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Troubling the Waters of Injustice

Darlene Sweeney Newbern, President Toledo NAACP

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Troubling the Waters of Injustice in Toledo

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



I'm not your bridge over troubled waters; I'm the person who's going to trouble the waters.
- Darlene Sweeney Newbern

Civil Rights and Justice leaders who utilize disruption as a change strategy are often labeled "radical" or "revolutionary" to silence them by protectors of the status quo. The intent is to force leaders and their organizations into compliance, making them docile, passive and palatable for those in power.

Yet, for Darlene Sweeney Newbern, these labels are not deterrents but badges of honor, reinforcing her commitment to troubling the waters rather than going quietly into the night.

Not to be confused with "reformers," who operate within the existing system, because it often works to the benefit of the so-called reformer, Newbern seeks to dismantle systems of oppression, tear down what is broken and create space for equity and justice to flourish.

She is a leader who pushes the envelope, refusing to settle for superficial progress. And most of all, she challenges not only systems of oppression but also leadership paradigms that prioritize self-interest over collective liberation or seek justice for a select few rather than for everyone.

As Newbern assumes the reins of the Toledo chapter of the NAACP, she brings a leadership style that is uncompromising, nonconformable, unrelenting, and unapologetic in her pursuit of justice.

I caught up with Newbern to discuss what it means for her not only to navigate troubled waters but to actively disrupt them, creating the ripples that lead to systemic change.

Perryman: Congratulations on your recent election as president of the Toledo Chapter of the NAACP. Let's begin by discussing your vision for the chapter.

Newbern: My primary vision is to reestablish the Toledo Chapter as a force to be reckoned with in social justice. We want to be the premier civil rights organization in Toledo. Historically, this city played a significant role in the Civil Rights Movement, and my goal is to restore that legacy. Whether it's healthcare equity, education, economic empowerment or criminal justice reform, we're here to advocate for equality and make meaningful change. When you wrong the people in Toledo, Ohio, you will say to yourself, "Am I going to hear from the NAACP?" Yes, you are. You're going to hear from the NAACP!

Perryman: What inspired you to take on this leadership role?

Newbern: Civil rights advocacy has been in my blood for as long as I can remember. Growing up in Toledo, I experienced discrimination firsthand but also had mentors who inspired me to fight for justice. From my time at Bowling Green State University to my long career with the Ohio Civil Rights Commission, I've always been drawn to defending the marginalized and holding systems account-

able. When our former president, Rev. Willie Perryman, stepped down, it felt like a natural progression for me to pick up the torch and continue the fight.

Perryman: The times and circumstances of our experiences shape us. In fact, Soren Kierkegaard, the philosopher, said, "Life must be lived forwards, but can only be understood backwards." Help our readers connect the dots to understand how your passion for justice was forged, specifically.

Newbern: My drive comes from a deep spiritual foundation. I grew up in the Church of the Living God as a child. I remember how the leaders used to stand up there and how they just fought for the belief.

From there, I had such outstanding teachers like Ernie Jones when I went to Jesup W. Scott High School (Once a bulldog, Always a bulldog!), who talked about the struggle of what it was to be Black not only in Toledo but also in America. They further instilled that fight for equality in me.

I ended up getting a job at The Ohio Civil Rights Commission. I rose up the ranks to second in command of the whole state of Ohio over operations and all the regions. I was then in a position where I didn't have to guess what was happening, but I had access to all records, documents, files, people, and emails. I could see what was going on.

Perryman: As the newly elected leader of the Toledo NAACP, how do you plan to reconnect the chapter with the community?

Newbern: Grassroots engagement is key. We need to meet people where they are. I'm implementing themed meetings to tackle issues like housing, employment and police accountability. We're going to be visible, active and accessible. My goal is for the community to know that when there's an injustice, the NAACP is not only aware but ready to act.

Perryman: Youth mentorship is a critical part of any lasting movement. How will you involve young people in the chapter's work?

Newbern: Our youth are the future and incredibly smart and resourceful, especially with technology and social media. We're engaging young people by listening to their concerns, involving them in leadership roles and empowering them to lead initiatives. For example, I'll speak to Scott High School students soon and I want to encourage them to dream big and fight for change.

... continued on page 3



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Why America Needed President James Earl Carter

By Dr. Mallory Williams, MD
Guest Column

Think back to the 1976 Presidential Election. Jimmy Carter, governor of Georgia, beat President Gerald Ford who would later become a dear friend. America desperately needs that type of story from its highest leaders these days.



Dr. Mallory Williams

Senator Ted Kennedy would go on to unsuccessfully challenge the incumbent president in 1980 appearing to signal the end of Camelot. That is, until Senator Kennedy took the stage of the Democratic Convention in Madison Square Garden and delivered, The Dream Shall Never Die. Some of America's best rhetoric.

Today we now certainly know that we needed to hear those words that can only be produced by a bitter rivalry and a hard-fought election. Indeed, "...the work goes on, the cause endures, the hope still lives..." both then and most definitely now. America needed to see a family with a daughter attending public school (just like me) while occupying the White House. We desperately need these same sensibilities now.

Thank you, President Carter, for sending your daughter to Stevens Elementary School and thus showing the American people that public school was important to you as president and good enough for the First Family.

I personally needed to know that President Carter was an honorary Morehouse Man receiving his honorary doctorate from the college in 1975 by the late Dr. Hugh M. Gloster. President Carter demonstrated that a Morehouse Man in the White House is a great thing.

The countless hours spent freeing the Iranian hostages that he never got credit for, is more of a failure of the American Press Corps than the president. We now know the truth and how politics moved to thwart his significant achievement.

We also know about the stolen debate books and all of the numerous things his future opponent's campaign would do simply to win an election. And President Carter to paraphrase the words of Rudyard Kipling, "... never breathed a word about his loss..." America needs to see that type of grace in the Oval Office.

Post presidency, the humanitarian efforts of Jimmy Carter and the Carter Center were phenomenal from eradication of infectious disease to election monitoring, the international impact of someone who was not a head of state was certainly trailblazing. Combine this with the work of Habitat for Humanity in supplying Americans with homes, and we collectively witnessed the phenomenal work of a domestic and international hero.

America needed to see these possibilities in a former U. S. President. Other presidents have won the Nobel Peace Prize but none in their post presidency years. He set the standard of a life well lived. And if his third cousin, Berry Gordy, were to write the lyrics of his life, they may read, "Give love everyday..."

