



Volume 94 No. 3 “And Ye Shall Know The Truth...” March 11, 2026



Jessica Ford, the YWCA Milestones Honoree for Leadership in Government

In This Issue...

Perryman Page 2	June Boyd Page 4	IMA Monthly Meeting Page 6	Bertha's 88th Page 8	Book Review Page 13	AKA Founders Day Page 16
Tolliver Page 3	Cover Story: Jessica Ford Page 5	City Council and Immigration Page 7	United MBC Page 11	Classifieds Page 15	

The Blindness of America

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

The Truth Contributor



Now Jesus himself had pointed out that a prophet has no honor in his own country.

- John 4:44 (New International Version)

Among the tributes at Reverend Jesse Louis Jackson Sr.'s funeral, James Zogby—an Arab American political organizer, not a preacher—spoke the deepest truth.

Zogby described how, in the early 1980s, Arab Americans were systematically excluded from the Democratic Party. Candidates returned their money; endorsements were refused; staffers were fired for their ethnicity. At the 20th anniversary of the March on Washington, a delegation was asked to leave because some objected to Arabs marching. But one man fought to keep them in, saying 'Arab American' in rooms where the phrase had never been spoken with dignity.

Zogby's words served as both eulogy and indictment: the world saw something in Jesse Jackson that America refused to see. What the world saw, Scripture had already named: He was received as a prophet everywhere he went — except in his home country.

Jesus named this dynamic in all four Gospels. Those who knew the carpenter's son—or thought they did — could not receive the prophet; their prior category was too fixed. Familiarity had hardened into blindness.

Yet those with no preloaded image — or label handed down by those with reasons to manipulate the narrative — saw him clearly. Jesse Jackson lived out that text for 6 decades across multiple continents.

Whenever Jackson entered places where people had no previously manufactured portrait of him, they saw him exactly as he was. And what they saw, they could not resist.

Zogby recounted traveling with Jackson through Cairo, Hebron and Jerusalem—streets where Jackson was as comfortable as in Chicago. Everywhere, the reception was, in Zogby's word, stunning. Two sources gave Jackson this power, he explained.

First, the pain of his people's history. Instead of making him bitter, the experience forged him in a different way. Somewhere along the way, tribulation became testimony, and the pain transformed into power, Zogby noted. Second, Jackson carried that testimony across borders most American politicians never dared cross. He understood his people's freedom was not just a domestic matter but a human one.

For example, in Jerusalem in 1994, when notable Israeli leader Yitzhak Rabin's government surrounded his hotel with troops, prohibiting meetings with Palestinians, Jackson declared, 'We're marching through the troops.' Young Israeli soldiers spontaneously broke ranks. They wanted pictures with



Rev. Jesse Jackson

him. They wanted to be near him, and the blockade built to contain him simply dissolved at Jackson's presence.

Yet America responded to that same magnetism and power through systematic silencing. Isolation came first: his influence was confined to the Black community, the coalition his political campaigns proved possible was refused, and his extensive policy agenda was absorbed into mainstream politics without his name publicly attached to any of it.

They discredited him by affixing the Hymietown remark to his identity with permanence, deliberately keeping the wound open because an undamaged testimony was too costly to permit. Five decades of activism brought weariness: chronic opposition, institutional indignity, and managed marginalization, all designed to make bearing testimony too exhaustive to continue.

Shame also arrived as a persistent cultural message—his ambition too visible or self-serving, the media relentlessly hammered; Yet, the reality is that his claims were too large for the space a Black man in America was permitted to occupy without penalty.

Lastly, what outlasted all the direct attacks was a subtle but oppressive cultural verdict that his voice had already delivered its essential content. In other words, if they couldn't shut him up, they just needed people to stop listening. And America, including many in the Black community, drank the Kool-Aid that Jackson was yesterday's news. You do not need to remove a testimony by force if you can simply convince the people who need it that it no longer applies to them.

But the world that received Jackson kept its own account: Arab Americans energized by the simple act of being seen. Palestinian communities that invited him back when no American politician would come. Syrian officials who released a downed American pilot that the State Department's conventional channels could not retrieve, because Reverend Jackson understood

... continued on page 3

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Community Calendar

March 17
Toledo NAACP General Public and Membership meeting will be held at the Reynold Corner Library; 5:00 pm

March 22
Toledo NAACP Youth Council: 3:00 pm at Sanger Branch Library; Toledo NAACP Youth Council election for new officers - 4-8:00 pm election will be administered electronically using Election Buddy. Should a run-off election be necessary it will be April 4 @ 12-2:00 pm

March 28
Coach Price retirement celebration: Scott HS Field House; Noon to 3 pm; Come share laughs, memories and celebrate this milestone

What You Voted for, You Got!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

This is a memo to those in that half of America who, knowing the character of Trump and his mental decline, his record as a convicted felon who has repeatedly shown that he has no moral compass whatsoever, voted him back to the White House...in spite of two impeachments!



This is a call out to that half of America who said that Trump was the special one who could... Make America Great Again... and yet, repeatedly, has shown you that he is totally inept regarding policy decisions; clueless about appointing cabinet people who don't have enough brain power to remotely function as a caring and knowing human beings.

This is the person who so many white Christian evangelicals were in dervish rhapsody about when he spoke a lot of gibberish about protecting their Christian values (note: none needed protection).

