBA player or a politician or a celebrity to have an impact on someone."

So will you learn a thing or two by reading *Dear Black Girls*?

Yes and no. In her short introduction, author A'Ja Wilson says that this "is not a self-help book," that it's just "a diary of somebody... who looks like you..." Eh, that's nothing new but despite her protests, *Dear Black Girls* is helpful. You just have to be ready for it.

That's not hard; Wilson, a two-time WNBA MVP tells her story with a flair for fun. She even tells the sad tales with exuberance, subtly letting readers know that it's okay, she's okay, and it's all just part of her story. Her voice lets you know how much she enjoys life, even when she has tough things to deal with. It's like hearing encouragement from the top bunk, or getting straight talk from a mentor.

While it might seem to be a book for teenagers only, *Dear Black Girls* would also be a great resource for younger adults. Take a look, see if it doesn't get your stamp of approval.



Dear Black Girl author A'Ja Wilson

Perryman... continued from page 12

pedagogical philosophy have left an indelible mark on generations of musicians, ensuring his influence resonates well into the future.

Honoring Stanley Cowell: A Legacy of Musical Innovation and Education

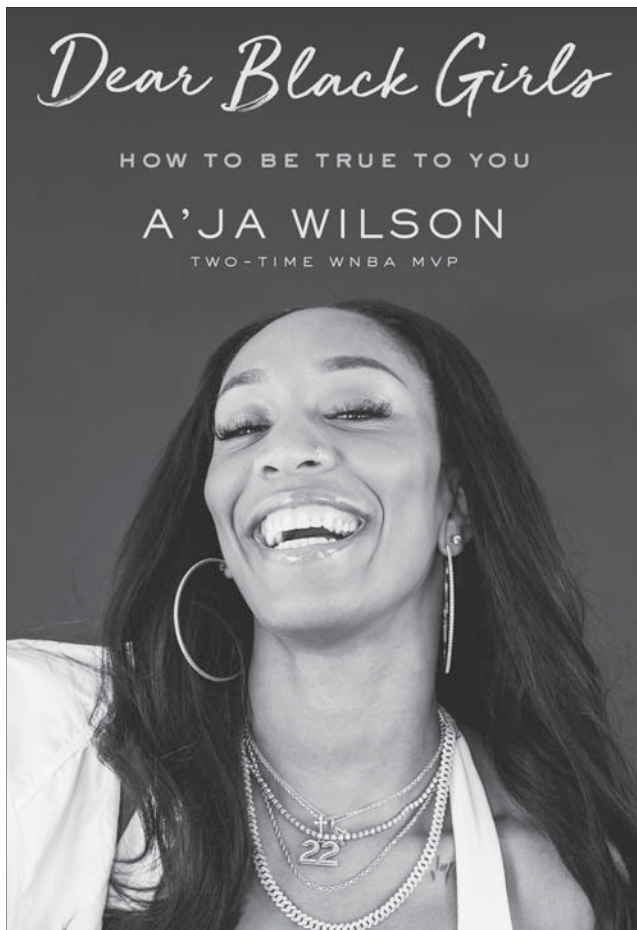
Stanley Cowell's remarkable journey from the vibrant streets of Toledo to the global jazz stage is a testament to his unwavering dedication to music as well as his roots in the culturally-rich soil of Toledo, Ohio.

Yet, despite his acclaim and the breadth of his contributions, Cowell's legacy within Toledo remains undercelebrated. The absence of a formal tribute to his achievements in his hometown calls for a reevaluation of how we honor our cultural icons.

By acknowledging and memorializing Cowell's life and work, Toledo has the opportunity to not only honor a native son but also to inspire future generations to appreciate the rich musical heritage of our city.

In doing so, we can affirm Toledo's place in jazz history and celebrate the legacy of Stanley Cowell, a true musical prophet whose influence transcends geographical boundaries.

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'An Evening with State Representative Elgin Rogers, Jr.'

State Rep. Elgin Rogers (D-Toledo) will host 'An Evening with State Representative Elgin Rogers, Jr.' on Thursday, February 29 from 5:00-7:00 pm at the McMaster Center of the Toledo Lucas County Public Library Main Branch.

The town hall event will give Rep. Rogers the opportunity to provide constituents with legislative updates, as well as receive feedback on the needs of the community.

The event, which is free and open to the public, will feature music from legendary jazz singer Ramona Collins and light refreshments. Space is limited so please RSVP by Friday, February 16th to Rep44@ohiohouse.gov.



TAKING YOU PLACES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)

FY 2024 through 2026 Goals

The purpose of this notice is to afford certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs), general contractor groups, minorities, and woman's organizations an opportunity to participate and comment on the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) draft FFY-2024 to FFY-2026 DBE program and Goal.

The TARTA DBE program proposed goal and methodology may be reviewed for 30 calendar days starting with the first day of publication of this notice.

Questions and comments regarding the goal setting process, the draft DBE goal and the final FFY-2024 to FFY-2026 DBE goal may be mailed or emailed to the email addresses below.

It is the policy of TARTA to provide Disadvantaged Business Enterprises with the maximum opportunity to participate in the performance of contracts financed in whole or part with federal funds. In accordance with the requirements of Title 49 CFR 26.45, TARTA is publishing its DBE goal for Fiscal Years 2024 -2026 of 10%. TARTA's proposed goal and its rationale are available for inspection at tarta.com/news-alerts/tarta-business.

A virtual public meeting will be held on February 7 at 10 a.m. To register, get the link at the TARTA website under tarta.com/news-alerts/tarta-business.