Thank God for President Jimmy Carter.

Ed Note: Dr. Mallory Williams, MD, MPH, is chairman of the Department of Trauma and Burn, John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County, Chicago, IL

Perryman... continued from page 2

Perryman: You've spoken about being a disruptor and "troubling the waters." What does that mean to you?

Newbern: It means confronting injustices head-on and bringing issues to light, even when it's uncomfortable. I'm not interested in going along to get along. If I see employers, police departments or public institutions treating our people unfairly, I'll call them out and demand accountability. Change doesn't happen by staying silent. It happens when you scream loud and long for justice. To the degree that I can be respectful, I will be respectful. But I won't sit here and listen to you keep saying, "I'm sorry." The NAACP wants change. Saying you're sorry without change is only manipulation, and I won't have it!

Perryman: How do you plan to address criticism that the NAACP is out of touch compared to other more plural movements in terms of class, sexuality and ethnic diversity, such as Black Lives Matter? How do you propose to remain relevant and more populist rather than catering only to the Black middle class?

Newbern: The NAACP's strength lies in its legacy and its ability to tackle systemic issues through advocacy and legislation. However, we're also evolving to be more inclusive and engaging. We're here for all people—middle-class families, young people in the inner city or anyone facing discrimination. I focus on uniting communities and fighting for equality based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry and disability. So, while some may perceive that I'm only fighting for the rights of Blacks, that's not true. You better believe I will fight for minority rights and ensure our work resonates across all demographics.

Perryman: What are your top advocacy priorities in areas like education, criminal justice reform, economic empowerment, or healthcare equity?

Newbern: You really just said it. Those are the areas that I'm talking about. Let's start with healthcare. People don't understand the inequities in healthcare. I don't think they know that African Americans do not get the same type of treatment, care, and consideration as people who are non-African Americans. That is a huge area of discrimination.

Employment is a problem. In Toledo, African Americans are still making significantly less than non-minorities. We need to bring this money situation up. Education, I almost want to cry because they're trying to erase our past. We have to keep our history alive. We know they're taking the African

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Darlene Sweeney Newbern is sworn into the Toledo NAACP presidency by State Sen. Paula Hicks Hudson

Community Calendar

January 16

General NAACP membership meeting; 4:30pm; African American Legacy, 1326 Collingwood Ave*

Feb. 15

Black History Speaker's Program Roots of Resilience: The African American Church's Role in Toledo's Past, Present, and Future.
Keynote speaker: Dr. Malaika-Beauta Bell, Director of DEI, University of Toledo; 11am - refreshment and free will offering Information: 419-2831434 Where: St Philip Lutheran Church 3002 Upton@ Central

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Rep. Grim Receives Jack Wolfe Memorial Award for Democratic Legislator of the Year

State Rep. Michele Grim (D-Toledo) Thursday was honored to receive The Jack Wolfe Memorial Award for Democratic Legislator of the Year from the Ohio Association of Election Officials (OAEO).

"I am deeply honored to receive the Jack Wolfe Memorial Award from the Ohio Association of Election Officials. This recognition reflects our collective commitment to safeguarding the integrity of Ohio's elections and ensuring every voice is heard. I look forward to continuing our work together to protect and expand the fundamental right

to vote for all Ohioans," said Rep. Grim.

The Jack Wolfe Memorial Award honors a legislator who is committed to improving Ohio's election processes.

"OAEO was proud to bestow this award to such a deserving legislator. Rep. Grim embodies the best qualities of a lawmaker - the ability to listen and adapt her ideas to better serve everyone. We look forward to working with Rep. Grim in the future," said Brett Riffle, legislative co-chair, Ohio Association of Election Officials.



Rep. Michele Grim

Rep. Elgin Rogers, Jr. of Ohio House District 42 Sworn Into 136th General Assembly

State Rep. Elgin Rogers, Jr. (D-Toledo) was sworn into the 136th Ohio General Assembly last week. Rep. Rogers now represents Ohio House District 42 which includes Toledo, Oregon, and Jerusalem Township all located within Lucas County. The newly constructed House district covers some portions of the previous House District 44 which covered portions of Lucas, Ottawa, and Wood counties.

"While serving in the House is an honor and a privilege, it is also an obligation to work on the behalf of every Ohioan and help to improve the quality and opportunity this great state has to offer. I am grateful to all the families and friends that I have made in Elmore, Genoa, Northwood, Oregon, and Toledo for their kindness and support," said Rep. Rogers.

Rep. Rogers will retain his existing district telephone number (614-466-1401). There is a new email address (rep42@ohiohouse.gov<mailto:rep42@ohiohouse.gov>) to correspond with his district changing.

Rep. Rogers has served as the top ranking Democrat on the House Energy and Natural Resources committee during the 135th General Assembly. Rep Rogers is a native of Toledo, Ohio and is a graduate of Jesup W. Scott High School.

In addition to his service as a state legislator, he has served in high-functioning roles in government as director of multiple departments in the Lucas County Auditor's office and as an administrator with the Lucas County Board of Commissioners.

As a legislator, Rep. Rogers has passed and supported legislation geared towards protecting seniors, children, civil rights, workers' rights, public education, and economic development. His top priorities include serving the people of Northwest Ohio.



Rep Elgin Rogers is sworn in by Justice as Minority Leader C Allison looks on

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Perryman...continued from page 3

American experience out of the books or sanitizing history. I look at my seven-year-old granddaughter and ask what she is going to know about our past, about slavery, and how the historical discrimination that happened in the past has molded and shaped what's going on today. What is she going to believe? Does she understand that we were significant in history? Some of this must be done legislatively, but we must fight to ensure that our people still know our past.

Perryman: Transparency has been a concern in the past. How will you ensure the community stays informed about the chapter's work?

Newbern: Transparency is non-negotiable. Financial reports will be shared during general meetings, and we're creating a robust online presence to publish our accomplishments and initiatives. We're also ensuring someone is always available in the NAACP office to address community concerns. People need to see that we're making a difference, and we'll proactively share our progress.

Perryman: What is the chapter's biggest challenge, and how do you plan to overcome it?

Newbern: The biggest challenge is people—getting them out of the mindset of "someone else will do it." We need warriors who are willing to fight and sacrifice for change. That includes increasing membership, financial support, and volunteer participation. It's about showing people their involvement matters and that we can achieve something powerful together.