And now...we have a war. A war of Trump's own choosing and making because he, in his oatmeal brain, sees himself as ruler of the world and a stable genius to boot!

And if Tehran threatens to nuke Tel Aviv, the war becomes World War III with the world in economic turmoil and incalculable damage to cities and towns and villages...all because a feckless GOP did not want to exercise their constitutional powers over his office.

To say that the world is on a precipice speeding towards a world-wide collision with an end time destiny is an understatement. How many experts have said the quiet part out loud that Trump is in a state of dementia and his acts are cruel, vicious and his speech patterns are rambling and off message.

When you see the approved clown shows of Patel, Noem, Bondi, Steven Miller and a complacent Congress, you are seeing the slow demise of American democracy at the hands of a person, who for all intents and purposes, should be in prison for his prior acts and deeds, both pre White House and currently being done.

Perryman... continued from page 2

that once he was in the room, there was no way they would not be with him. The prior categories that produced American blindness did not exist there because they saw him as what he was.

Zogby closed with a distinction worth preaching: "Transactional power uses people to maintain itself. Power for others grows as it is given away — because the people who receive it know it is genuinely with them, for them, and of them," he insisted.

America spent six decades attempting to silence a testimony it didn't want to hear. Yet, the world that gathered at Jackson's funeral was evidence of its failure.

The testimony is never finished until God says it is finished. And Jesse Jackson's testimony — received everywhere the American blindness could not reach — is still speaking.

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

Each day, the headlines scream out a litany of foibles and lies and misdirections that literally give the nation a collective angst that this clown show may last another three years.

If a person wrote what has happened and what is now happening as a screen play for a drama or a thriller, no producer would buy it because they would say that it is too outlandish and improbable to believe.

But, we are living it and we are being held captive to a Congress that has given Trump a green light to kick the constitution down the road and kicking it... he is gladly doing it.

It appears that the courts are the only ones, "holding the line" on this madness because if they cave in, the Madison/Jeffersonian democracy that you learned about in high school is gone for the foreseeable future.

News Flash!: There will be no White Knight riding a white horse coming to save us from ourselves in allowing this diminished personality to rule and reign as if he is some untouchable emperor.

Trump, in his Alice In Wonderland mindset, sees himself as the answer to all things political and he believes that he can assert dominance over Venezuela, Cuba, Iran, Greenland, Canada, Ukraine and any other nation simply due to his bluster and threats of punishing tariffs or reckless military might.

Remember, Trump is a lame duck president and as such he has no qualms in "releasing the hounds" on whomsoever he picks as his next adversary if they do not fall down and worship him.

Trump poses the greatest existential threat to American democracy since the Revolutionary War of the 1776 era.

Yes, it is that bad. The only course correction can be the mid terms in which or by which his madness can be roped in if the Democrats win the House and since the House appropriates the monies for the government, they can shut down some of his idiocy at the money pigot.

Your job? Register to vote and make sure that you know your place of voting and that you circle the vote date on your calendar so there is no excuse why you did not make it to the polls.

Yes, it is that bad.

Lafe Tolliver at lafe5x@gmail.com

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Farewell Rev. Jesse Jackson

By June Boyd

Guest Column

Rest well and so long, Rev. Jackson. The legacy you left us will forever be recognized.

Now, March 2026, more than ever, our people will march together to seek justice. We may not have a Pettis bridge, but you can believe we will march.

Never, in my lifetime have I seen our people so threatened: our voting rights, equal rights, our history, fair and equal employment, even to the point of denying people on food stamps a can of pop.

In the past, we have had our issues: jealousy of another's success; selling drugs, killing our brothers and sisters, and even subjecting teens to this madness. The dignity you meant for us to practice: the "I am Somebody" challenge, the "Keep Hope Alive" thought, has been etched in stone for all of us who believe.

It is a new day, a time to recognize the real deal. The war in Iran, Ukraine, Gaza and who knows what is to come. We are all in jeopardy. For the parents, grandparents, anyone who has a child in his or her care, niece, nephew or God child; grab their hand, walk with them, and show them a future of survival.

Our ancestors paved the way for us, we must now prepare a safe path to justice and happiness for our children. It must begin at home: love your family, make sure an emphasis is placed on quality education, demand it, and know how important it is. More than ever, study the technology, and every facet of it.

Whoever you are, born into God's world, you are entitled to every opportunity; not to be discriminated against because you might be a different color, race, sexual preference, religion, age, disability or gender; fight for your rights.

Recently, there are those in power who have decided if you do not look like them, you are not equal.

In the memory of our beloved Rev. Jesse Jackson, Dr. Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks and hundreds of others, this is the year we must as people, come together, register, vote and continue

to fight for our God given rights we are entitled.

Keep Hope Alive

I had the opportunity to hear Rev. Jackson's speech at the 1988 Democratic Convention when he was a candidate for President, (I was one of his delegates). That speech has gone down in history as one of the best, and it was a memory for a lifetime.



June Boyd and Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr.

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The Arts Commission to Host Public Open House of New Location

The Arts Commission invites the public to **tour its new home Saturday, March 14, from 11:00am – 3:00pm**. Following the recent relocation to 1000 Adams Street, this open house is the first opportunity for the community to explore the space and learn more about how it will support artists and creative activity across our region.

Also enjoy a featured **exhibition showcasing 2025 Merit Award Winners** — Barry Whitaker, Isabel Zeng, and Ruth Foote — artists whose work reflects the creativity and momentum defining our city's future.