To request a copy of the DBE Program or goal, or further information about the DBE program please call Zach Morrison at 419-245-5237 or email zmorrison@tarta.com.

TARTA will accept comments on the goal for 45 days from the date of this notice.

Comments may be addressed to:

Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority
TARTA DBE & Ethics Officer – Sean Smith
1127 West Central Avenue
Toledo, OH 43610
ssmith@tarta.com

It is the policy of TARTA that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds race, color, national origin, religion, age, marital status, sexual orientation, or disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

INVITATION FOR BIDS GLENDALE FIRE ALARM UPGRADES IFB24-B002

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive bids for **Glendale Fire Alarm Upgrades in accordance with IFB24-B002**. Received in accordance with law until **March 8, 2024 at 3:00 PM ET**. 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 REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT SERVICES RFP24-R002

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Real Estate Development Consultant Services in accordance with RFP24-R002**. Received in accordance with law until **February 24, 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 FOR PROJECT BASED VOUCHERS RFP24-R001 F

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 151 PBV for this rolling RFP. Received in accordance with law until **February 29, 2024, at 3:00 PM ET**. See documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street, Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements (Executive Order #11246). This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



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Grassroots Youth Focused Economic Development Nonprofit Hosts Celebration

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

GreaterGenerations, a local nonprofit, celebrated six years of impacting the lives of Toledo's youth through collaboration. The annual anniversary and recognition program was held on Saturday, February 17, at downtown's Manhattan restaurant.

"Thank you for joining us today, we are here to celebrate a great occasion," began Ebony Robinson, executive director. "Our annual report shows an upward growth trend, great photos and, believe me, we will have another great year this year. Our goal is to do better than the last year."

Celebration guests enjoyed refreshments, a buffet and public recognition with tokens of appreciation. Robinson shared some explains of collaborations.

"One of our youth participated in the Toledo Zoo's Conservation internship," shared Robinson. The Toledo Zoo's Conservation internship provides a stipend and supplies for youth interns as they actively complete conservation work. "GreaterGenerations also has the snow plow contract

with the Toledo Police. We plow the lots. There's a divide between the youth and officers, that's why this contact is important."

GreaterGenerations purpose is to support and encourage the development of low-income and minority youth in efforts to reduce Disproportionate Minority Contact, while building communication, respect and trust within the community in efforts to reduce recidivism and increase community revitalization.

To date the organization holds active local contracts and reoccurring funding from multiple entities. GreaterGenerations has seven programs: G2 Community Partners Initiative, Outdoor Maintenance, Youth Housing Program, Teen Parents Program, Teen Transportation and Driver Program, Youth Entrepreneur Program, Family Building/Parental Involvement Measure.

GreaterGeneration's first grant was Bill Rowles Youth Foundation fund from the Greater Toledo Community Foundation in 2020, the nonprofit has secured funding from various Foundation funds including: Toledo Walleye Hockey Club's Walleye Wishing Well, Toledo Rotary Club Foundation, Toledo Mud Hens Baseball Club's Helping Hens Fund and Equity & Access Initiative Fund.

"It's my pleasure to be here in support of this great organization," began Artisha Lawson, Greater Toledo Community Foundation program officer. "The work that she has done in the area of economic development, person-first youth programming and collaboration is noteworthy and I'm glad that we have been able to support these efforts."

GreaterGenerations plans to host a Toledo Art Contest in February, Shoot Pool Not Guns and Spring N2 Summer Campaign in March, Summer Recruitment in June and Family Picnic in July. For additional information on how to donate or to sign up your youth call 419-270-5481, visit www.greatergen.org, search social media or text G2Supporter@G2 to 44321.



Ebony Robinson with her children and participants (Kai Fisher and Damar Smith)



GreaterGenerations Executive Director, Ebony Robinson



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First Black Sorority's Local Chapter Celebrates Founders' Day

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

The 116th Founders' Day celebration organized by the local Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. chapters of Zeta Alpha Omega, Alpha Lambda and Iota Iota was held on February 17 at The Pinnacle. Guests, community members and sorority members gathered to celebrate the occasion that also acknowledged local honorees under the theme, "Black Girls Rock in Exemplary Service."

"We're here to celebrate the 116th Founders' Day of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and celebrate ladies in the community. Black Girls Rock in Exemplary Service highlights community ladies and the work they are doing in the community," shared Richelle Watkins, president of Zeta Alpha Omega chapter.

Kristian Brown of 13abc served as the mistress of ceremonies and opened the celebration. Sonya Randall introduced the dais, Sheila Brown led Lift Every Voice and Sing, and Watkins, the chapter president, delivered the welcome.

...continued on page 11



Honorees (L to R, back row) Bishop Patricia McKinstry, Shanda Gore, EdD, Darlene Sweeney-Newbern, Yvonne Mitcham, Alissa Mauter, and Jovita Robertson with (front row) Felicia Robe



Chapter Committee Chairs



Past Presidents of the Chapter : (Top Row L-R): Treva Jeffries Martin, Andrea Price, Felicia Dunston, Katina Johnson, Clara Petty, Lisa Dubose, Denise Black-Poon, Mary Dawson. (Bottom Row L-R): Marie Bush, Margaret Huntley, Richelle Watkins, Julia Holt, Theodosia Tucker



Chapter Officers



Founders Day Celebration Committee



Sorority Jewels



Shanda Gore (center) surrounded by Kathryn Tucker, Stayce Fowler, Erika Wte and Stephanie Boutte

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