Perryman: Lastly, many in the community call you "Miss Civil Rights." What would you be doing if it weren't for civil rights?

Newbern: Believe it or not, my background is in computer systems. But civil rights is my calling. I'll be here fighting for change as long as there's injustice. It's who I am. The NAACP is going to burst the bloated belly of the beast of bigotry in Toledo, Ohio. That's my promise.

Perryman: Thank you. Your passion and determination are exactly what this pivotal moment in history demands. We look forward to seeing your vision come to life.

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

Decolonizing Our Minds: Reclaiming Power in a System Built to Destroy

By Truth Contributor
Carla Thomas

Although White people make up only 18 percent of the global population—some sources say 16 percent, others even as low as six percent—colonial ideologies have conditioned us to believe in their dominance. This mindset perpetuates inequality and hinders the growth of our community. The exact figure may vary, but the bottom line is this-- White people are the global minority, contrary to what these ideologies would have us believe.



Carla Thomas

Although we as Black people belong to the global majority, we are conditioned to see White people as the ruling force. This didn't just happen by chance. It's the result of a carefully crafted colonized mindset, constructed over centuries, that still affects how we see ourselves and each other. It's time to challenge that narrative and reclaim everything we've lost along the way—our sense of identity, unity, and cultural power.

Let's be real about what colonization truly is: the violent seizure of people's land, the reshaping of once-familiar homelands into battle zones, and the systematic draining of communities through fear, force and subjugation. Colonizers didn't stop at stealing physical resources; they introduced their own institutions—like governance, schools and economic structures—to erode indigenous traditions and ways of life. This brutality carved deep scars into our lands and spirits, undermining the dignity and resilience of entire communities. But most of us didn't hear that version in school. Instead, we got a watered-down version: Pilgrims and Indigenous people sharing a meal for Thanksgiving. There was no mention of the real harm done or how entire peoples were displaced, enslaved and exploited to build someone else's wealth and power.

So where do we go from here? Decolonization is not some trendy buzzword. It's a serious, ongoing process that involves undoing the harm inflicted on our minds and communities for centuries. It's about rediscovering our own traditions and taking back the power that has always been within us. We start by examining how we ended up in a world where an 18 percent (or whatever the real number is) minority is perceived as the majority in power. Through force, propaganda and systemic manipulation, colonial powers pushed the false notion that whiteness equals superiority. They hammered it into our schools, our media and even our religious institutions, until we embraced it as natural and inevitable fact.

Let's take education. Growing up, the majority of what we heard about Black people's history revolved around the horrors of slavery. How often did we learn about the grand civilizations of Mali or Great Zimbabwe? And did our textbooks ever celebrate Black innovators, scientists or revolutionaries in the same breath as they hailed European

"discoverers"? Rarely.

Instead, our lessons focused on that single sanitized moment—Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech—while leaving out the stories of pioneering aviators like Bessie Coleman (who soared into history long before Amelia Earhart's fame), and the heroic contributions of the Tuskegee Airmen and the "Six Triple Eight" battalion in WWII. We learned about the Wright Brothers, but not about how Black pilots pushed the boundaries of flight, or how these all-Black units fought for victory abroad while battling discrimination at home.



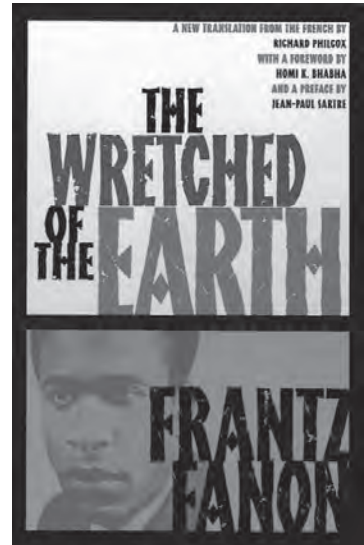
Bessie Coleman

Media has also played its part, often portraying us as criminals or villains, making it seem like the exception rather than the norm to see positive representations of Black life on television. And when it comes to religion, African spiritual traditions have been systematically demonized, labeled "inferior" or "pagan," while colonizers elevated Christianity in ways that erased indigenous beliefs.

This is where Antonio Gramsci's idea of "cultural hegemony" comes in. It's about how one group's ideas and values become so dominant that they're treated like absolute truths. We've been conditioned to believe that the colonizer's institutions and worldview are not only natural, but better. This conditioning has led us to question our own cultural heritage, history and traditions, internalizing the idea that they are backward or irrelevant—while assimilating into the very structures that stripped us of our identity and agency.

As a result, we see neighborhoods starved of resources, schools that fail to teach us our full heritage, and systems designed to keep us divided. We still carry the message that we're somehow "less than,"

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Decolonizing... continued from page 5

and it shows up in both quiet, everyday habits and more obvious behaviors. But these mindsets aren't carved in stone.

They can—and must—be deconstructed. Decolonization starts with us challenging every story we've been told about who we are and where we come from. We demand a more honest look at history, we celebrate the diversity and brilliance of Black culture and we refuse to accept a narrative that places us in a perpetual state of lack.

It won't happen overnight and it won't always be easy. But this is our journey—both personal and collective. By unearthing the truth about colonization and exposing how it shaped our world, we give ourselves the chance to rebuild. We reclaim the traditions that kept our ancestors strong and honor the brilliance in our communities today. We stand firm in the knowledge that we are not a minority and that our culture, resilience, and unity have always been the real measure of our worth.

So how do we start the journey of decolonization? We begin by identifying the signs of a colonized mindset. Do we ever feel like we have to apologize for our natural hair in a professional setting? Do we doubt our abilities because we don't fit into a Eurocentric definition of success? This can show up as code-switching, where we constantly change our language or mannerisms to seem "acceptable."

It can surface in our appearance choices, like avoiding natural hairstyles in the workplace because they're not deemed "professional." Sometimes we fall into self-denigration, making disparaging remarks about our own culture, food, or customs. We might also find ourselves emulating dominant norms, overemphasizing the standards of the dominant class while sidelining our own. Awareness is key.

We can also decolonize our minds through education. Make it a point to learn about the history of colonization and seek out material by Black and Indigenous authors. Read work like Frantz Fanon's *The Wretched of the Earth*, or check out Edgar Villanueva's *Decolonizing Wealth*—these texts shine a bright light on how colonization affects everything from economics to self-worth.