Media are invited to attend the Public Open House on Saturday, March 14, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., as well as the Artist Mixer & Open House on Friday, March 13, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

From 2002-2025, The Arts Commission was headquartered on the Toledo Museum of Art's campus in the Professional Building on Parkwood Avenue. The building and institutional support from the museum provided a strong foundation for growth, ultimately positioning The Arts Commission to outgrow the space. As of November 2025, The Arts Commission's offices are located at 1000 Adams Street.

The Arts Commission is an important part of our region's ecosystem, and this new space provides room for growth, enhanced programming, and expanded opportunities to serve artists and the community. It will give The Arts Commission the ability to host events, exhibitions, and other programs

... continued on page 7

Carrying the Torch, Lighting Her Own Path

Jessica Ford Honored by the YWCA for Leadership in Government

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

Some people are born into a legacy. Others build one. **Jessica Ford** is doing both, quietly, steadily and with the kind of leadership that feels less like a spotlight and more like a lighthouse.

The **YWCA of Northwest Ohio** has named Ford its **2026 Milestones Government Honoree**, a recognition that celebrates women whose work changes communities.

For Ford, the honor still feels a little surreal.

"I still can't believe it," she says with a soft laugh. "When you look at the women who have been recognized over the years, it's the highest honor for women in our community. To stand alongside them, it's really special."

Ford currently serves as **Lucas County Administrator**, overseeing the day-to-day operations of county government and guiding more than 700 employees. It's a job filled with big decisions and long days, but for her, the work is deeply personal.

Public service, she explains, isn't just a career choice. It's the air she grew up breathing.

A Childhood Rooted in Service

Her father, **Jack Ford**, made history as Toledo's first African American mayor, serving from 2002 to 2006. Before that, he spent years in the Ohio House of Representatives, where he eventually rose to become minority leader. Her mother, **Claudia Ford**, also devoted her life to public service, building a long career before eventually retiring from the county prosecutor's office.

Jessica remembers watching both of them serve the community every single day.

"I grew up alongside my dad when he was campaigning and holding office," she recalls. "My mom was also a public servant. Helping people was just part of our lives. If someone needed something, we listened. We tried to help."

For Ford, it felt normal.

Helping someone at the grocery store. Listening when a neighbor had a problem. Talking with strangers who needed a little guidance.

"It was just how we lived," she says. "Honestly, I don't really know anything else."

But following in the footsteps of a historic mayor can be complicated. Legacies have weight. Sometimes they feel like carrying a family heirloom, something beautiful and meaningful, but delicate, too. Something you want to honor...and protect.

Ford has learned how to carry it while still building something of her own.

"There's a strong tradition of service from both my parents," she says thoughtfully. "But I'm at a point now where I'm making my own mark."

Turning Vision into Action

And that mark is already visible across Lucas County.

Under her leadership, three major public service agencies—**Job and Family Services, Child Support Enforcement, and OhioMeansJobs**—were



brought together into a single Shared Services Building in West Toledo. The change makes it easier for residents to access services in one place instead of traveling across the county.

Ford smiles when she talks about projects like that.

Sometimes the work begins quietly in a conference room. A problem is discussed. Solutions are sketched out. Meetings happen. Months turn into years.

Then one day, something real appears.

"I remember when we were first talking about these ideas," she says. "And then years later you're standing there looking at a building that's helping thousands of people. That is incredibly rewarding."

Another project she helped lead is the new **Lucas County Canine Care & Control facility**, a modern shelter designed to improve conditions for animals, staff, and visitors.

It even opened under budget, a rare achievement in public construction.

The Hard Decisions Behind the Work

But Jessica is quick to point out that government leadership is not always glamorous.

"People don't see the behind-the-scenes challenges," she says.

Many of those challenges include making difficult choices. Choices that affect families, children and entire neighborhoods.

"You're dealing with emotional topics," she explains. "Children's services. Public assistance. Real people's lives."

Balancing logic and compassion becomes a daily practice.

Ford carries a conversation with longtime county leader Tina Skeldon Wozniak, who once told her she had a gift for making difficult decisions.

"You have to take the emotion out and be pragmatic," Ford says. "But at the same time, you can't forget the human side. Finding a balance between the two

... continued on page 10

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The IMA March Monthly Meeting

The Truth Staff

The members of Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Toledo held their monthly meeting on Monday, March 2, at Mt. Nebo Baptist Church as area pastors and church leaders joined Mt. Nebo Pastor Cedric Brock, president of the IMA, and dozens of community individuals and organizations to learn about some of the services that are available the Toledo area.

Sister Virginia Welsh, pastoral leader of St. Martin de Porres Church, presented information on work done by her IMA committee on gun violence and told the gathering that a youth conference will be held in April or May to address the problem.

Pastor Le Roy Williams addressed some of today's national issues. "We are a divided country right now," said Williams as he spoke of the issues that are troubling so many, especially on the political landscape.

Lucas County Recorder Michael Ashford and members of his staff brought

information on property rights and protecting such assets.

Then followed a host of presentations from speakers who brought invaluable information on a number of subjects of interest.

THE IMA has been involved in numerous community causes during recent years – raising funds for organizations and individuals in need, endorsing worthwhile ballot issues, Black History month presentations, to name a few.

This year's Black History Month celebration was held at The Refreshing Place on February 22.