Beyond learning, it's crucial to actively celebrate Black culture and identity. Embrace African and Afro-diasporic traditions, support Black-owned businesses, immerse yourself in music, fashion, cuisine, and spirituality that honor our roots. Our collective economic power is real, and when we redirect it to each other, we build stronger foundations for our communities.

Next, we have to be intentional about forming alliances.

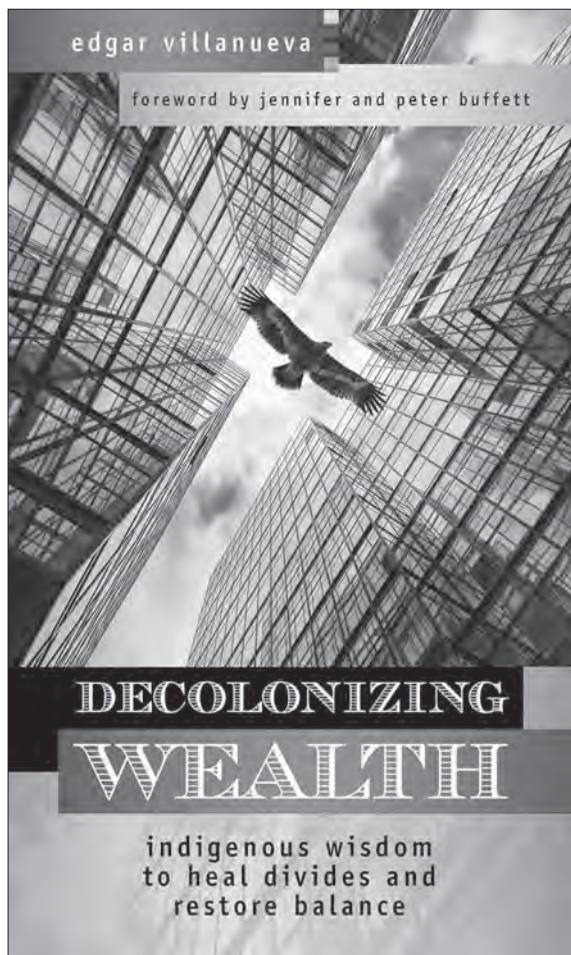
Whether it's hosting community gatherings that spark conversations on decolonization, or aligning with groups dedicated to dismantling systemic oppression, we make the greatest strides by working together.

None of this means we ignore the larger systems that still hold us back. We must challenge oppressive structures by voting for policies that address inequality and by speaking out against racism in every space we occupy—workplaces, schools, churches, social media platforms. It's not always easy but it's necessary.

Let's put this into action. Notice each time you code-switch or catch yourself thinking from a colonized mindset—those moments when you alter your words, ideas, or behavior to fit someone else's standard. Initiate conversations with friends and family about how colonialism seeps into everyday life and support each other in finding solutions. If you're on social media, share your reflections with #ReclaimBlackPower to inspire others to reflect and act.

At the end of the day, decolonization is a personal commitment—but it thrives when we come together. It's about reclaiming the parts of ourselves that were stolen, learning the history that was suppressed, and building the future that truly honors our brilliance.

As Fanon put it, "Each generation must discover its mission, fulfill it, or betray it." Our mission is here and now. By dismantling colonial thinking in our own minds, we can begin to transform the world around us. Let's walk this path together, strengthening our communities and reclaiming our rightful narratives, one step at a time.



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A Holiday Masquerade Ball

The Truth Staff

Nikola Welcome-Bovell and Toni Battle-Gaines organized a masquerade ball at The Truth Colours Gallery (7 East Bancroft St. in Minority Way Plaza) on Saturday night, December 28. The event featured delicious food, drinks and music by DJ Big Lou, The Mayor.

The ball, said Welcome-Bovell, “was designed for mature people to come together in a space at the end of the year ... to have some clen safe fun.”

Part of the celebration included a contest to see who was modeling the best mask; the winner was awarded a painting from the gallery – a piece of art by Welcome-Bovell – as the grand prize.

To rent The Truth Colours Gallery contact Nikola Welcome-Bovell at 347-286-9227.

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Nikola Welcome-Bovell



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Toledo Museum of Art Shares its Schedule of Special Programming for Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, Jan. 20

Typically closed on Mondays, the museum will be open to honor Rev. King's life and legacy.

On Monday, Jan. 20, the Toledo Museum of Art (TMA) will offer a full day of engaging programs and activities to honor the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. This year's theme, "More than a Dream," asks visitors to reflect on Rev. King's enduring vision for justice and equity and celebrate his profound impact through art and dialogue.

"Dr. King's transformative leadership continues to inspire generations," said Jennifer McCary, chief culture and brand experience officer at the museum. "On MLK Day, we open the museum as a welcoming space for reflection, creativity, and connection, inviting our community to engage with his vision in ways that foster understanding and unity."

Typically closed on Mondays, the museum will be open on Jan. 20 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. for this free event. Visitors can enjoy a full schedule of family-friendly activities and programs throughout the day, including:

11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Outreach Activities

Green Room

11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Family Center Activities

Family Center

11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Cellist Damon Coleman

Enjoy this special performance by Coleman, a member of the Toledo Symphony Orchestra and the Bezonian Piano Trio.

Great Gallery

Noon-4 p.m.

Sensory Friendly Area

Relax and recharge in a welcoming, low-sensory environment.

Room 128

12:30-1:45 p.m.

Art as Activism Panel

Join visual artist Yusef Lateef, actor Youseff Baddarr, activist Anthony King, and African Art curator Lanisa Kitchner for a thought-provoking conversation about how art inspires change.

Little Theater

1-4 p.m.

Drawing in the Galleries

Libbey Court

1-4 p.m.

His Dream Polaroid Station

Take a picture of yourself and share your dream for this year's MLK day.

Canaday Gallery Bridge

1:30-2:30 p.m.

Story time in the TMA Library

Engage with tales that honor Rev. King's ideals and legacy.

TMA Library

2-3 p.m.

Bowling Green State University National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC)

See a presentation of NPHC culture including strolling and stepping.

Libbey Court

2:30-3:30 p.m.

Local-Eyes Tour with Brenda Singletary

Tour the galleries with local artist Brenda Singletary for her perspective on works in the TMA collection. Registration is required for this activity.

Green Building

3-4 p.m.