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Terry Crosby, Taylor Automotive Group community ambassador, and Rev. Cedric Brock



Toledo Museum of Art's Rhonda Sewell speaks at the IMA meeting

City Council Drafts Immigration Legislation

The Truth Staff

Members of Toledo City Council held a press conference on Monday, March 9, to announce that, in light of their concerns about ICE raids in Toledo and the sharing of immigration information with the federal government, they have drafted legislation to address the concerns that they share with local residents.

The legislation package consists of two ordinances and two resolutions. One ordinance would amend the municipal code to explicitly state that access to city services will not be denied based on immigration status and prohibit city officials and departments from using city funds, personnel or property to apprehend anyone based on immigration status – unless so ordered by a court.

The second ordinance would amend the municipal code to prohibit restricting access to schools and day care centers and prohibit the harassment of educators.

One of the resolutions would ask the Toledo City Plan Commission to review amendments to the municipal code that require a special use permit for detention center.

The other resolution would urge all federal agencies to conduct themselves in accordance with the laws of various government bodies and the U.S. Constitution and cease the wearing of non-medical face coverings and the use of lethal force.

Councilmembers Nick Komives; Theresa Gadus; Brittany Jones, PhD, and Erin Kramer spoke about the importance of codifying how the city government, particularly the Safety Department, should interact with ICE in order to ensure that the rights of residents and their ability to access education, health care and leisure activities be preserved.

The legislation was due to be introduced to the general public on Tuesday, March 10, during a Committee of the Whole session.

The responsibility for immigration enforcement is that of the federal government, admitted Komives as he opened Monday's press conference. "Our responsibility as a city is to clearly define how our local government interacts with those efforts and how our residents are treated when accessing city services."

Komives said the proposed legislation is an effort to "provide clarity and to ensure that the trust of the people will be served."

Gadus, who drafted the legislation along with Komives, said that "we are joining collective voices across the country ... residents have asked us to see what we can do and what we can codify."

There are a total of six co-sponsors of the legislation – those present on Monday, along with Mac Driscoll and Adam Martinez.

In the past, City Council had declined to pass such legislation since immigration is indeed the responsibility of the federal government, however, heightened concern over ICE actions around the nation has prompted law makers to legislate those concerns – most notably by planning to restrict ICE access to public institutions such as schools and hospitals.

"All of our students should feel comfortable," added Gadus.

Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz was also on hand at the Monday press conference to lend his voice of approval to the City Council legislation. Noting that a citizen's group in recent weeks "asked for something and their government responded, they are codifying what has



City Councilmembers Theresa Gadus, Vanice Williams, Nick Komives, Brittany Jones, PhD, and Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz

already been the city's practice."

The legislation, the mayor added, was drafted with the support and assistance of the city's legal department and also with area law enforcement departments.

A Moment of Truth will explore some of the issues that are so critical in the lives of the residents of Toledo's African American community. The Sojourner's Truth has spent a quarter of a century speaking with and listening to those in our community who make a such a difference in our lives.

Join us now on WGTE 91.5 FM on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. as our hosts – Asia Nail, Stacy Fowler, Ricky Tyus and Alexandria Leatherberry – hold conversations with community members and examine how all of us can learn and benefit from those who are blazing paths for us in a number of critical areas such as community activism, business, health and travel.

The Sojourner's Truth
A MOMENT OF TRUTH

THE LOCAL THREAD **wgte** Public Media

Arts Commission...continued from page 4

that drive the organization's mission and our creative economy forward.

The move also deepens The Arts Commission's long-standing partnership with our new neighbors the Toledo Lucas County Public Library (TL-CPL) and allows The Arts Commission to contribute to the creative energy of the UpTown neighborhood.

"We are excited to be part of the vibrant UpTown neighborhood to explore and expand relationships with the library and our other partners who call UpTown home." said Marc Folk, President and CEO of The Arts Commission.

The Arts Commission looks forward to celebrating this next chapter with its partners, artists, and the community it serves!

Blessed by God for 88 Years and Counting

By Pam Hych

Guest Column

With a recent health scare for Bertha DeWalt, her grandchildren, Devin and Destinee Sample, wanted to have a big birthday celebration for her 88th birthday. In a room with family, friends, and lots of fun, this birthday will be memorable for everyone. Seeing Bertha celebrating her birthday today, Saturday, February 28, you would not believe that she was extremely sick just two months ago.

As a caregiver, I have been taking care of my mom for 10 years since her diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease. As a daughter, it has truly been a blessing, an honor and a privilege to be able to help my mom. Nevertheless, without my husband, Nolan Hych, my children and other family members helping, I would not have been able to care for my mom for these last ten years. I do realize that when caring for someone, everyone's situation is different and you can only do what you can do.

When my mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's, I knew that I needed to make a decision. I made the decision to take care of my mom as best as I was able to and as long as I was able to. I became focused on "keeping mom happy at home. However, to do so I knew that I needed help. As I began my research, I realized that there are a plethora of local community resources. I was able to find two wonderful resources that have allowed me to continue to be my mom's caregiver and work full-time.

Area Office on Aging, located at 2155 Arlington Avenue, and Memory Lane Care Facility, located at 500 North Reynolds Road, have been the biggest blessings for our family. The Caregiver Support Program at the Area Office on Aging has been a life saver, from providing resources, services, supplies, and RESPITE opportunities, I am incredibly grateful for their support.