Spoken Word with LIVE and Latoya Williams

Celebrate peace and unity during this powerful performance of spoken word and poetry.

Little Theater

For more information about TMA's Martin Luther King Jr. Day activities, visit [toledomuseum.org<https://toledomuseum.org/events/events-info/mlk-day-more-than-a-dream>](https://toledomuseum.org/events/events-info/mlk-day-more-than-a-dream)

About Toledo Museum of Art

Established in 1901, the Toledo Museum of Art (TMA) is a beloved cultural institution in Toledo, Ohio, and a global leader in the museum field. Its renowned collection features over 25,000 works, ranging from antiquity to contemporary art, and one of the finest collections of glass in the world. Situated on a 40-acre campus, TMA integrates art into people's lives through its world-class collection, engaging exhibitions, robust educational programs, and community outreach.

Admission and parking are always free at TMA, welcoming everyone to explore its galleries. The museum is open Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. It is closed on Monday, Tuesday, and select holidays. TMA is located at 2445 Monroe St., just one block off I-75, with exit signs posted for easy access. For more information, call 419-255-8000 or visit [toledomuseum.org<https://toledomuseum.org/>](https://toledomuseum.org/).

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Niagara Falls USA:	September 1-5, 5 days, 4 nights, \$750*
New York City:	October 24-28, 5 days, 4 nights, \$899*

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This Year's Upcoming MLK Celebration

The City of Toledo and the University of Toledo, in partnership with the Human Relations Commission (HRC), are proud to announce this year's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. virtual celebration, centered on the theme "Building Bridges and Breaking Bread." This year's events emphasize unity, reflection, and service while honoring Dr. King's enduring legacy.

Virtual Video Celebration

This virtual event, broadcast on the City of Toledo's Facebook, BCAN, and the University of Toledo's website, features influential guest speakers:

- * Lelia Harris – Founder of Lelia's Promise
- * Skylar Howard – UToledo Undergraduate
- * Alexander Raby – Student, Horizon Science Academy
- * Bryson Foster – UToledo CCP and Early College Student
- * Kylah Griffin – Social Work Student, University of Toledo
- * Dr. Monita Mungo – Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Toledo

The video also features remarks from Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, Councilmember Brittany Jones, PhD, and UT Interim President Schroeder.

Video Release Details:

- * Available for Download: Wednesday, January 15
- * Broadcast: Monday, January 20, 6:00 PM

Celebrate Together: Imagination Station Viewing Party

The community is invited to join local officials, neighbors, and friends for a special in-person viewing party of the MLK virtual celebration video. This event on Friday, January 17, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Imagination Station, provides an opportunity to come together, reflect on Dr. King's principles, and celebrate his legacy with others in the Toledo community.

The event is open to the public, with an official invite available early this week.

Community Engagement Activities

In alignment with the theme "Breaking Bread," the public is encouraged to support local businesses and community initiatives, including:

* SAME Café (Main Library, Toledo Lucas County Public Library): Open January 13–17, 11:00 AM–2:00 PM, serving healthy meals on a donation basis.

* Grindhrs Coffee and Community (625 Adams Street): Offering free coffee during MLK weekend while supplies last.

Winter Outreach Initiative:

To further foster a sense of community, 150 beanie hats purchased from Cause and Effect Printing & Manufacturing, a local Black-owned business, will be distributed to local shelters to support residents in need.

Additional Events

* Scholarship Breakfast: The Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.'s 33rd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Breakfast will take place Saturday, January 18, at 9:00 AM at the Pinnacle. Click here (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/33rd-annual-dr-martin-luther-king-jr-scholarship-breakfast-tickets-1090071977629?aff=erelexpmlt>) for tickets.

* Toledo Museum of Art: Join us at the Toledo Museum of Art on January 20, 2025, for a day of inspiration, reflection, and community. Through engaging programs and hands-on activities, this year's theme, "More than a Dream," (<https://toledomuseum.org/events/events-info/mlk-day-more-than-a-dream>) celebrates Dr. King's vision and the ongoing pursuit of justice, creativity, and hope. Explore the power of art to spark change and connect us all as we honor his enduring legacy.

The City of Toledo, the University of Toledo, and HRC invite all community members to reflect on Dr. King's principles, engage with local events, and contribute to acts of service. The event details, as well as a printable flyer, are available on the city's website at toledo.oh.gov/mlk.



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Todd McDonald Named Chairman of the National Bankers Association

Special to The Truth

Liberty Bank and Trust proudly announces that its president, Todd McDonald, has been sworn in as the new chairman of the National Bankers Association (NBA), succeeding Robert E. James II, president and CEO of Carver Financial Corporation. This marks another significant leadership transition for the NBA as it continues its mission of protecting and expanding inclusive banking across the nation.

Both Todd and Robert represent a continuation of a remarkable legacy, following in the footsteps of their fathers, Alden J. McDonald, Jr. and Robert E. James, who also served as chairmen of the association. This shared history underscores the deep commitment of these families to advancing the effectiveness of minority depository institutions (MDIs) and fostering financial inclusion for underserved communities.

During his tenure on the NBA board, Todd McDonald has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the association's mission, bringing a breadth of experience and a forward-thinking vision for the future of banking. As chairman, he has outlined a bold agenda to strengthen MDIs and drive innovation within the industry.

Priorities Under Todd McDonald's Leadership

1. **Strategic Growth:** Expanding the asset base of MDIs through strategic partnerships and investment opportunities to ensure long-term sustainability and growth.
2. **Talent Development:** Attracting and retaining top talent through comprehensive recruitment and development strategies to address the ongoing challenges facing MDIs.
3. **Deposit Strengthening:** Increasing core deposits, expanding corporate deposits, and leveraging federal deposit programs to enhance financial stability.
4. **Technological Advancements:** Investing in technology and digital banking infrastructure to improve operational efficiency, enhance customer experience, and align with long-term business goals.

The National Bankers Association has been at the forefront of championing MDIs, and McDonald's leadership signals a renewed focus on innovation, collaboration, and growth. His priorities align with the organization's mission to ensure that MDIs remain vital in addressing the financial needs of diverse communities.

"We extend our deepest gratitude to Robert E. James II for his exemplary leadership and dedication over the past four years," McDonald said. "His work has left an indelible mark on the NBA, and I am honored to continue the legacy of service and impact that he and our fathers have set forth."

Continuing the Legacy of Leadership

The recent NBA Strategic Planning Retreat underscored the organization's focus on advancing MDIs. Jaimmé A. Collins, General Counsel,



Pictured from left to right: Todd McDonald (President, Liberty Bank and Trust), Alden J. McDonald, Jr. (CEO, Liberty Bank and Trust), Bob James (President & CEO, Carver State Bank), Nicole Elam (President and CEO, National Bankers Association), Robert E. James II (CEO, Carver Financial Corporation), Bob Cooper (SVP, General Counsel, OneUnited Bank), and Doyle Mitchell (President & CEO, Industrial Bank). Current and former NBA Chairs at the National Bankers Association Annual Conference.

EVP and SVP of Strategy at Liberty Bank and Trust also emphasized the importance of aligning technology and infrastructure with business strategies, while fostering partnerships to secure corporate and federal deposits.

As the NBA enters this new chapter under Todd's leadership, Liberty Bank reaffirms its commitment to financial empowerment and inclusive banking. Together, these organizations will build a stronger, more inclusive financial future.

Established in 1927, the National Bankers Association is the premier trade association representing the nation's minority depository institutions, advocating for policies and programs that promote access to capital, credit, and financial services in underserved communities.

Founded in 1972 to serve the underserved African American community in New Orleans, Liberty Bank and Trust now operates in 11 states and reaches customers nationwide through a robust digital presence. Today, Liberty is the leading mission-driven community bank with assets exceeding \$1 billion. The bank channels hundreds of millions of dollars back into the communities it serves annually through loans, supporting local businesses and sponsorships.

Toledo Opera to Honor Veterans with Complimentary Tickets to *South Pacific*

Toledo Opera will honor veterans with complimentary tickets to its original production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's beloved musical, *South Pacific*. In recognition of their service and sacrifice, 30 complimentary tickets will be available exclusively for veterans for each performance. Toledo Opera will present *South Pacific* on Friday, February 14, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, February 16, 2025, at 2 p.m. at the Valentine Theatre, 400 North Superior, Toledo, OH.

These complimentary tickets are offered as a heartfelt thank-you to vet-

erans and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations can be made by calling 419-255-7464. This initiative reflects Toledo Opera's commitment to celebrating the courage and dedication of those who have served our country while inviting them to enjoy an unforgettable evening of music and storytelling.

For Toledo Opera General Director, James M. Norman, this initiative will enhance the impact *South Pacific* will have on its audience: "We are

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Brown Legacy Memorial: Leading the Way in Community Collaboration and Aftercare

In the heart of Toledo, Ohio, Brown Legacy Memorial is redefining the funeral service industry by combining tradition with innovation to honor legacies and celebrate lives. As the CEO, Richard Brown, III, brings over 30 years of experience, a commitment to cultural sensitivity, and a profound dedication to serving families with dignity and care.

Brown Legacy Memorial operates from Castillo Funeral Home, at 1757 Tremainsville Road, where Richard served his apprenticeship under the mentorship of John Castillo, a highly respected funeral director in Toledo. Richard credits Mr. Castillo with teaching him the importance of being culturally aware of each family's uniqueness and personalizing their experience — values that have become cornerstones of Brown Legacy Memorial.

"Working side by side with John, I learned the value of honoring the unique needs of multiple ethnic communities," Richard reflects. "John's approach to serving families respectfully and with cultural sensitivity has shaped how I envision funeral services. I am deeply grateful for his mentorship and generosity in allowing me to use space within his funeral home while Brown Legacy Memorial looks to establish its permanent location."

This partnership demonstrates Richard's belief in community collaboration and mutual support, which are integral to Brown Legacy's mission to create a place of comfort and healing for families during life's most challenging moments.

Aftercare: A Safe Space for Healing

Two of Brown Legacy Memorial's most distinctive aspects are an onsite banquet hall and an aftercare program. The facility allows families to hold services and receptions in one location. This convenience reflects Richard's commitment to providing families with a comprehensive, one-stop experience.

Additionally, recognizing that the loss of a loved one is a deeply traumatic experience, Richard has created a program that offers families a safe space to share their grief and connect with others who have experienced similar losses. The aftercare program includes monthly on-site dinners, where families can gather in a supportive and understanding environment. These gatherings are designed to foster healing and connection, helping individuals navigate the emotional journey of grief.

Brown Legacy Memorial plans to partner and collaborate with licensed

therapists and other organizations to enhance this offering further to ensure families have access to the comprehensive care and support they need. By working with mental health professionals and community groups, the funeral home aims to provide families with various resources to address grief in a healthy and holistic way.



Richard Brown III

Richard, who has personally experienced the benefits of counseling, explains: "The loss of a loved one is traumatic, and it's important for me, someone who knows the tremendous value received from counseling, to provide this space as a prelude or a beginning of their journey. Addressing grief properly is essential, as unresolved grief can affect so many other areas of life."

By offering this resource and collaborating with trusted professionals, Brown Legacy Memorial goes beyond traditional funeral services, ensuring families have access to ongoing care and support. "Through community engagement, grief support, and a commitment to excellence, we aim to be a trusted partner in helping families find peace and connection."

For Richard, Brown Legacy Memorial is more than a business—it is a legacy. It is about honoring the past, serving the present, and creating a brighter future for families in Toledo.

Contact Brown Legacy Memorial

Visit us at 1757 Tremainsville Road, Toledo, Ohio.

Phone: 567-322-0381 or 567-322-0481

Email: brownlegacymemorial@gmail.com

Website: www.brownlegacymemorial.com

Together, let's honor legacies and celebrate lives.

Toledo Opera...continued from page 11

deeply honored to offer complimentary tickets to our veterans. This timeless musical, with its themes of courage, love, and resilience, holds a special resonance for those who have served our nation. It is a privilege to share this experience with the brave people who have given so much for our freedom. This is just a small way for us to express our gratitude and to invite them to join us in celebrating the power of storytelling and music."

"Sharing our original production of South Pacific with our local veterans is not just a privilege — it's a civic responsibility," added Toledo Opera Development Officer, Leah Whitaker. "At Toledo Opera, we believe in giving back to those who have given so much, and this production is a meaningful way to honor their service while reflecting on themes of sacrifice, love, and cultural understanding."