Without Memory Lane Care Facility, I would not have been able to work full-time. The facility's operation hours allow me to get my mom to the facility before I go to work and allows me to pick her up after I am off work. They provide meals, fun activities, and they have the best staff there. Without these resources and my family, I would not be able to "keep mom happy at home". The purpose of this article is to help someone who may be in a similar situation and who is looking for help.



Bertha DeWalt with family and friends



The birthday girl and family



Pam Hych



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Carrying The Torch...continued from page 5

aspects is important.”

Leadership, she believes, is never a solo act.

“No one can do this work alone,” she says. “You need people around you that you trust. People you can call and ask, ‘Am I overthinking this?’”

Rising Through the Ranks

That sense of teamwork has helped carry her from one role to the next.

Jessica began her county career as an executive assistant. From there she became a project manager, then senior project manager, and later deputy county administrator.

Step by step.

Promotion by promotion.

Until finally she reached the role she holds today.

Looking back, she credits her family with keeping her motivated.

“My family kept me going,” she emphasizes. “And I could see there was a real need for talented people in government.”

Leading for the Next Generation

But more than anything, she says, her motivation now comes from watching the next generation grow.

Ford is the mother of two daughters, one nearly grown, the other still full of childhood curiosity.

Her youngest recently asked a question that made Jessica smile.

“She said, ‘Mom, tell me what you do,’” Ford recalls. “And when I tried to explain it she said, ‘So you’re pretty important?’”

Jessica laughs remembering the moment.

“I told her, yes, but it’s a team effort. Everyone’s role matters.”

Still, she knows her mother’s example carries weight.

“These jobs are often dominated by men,” Ford admits. “So it’s important for young girls to see that women can lead too.”

Her daughters, she hopes, will grow up believing that leadership belongs to them just as much as anyone else.

“Women can be tough,” she adds. “We can make important decisions. We can be involved in critical work.”



The message is simple but powerful.

Women belong in rooms where decisions are made.

Women belong at the head of the table.

Women belong in government.

Ford especially hopes young girls of color take that message to heart.

Honoring the Work, Continuing the Journey

“Get engaged,” she advises. “Ask questions. Connect with leaders.”

For Ford, leadership isn’t about the spotlight, it’s about creating space for others to shine. Representation may not always be visible, but that doesn’t mean the opportunities aren’t there. “Sometimes you just have to keep pushing forward,” she shares.

As the YWCA Milestones celebration approaches, Ford admits she feels a little nervous about the attention.

She can’t help but smile as she explains why. “I’m a lot like my father,” she says. “He didn’t like the limelight, and honestly neither do I. I just like to do the work.”

Even the news of her Milestones award surprised her. When CEO Lisa McDuffie called late one evening, Ford thought there had been a mistake. Instead, she heard the words she never expected: she was the honoree.

“I said, ‘What?’” she recalls. “I couldn’t wrap my head around it, I was the one being honored!”

But the truth is simple.

It is her.

A woman who grew up watching public service. A woman who climbed through government one step at a time. A woman raising daughters who now see leadership through their mother’s example.

The torch passed from one generation to the next, but Jessica Ford isn’t just carrying it. She’s using it to light new paths, open doors, and inspire others to follow.

Lead. Lift. Light the way.

And most of all, she proves that a leader’s light is brightest when it guides the next generation.

Learn more about the YWCA Milestones celebration and this year’s honorees here

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Ohio Democratic Party Endorses Democratic Congressional Incumbents for Reelection



Congresswoman Joyce Beatty

Following a vote by the Ohio Democratic Party Executive Committee, Ohio Democratic Party Chair Kathleen Clyde released the following statement endorsing all five of Ohio’s Democratic members of Congress for reelection:

... continued on page 12

United Missionary Baptist Church Keeping History Alive with Annual Heritage Dinner

By Alexandria Leatherberry

The Truth Reporter

The United Missionary Baptist Church held its annual Heritage Dinner on February 27, 2025. The church hosts this event each year to bring together members and neighbors from the Monroe and Lawrence area. The dinner was held free to the community, as a time for fellowship, learning and celebration, made possible through donations and contributions from church members and supporters.

The event also gives the church a chance to highlight Black history and share current community programs and initiatives. The evening was led by event committee chair and church member, Jeanese Muhammad-Hawkins, under the leadership of Rev. Robert Bass and Rev. Anita Bass. Together, they welcomed more than 50 community members to enjoy dinner, games, and reflection. The Heritage Dinner displays the strong spirit of service that has guided the church for many years.

The church building at the corner of Monroe and Lawrence has been part of the neighborhood for more than 100 years. For nearly 43 of those years, it has been the home of the United Missionary Baptist Church congregation.

The church was officially incorporated in 1984 under the leadership of its founding pastor, Rev. Paul Broadus. Since then, the church has continued to grow and serve the community under the leadership of Robert Bass, lead pastor, supported by pastoral leaders Anita Bass, Barbie Harrison, and Troy Brown.

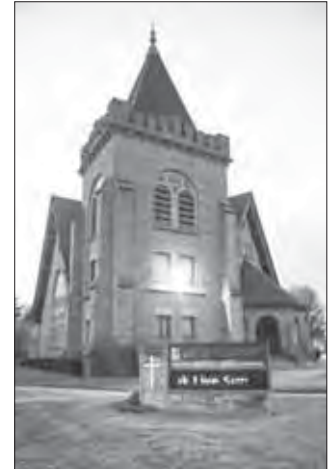
During Rev. Bass's leadership, the congregation has built strong foundations that they continue to stand on. The church has developed youth programs, spiritual leadership training, support groups and strengthened equity access with an early mortgage pay off and expanding the building's operations.

The United Missionary's development committee secured \$200,000 for investment into building a fellowship hall for church and community events. The hall has since hosted children's learning programs, food and meal service providers, as well as events for external churches or community organizations.

United Missionary Baptist Church continues to welcome neighbors with open arms. The Heritage Dinner is the reminder of the church's mission and purpose. As Rev. Bass shared in his closing remarks, "We have to keep history alive." Through events like the Heritage Dinner, United Missionary Baptist Church continues to honor the past while serving the community throughout the year.



Rev. Robert Bass



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The Rotunda Is Too Small for Rev. Jesse Jackson

By Julianne Malveaux (*TriceEdneyWire.com*) –
Guest Column

America has rituals for the dead. We lower flags. We dim lights. We ask for moments of silence. In rare cases — former presidents, Rosa Parks — we place bodies beneath the Capitol dome and call it honor.

So when congressional leaders declined to extend that honor to Rev. Jesse Louis Jackson, they cited precedent. Precedent is tidy. Procedural. It is also how exclusion dresses itself in neutrality. But here is the truth: the Capitol Rotunda is too small for Rev. Jesse Jackson. Not physically. Symbolically.



Julianne Malveaux

The Capitol dome was built with enslaved labor. The wealth that shaped Washington was extracted from Black bodies. The building that houses American democracy rests on people once denied it.

Rev. Jackson spent a lifetime forcing this nation to confront that contradiction. And he did not simply protest injustice. He altered the political terrain. Through the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, he pressured corporations to diversify hiring and boardrooms long before “diversity” became a culture-war slur. Through Operation PUSH, he translated moral authority into economic leverage.

His presidential campaigns in 1984 and 1988 did not merely seek votes; they expanded the electorate and reshaped the Democratic Party’s coalition, language and imagination. He helped register millions of voters. He stood with sanitation workers, autoworkers, underpaid hotel workers and farmworkers.

He negotiated hostages’ release when official diplomacy stalled. He could pivot from children who needed eyeglasses to geopolitics in a single breath because he understood both were about power — who has it, who hoards it, and who must demand it.

I knew him. I worked with him through PUSH/EXCEL, the education arm of Rainbow/PUSH. I watched him move from boardroom to church base-



Rev. Jesse Jackson

ment to international stage without ever shifting his moral center. It was all connected. It was all justice.

The rotunda honors office. Rev. Jackson held movement. The rules governing who lies in state or in honor privilege elected officials and generals. That is not neutral. It reflects a nation that confers legitimacy through title and rank. But American democracy has been most profoundly changed by people who held neither — people who organized, agitated, preached, marched, and demanded.

I am not sure I want my leader under that dome. The Capitol is majestic. It is also a monument to compromise with slavery, to exclusion, to legislative delay in the face of moral urgency. It represents power consolidated and negotiated. Rev. Jackson represented power mobilized. He did not ask permission from marble. He pressured it. He did not seek validation from chambers that too often stalled justice. He stood outside them and forced them to respond.

Perhaps lying in the rotunda would symbolize acceptance. But Rev. Jackson’s life was never about acceptance. It was about disruption — holy, strategic, relentless disruption. He was not carved from stone; he was forged in struggle. The deeper question is not why he is not in the rotunda. It is whether the rotunda has ever been worthy of him.

Flags lower at the discretion of those in authority. Movements rise without their consent. The rotunda is a room. Rev. Jesse Jackson was a movement. History will not measure him by who allowed him into the room. It will measure the room by him.

Julianne Malveaux, PhD, is a DC based economist and author. juliannealveaux.com, Malveauxnewsletter@gmail.com

Ohio Democratic Party..continued from page 10

“With Republicans in Washington continuing to raise the cost of our healthcare, energy bills, and passing the largest tax giveaway for billionaires in our nation’s history, it’s critical that we have representatives like Congresswomen Marcy Kaptur, Emilia Sykes, Shontel Brown, Joyce Beatty and Congressman Landsman fighting for their districts.

The Ohio Democratic Party is proud to endorse all five of our Democratic incumbent members of Congress and stand with their reelection campaigns so they can continue pushing back against Washington corruption and working to lower costs for Ohio families.”



Congresswoman
Marcy Kaptur



Shut Up and Read: A Memoir from Harriett's Bookshop by Jeannine A. Cook

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

Shhhhhhhh.

It's an old wives' tale that that's what librarians always say. Shhhhhhh, hush yourself, be silent, don't be so loud, no talking. Shhhhhh, quiet is what makes a library appealing for many folks. As in the new book, *Shut Up and Read* by Jeannine A. Cook, though, the bookstore is where you can really make some noise.

She had no plans to live in Philadelphia.

But that's where Jeannine Cook landed after she graduated high school – in Philly, in college, living in a "shell" of a house with occasional rats and junkies. She stayed, though, fell in love with the city of Brotherly Love, and made plans in the form of college essays. She wanted to do something good for her community, to teach youth and put books in the hands of the people who needed to read.

As it's been throughout her life, Cook was supported in this plan by "Aunties" and sister-friends, and by "angels" who often appeared. She also appealed to her muse, Harriett Tubman, whose name graces Cook's first physical bookstore.