Just in time for Valentine's Day and the 75th anniversary of its premiere, Toledo Opera presents South Pacific. Winner of 10 Tony Awards in 1950 including Best Musical and Best Original Score, South Pacific debuts to Toledo Opera audiences in a new production brought to life by conductor J. Ernest Green and stage director James M. Norman. Based on the anecdotes of a real-life U.S. Navy commander who was stationed on an island, South Pacific follows two intercultural love stories: Nellie, a spunky nurse from Arkansas, falls in love with Emile, a French plantation owner on the island who has two children from his late Polynesian wife; at the same time, U.S. Lieutenant Cable falls for a beautiful island native named Liat. Both Americans find themselves struggling to reconcile their own cultural prejudices with their amorous feelings, all the while under the dark cloud of a war that is coming ever closer to their island paradise. South Pacific

... continued on page 13

WHAT'S
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New Prize for These Eyes: The Rise of America's Second Civil Rights Movement by Juan Williams

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

You're not letting go that easily.

No, you're on the right side of justice and you're not letting go of the issue. Your heels are dug in, your back is straight, and your resolve is steely. You have a plan and you'll keep it, and see it to the end no matter what happens. As in the new book *New Prize for These Eyes* by Juan Williams, there are some who've gone before you but your effort is what matters now.

c. 2025
Simon & Schuster
\$28.99
271 pages

History disagrees on the exact catalyst for the civil rights movement but Juan Williams says that "the second Civil Rights Movement" sparked at the 2004 Democratic National Convention, and it took less than 20 minutes.

Not long after young Senator Barack Obama, whose presence was meant to attract Black voters, began his speech at that convention, he had the audience cheering. He was positive, energetic and energizing, and spoke of "a new sense of common purpose," which spurred a Second Civil Rights Movement and a mandate to "deal with... cultural issues that the First Movement had left unresolved..."

The speech thrust Obama onto the national stage and, with the endorsement of many old guard Civil Rights Movement figures, ultimately put him in the White House. His presence there wasn't without issues, both politically and racially, however: the deaths of Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, and Philando Castile absolutely affected Obama's terms, in part because "he acted only as a referee" and didn't "take any special level of response as a Black man." Still, early civil rights leaders agreed with him that America was "better" than it was 60 years prior.

Before Obama's second term was over, a "right-wing backlash" that was "fueled by grievance" ushered Donald Trump into office but by then, young Black Americans had flocked to social media and gave root to the Black Lives Matter movement. "Covid-19 would also transform" the situation.



Juan Williams - courtesy Frank Graves

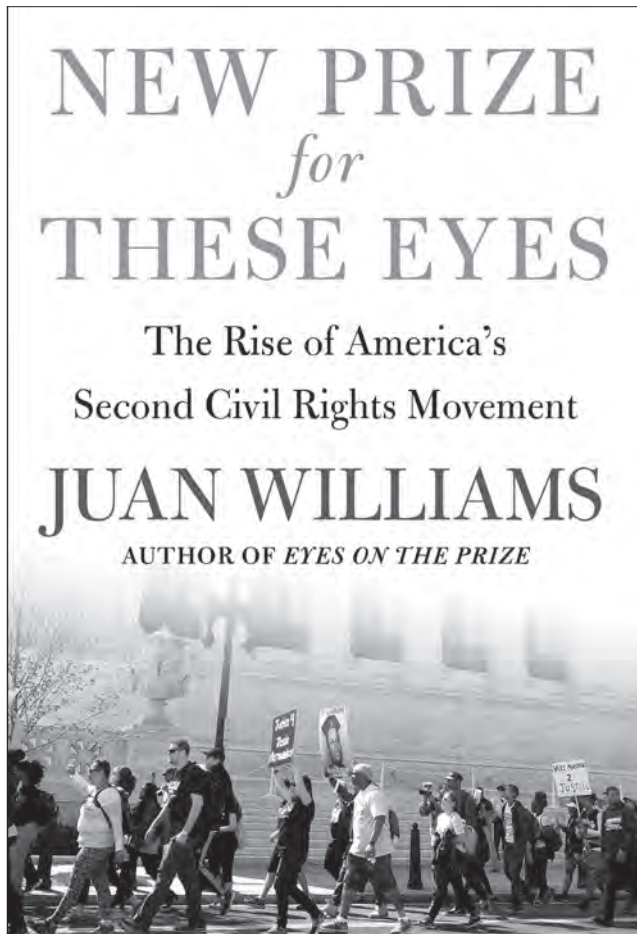
By the summer of 2024, "the Second Civil Rights Movement was far from completing its agenda," says Williams, but "it had still achieved remarkable success."

Play very close attention while you're reading this book. It's filled with politics, but there's a pay-off in it: author Juan Williams does a little forecasting toward the end of *New Prize for These Eyes*, promising readers a new movement, a third one, to come.

Even if you're not particularly a politics-watcher, Williams commands your attention to the last 20 years and how they keenly shaped racism and racial issues in America. Sometimes, he seems to invite argument, using Obama as a singular catalyst for this "Second" movement and its current continuation, fairly or unfairly; and he places other credits on people and events that will make readers want to find someone to discuss it. The tantalizing idea of a third movement will only underscore that desire.

As a sequel to Williams' *Eyes on the Prize*, this is a must-read for anyone who knows where we've been or wonders where we're going. Find *New Prize for These Eyes*.

You won't want to let it go.



Toledo Opera...continued from page 12

stars Claire Leyden as Nellie Forbush, Metropolitan Opera Baritone Keith Phares (The Merry Widow and Cinderella) as Emile de Becque, and Mike Schwitter as Lt. Joseph Cable. South Pacific will be presented in English with English captions. South Pacific is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of The Rodgers & Hammerstein Organization.

Toledo Opera will perform South Pacific at the Valentine Theatre on Friday, February 14 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, February 16 at 2 p.m. To learn more about South Pacific cast and production team and to buy tickets, visit: toledoopera.org. For media access, please contact Rachael Cammarn at rcammarn@toledoopera.org.

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CLASSIFIEDS

January 15, 2025

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DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL MINISTRY

St Martin de Porres Parish is seeking a part-time (20 hours a week) Director of Social Ministry. A Community Health Worker would be preferred. Main responsibilities include working collaboratively with the Pastoral Team, with the Food Pantry team, and with The Claver House team to continue and expand the social ministry of the parish. The successful candidate will work with various social agencies in the City and Diocese. An active Roman Catholic is preferred. EOE Send letter and resume via email to virginiawelshosf@gmail.com. 419 241 4544. This project was supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$2 Million with 30 percentage financed with non-governmental sources. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government.