But Harriett's didn't happen easily.

Cook understood that she needed to own the building that housed her bookstore, and the owner finally decided to sell it to her. The closing took more time than expected; she was in Paris when purchase day came unexpectedly, so she had to fly back home quickly to get it done. There were problems with construction workers, problems with stock and events and building additional bookstores in New Jersey and in Paris. Problems with safety, in the aftermath of George Floyd's murder, and Breonna Taylor's

c. 2026
Amistad
\$28.99
272 pages

murder, and the riots that followed.

There were times, she says, when she felt like she was drowning. Her mother had gone back to the Caribbean, her father was dying (again), but Cook stayed the course.

She knew that books were the answer. That's the mantra she said every day when she got out of bed: books would always be humanity's salvation.



Shut Up and Read author

Go ahead, admit it: you need more books. And while you're at it, you need this one.

Shut Up and Read is a sweet story with grit, determination and magic. Anyone who's ever looked for room on their calendar and found none will identify with it. Anyone who's ever dreamed larger than large will find parallel in author Jeannine A. Cook's words.

If you've had a hero or two in mind when you launch a difficult endeavor, this is your book. Struggled with your health and that of an aggravating but much-loved family member, yep. Ever wondered how you're going to get things done, uh-huh. It's all shared, novel-like, held together by coincidence and magic and heartbreak, surprises, customer-service smiles, an "overground underground railroad," literature, and an artificial leg named Lester.

Yeah, it's everything you're thinking, and there's room for it on your shelf.

Hush little reader, here is your book. *Shut Up and Read* is so worth a look. And if opening a bookstore was ever a lure, this is a book that you'll love for shhhhhhh-ure.



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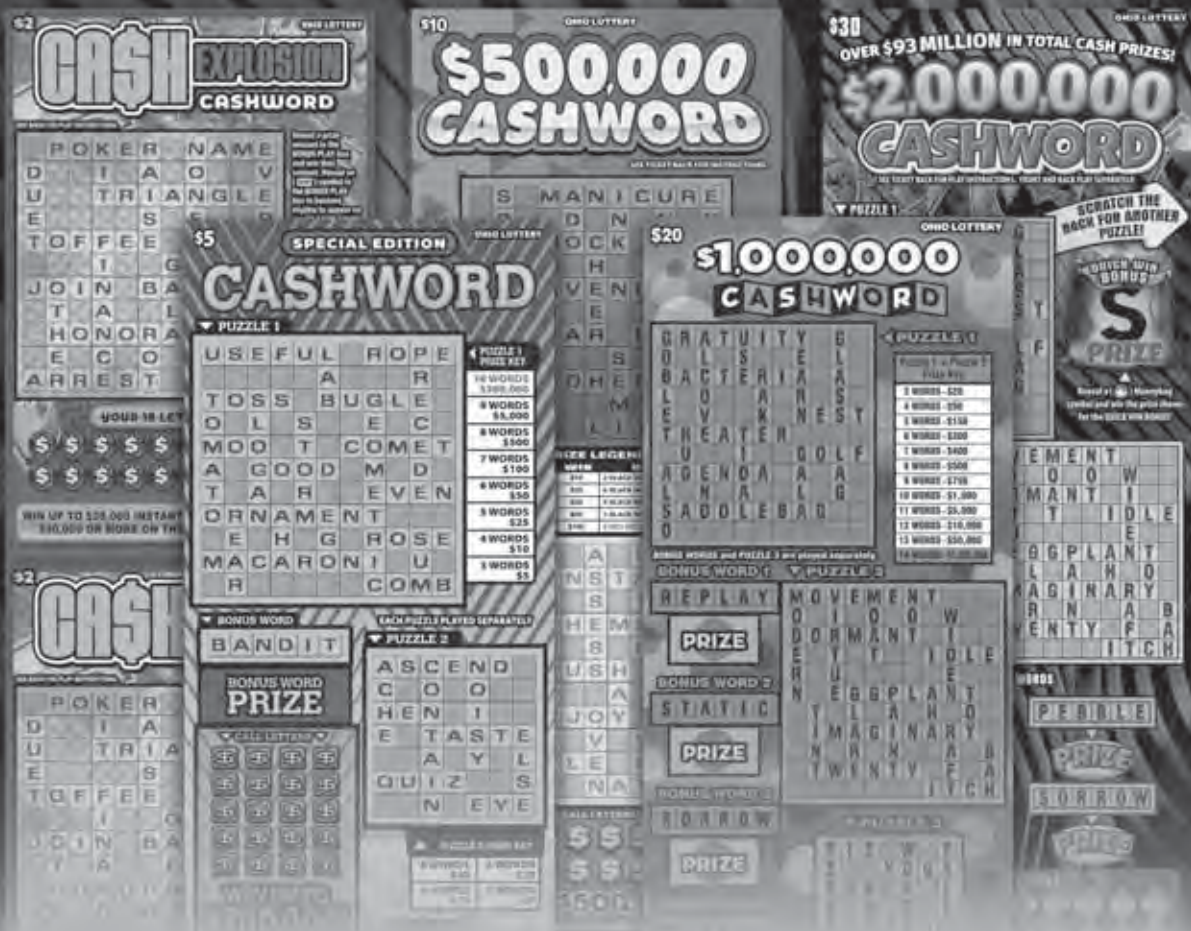
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CLASSIFIEDS

March 11, 2026

Page 15

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSALS TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY TOLEDO, OHIO

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Electronic Bids will be received by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority for all labor, material, insurance, and equipment necessary for the Reconstruct T-Hangar Taxilane A & B, Reconstruct T-Hangar Apron C project at Toledo Executive Airport, 28331 Lemoyne Road, Millbury, OH 43447, in accordance with the approved plans and specifications, for the Port Authority at One Maritime Plaza, Toledo, Ohio 43604.