CIRCULATION SERVICES LEADER

The Toledo Lucas County Public Library (TLCPL) seeks a dynamic leader to oversee Circulation Services at the Mott Branch. Join our team and help inspire lifelong learning while providing universal access to a broad range of information, ideas, and entertainment. Please visit Employment Opportunities | Toledo Lucas County Public Library (toledolibrary.org) <<https://www.toledolibrary.org/jobs>> to review the full details and to apply.

The Toledo Lucas County Public Library is an Equal Opportunity Employer and places a high value on diversity in its workplace including race, color, religious creed, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, protected Veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

KENT BRANCH MANAGER

The Toledo Lucas County Public Library (TLCPL) is seeking a dynamic leader and dedicated Manager for the Kent Branch. Join our team and help inspire lifelong learning while providing universal access to a broad range of information, ideas, and entertainment. Please visit Employment Opportunities | Toledo Lucas County Public Library (toledolibrary.org) <<https://www.toledolibrary.org/jobs>> to review the full details and to apply.

The Toledo Lucas County Public Library is an Equal Opportunity Employer and places a high value on diversity in its workplace including race, color, religious creed, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, protected Veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH), located in Toledo, OH is seeking experienced applicants for the following position(s):

Armed Mobile Patrol Officer, Field Operations Lead, Manager of Access & Operations, Maintenance Mechanic III, Property Manager, Service Coordination Specialist. For complete details, visit <https://www.lucasmha.org> and click on Careers.

Deadline: 01-21-25. 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.



TOLEDO HEALTH EDUCATOR/RESEARCH ASSISTANT/ COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER

Job Summary

The individuals in these positions will support diabetes prevention programs as part of a University of Michigan Research project. They will interact with the study director, community members and organizations to plan and implement health promotion events. Must have experience with Toledo community engagement and Microsoft Office products. If no diabetes education experience, must be willing to receive training if needed. This position may be primarily located in Toledo and remote. Some limited work may be in Ypsilanti.

Hours:

Expected 10-20 hours /week.

Pay - \$25/hr

How to Apply

Candidates should first call 734-763-1614 or email chconley@umich.edu to discuss their interest.

DRAFT NOTICE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL ("RFP") FOR FURNITURE VENDOR SERVICES

The Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Lucas County (MHR SB) requests qualifications for a vendor to provide furniture and associated services in connection with Dani's Place, an adult, residential mental health rehabilitation center for NW Ohio (Project) located on the campus of the Northwest Ohio Behavioral Hospital in Toledo. Hplex Solutions has been selected as Owner's Rep (OR), and NAC has been selected as design professional (DP).

Services required include working with MHR SB, the OR, and the DP for order finalization and fabrication, storage, delivery, and installation of furniture products for the Dani's Place project as indicated on the drawings and per the specifications planning & design, and at-risk construction of the Project.

As required by ORC 9.33, et seq., MHR SB requests proposals from experienced firms to provide services for the Project. The complete RFP may be obtained from the MHR SB website at <https://www.lcmhrsb.oh.gov/publicnotice/>.

Interested firms must submit **2 paper copies and 1 digital copy** of their proposal as outlined within the RFP available on the MHR SB website, to OR contact John Durda (john@hplex.com), Hplex Solutions, 65 Hidden Ravines Dr., Suite 100, Powell, OH 43065, no later than **12:00 pm on January 13, 2025**. Submittals received after this time may be considered solely in MHR SB's discretion. Direct all questions to the DP and OR as noted in the RFP.

This project was supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$2 Million with 30 percentage financed with non-governmental sources. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government.

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www.TheTruthToledo.com

The Prestige School of Protocol Teaches Instructs on Etiquette and Protocol

By Dawn Scotland
The Truth Reporter

Prestige School of Protocol, led by executive director Precious Tate, hosted its Interview Masterclass/Day Camp for teens and girls at the Holiday Inn Express North on Saturday January 11. The event was led by a team of certified etiquette consultants, a school admissions associate director, HR consultants, and PR professionals who helped prepare the students to excel in interviews with confidence and poise.

Tate is a certified etiquette consultant and owner of Prestige School of Protocol. The organization was founded in 2021 and teaches girls and teens from ages seven-16 about etiquette and protocol. The aim is to help young girls navigate an ever-changing market. This is the first year operating the charm school.

“We teach different workshops related to girlhood womanhood and etiquette,” Tate shared, “while we today focused on interviews and professionalism. Other events will focus on topics like grooming and hygiene.”

The enrollment period is between October and December for the upcoming year. The program features different workshops year around, typically once a month. The enrollment process is based on the girls’ grades and willingness to commit to the program. While the school does cost there are also scholarships available.

Participants at the workshop:

- Learned what to expect in interviews and how to make a strong first impression.
- Built confidence through mock interviews with industry professionals (for ages 11+).
- Developed skills in personal branding, social media etiquette
- And more!

Students received:

- An “About Me” template to highlight strengths, hobbies, interests, and extracurricular activities.
 - A curated list of common interview questions.
 - A personalized debrief identifying strengths and areas for improvement.
- Key topics covered included:
- Understanding what schools or employers look for in interviews.
 - How to convey professionalism through conduct, mindset, and body language.
 - Strategies for answering interview questions effectively.
 - Tips for recording achievements and promoting strengths.

- Mistakes to avoid and how to ask insightful questions.
- Leaving a lasting positive impression.

Meals were provided throughout the workshop. To learn more about the organization visit their website prestigeschoolofprotocol.com or Facebook page.



Executive Director Precious Tate



Girls practice walking in heels



Girls take notes on Etiquette



Girls learn how to wear perfume



Teens practice introductions



Teens prepare for Mock Interviews



Practicing Introductions



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Includes, Round-Trip Transportation, Lodging, Meals, Excursions
Deposit \$75 per person

Mackinac Island:	May 12-16, 5 days 4 nights, \$750*
The Ark Encounter:	June 10-12, 3 days, 4 nights, \$479*
Chicago:	August 4-8, 5 days, 4 nights, \$729*
Niagara Falls USA:	September 1-5, 5 days, 4 nights, \$750*
New York City:	October 24-28, 5 days, 4 nights, \$899*

*per person, double occupancy
For more pictures, video, and information visit www.GroupTrips.com/tyustours



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