The project consists of reconstructing the taxilane and apron pavements surrounding the T-Hangars at Toledo Executive Airport (TDZ). The project scope generally includes the demolition and removal of the existing pavements, installation of stormwater conveyance and stormwater quality improvements, construction of detention basin, construction of new asphalt and concrete pavement, and application of new surface markings.

This project may be awarded by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority at its sole discretion. The engineer's opinion of probable cost for this project is approximately \$2,225,000.00. The total contract duration is 63 calendar days from the Notice to Proceed, divided into three (3) phases. All materials procured, construction methods used, and construction activities must be done in accordance with FAA material specifications and guidance on operational safety on airports during construction referenced in the project documents.

Bids will be received through Bid Express, an online electronic bidding system, until Wednesday, March 25, 2026, at 10:00 AM, at which time all bids will be opened through the Bid Express website.

The plans and bid proposal documents are available through Bid Express at: <https://www.bidexpress.com/businesses/66075/home>. Bidders new to the electronic bidding system must first register on the Bid Express website (www.bidexpress.com). Registration is Free. It can take up to five (5) business days to process a Digital ID and it is highly recommended that a Digital ID be enabled 48 hours in advance of submitting an electronic bid. Bidders must plan accordingly. For additional guidance regarding electronic bidding, bidders must contact Bid Express directly. Each bidder shall be responsible for submitting its electronic bid before the bid deadline.

Electronic Proposals must be submitted on the form(s) included in Bid Express and shall be accompanied by a certified check or an acceptable Proposal Bond with satisfactory surety specifying the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority as the obligee, in the sum of not less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount.

Please note there will be a pre-bid meeting for this project for all prospective bidders on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at 10:00 AM. This meeting will be held at the Port Authority's administrative offices at One Maritime Plaza, 2nd floor conference room, Toledo, OH 43604. Attendance is suggested, but not mandatory. Please submit all questions through the Bid Express service by Friday, March 13, 2026, at 10:00 AM local time. Questions submitted after the deadline will not receive a response. Additional information can be found at <https://www.toledoport.org/public-notices>

Thomas J. Winston
President and CEO
Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority

DIRECTOR OF SUMMER CAMPS

The Padua Center is seeking a Director of Summer Camps. The Director is primarily responsible for the overall development of and implementation of the Padua Summer Programs. The general outline of the six weeks of camp is awaiting a creative director to complete the plans. The director will supervise the various volunteers, work with the Padua Staff in arranging particulars of the camps and executing a successful Summer Recreation and Learning experience for 25 to 30 elementary school age youth. This is a seven- week summer employment at 35 hours a week. The ideal candidate will have a bachelor degree and some educational experience. The Padua Center is an EOE. For more information contact The Padua Center. Please submit resume by April 15, 2026 to The Padua Center at thepaduacenter@gmail.com. 419 241 6465

INVITATION FOR BIDS RENOVATIONS AT BIRMINGHAM LEAD HAZARD ELIMINATION – PHASE V IFB26-B004

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive bids for **Birmingham Lead Hazard Elimination – Phase V in accordance with IFB26-B004**. Received in accordance with law until **April 06, 2026, 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.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

2026-2027 ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN

To all interested agencies, groups, and persons:

The City of Toledo is seeking comments on its **Draft July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027 One-Year Action Plan** to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on or before May 18, 2026. The One-Year Action Plan is based on the HUD-approved Five-Year 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan submitted by the City of Toledo for housing, community, and economic development.

The One-Year Action Plan includes a description of the federal funds anticipated to be received, as well as other resources expected to be available within the City of Toledo during the 2026-2027 program year. The Action Plan provides a description of the activities to be undertaken when using these resources and the expected results of those activities. Also, the Action Plan depicts a geographic distribution of assistance including Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Areas (NRSAs), special needs activities, general and public housing actions, and activities specific to the 2026 52nd Year Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), 40th Year Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), 35th Year HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), the Neighborhood Stabilization Programs (NSP) (if applicable), and the 2025 Lead Hazard Reduction Grant and Healthy Homes Supplement. In addition, the Plan will contain HUD-required certifications, as well as a summary of the community input received at the public hearings regarding the Action Plan.

The **Draft One-Year Action Plan** will be available for review beginning **Wednesday, March 25, 2026**, on the website of the following entities:

Department of Housing and Community Development
One Government Center, 18th Floor
Downtown Toledo, Jackson & Erie Streets
website: <https://toledo.oh.gov/departments/housing-community-development>

Lucas Metropolitan Housing
424 Jackson Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604
website: www.lucasmha.org

Office of the Mayor
One Government Center, 22nd Floor
Downtown Toledo, Jackson & Erie Streets
website: <https://toledo.oh.gov/government/mayor>

Toledo Lucas County Homelessness Board
1806 Madison Avenue
Toledo, Ohio 43604
website: www.endinghomelessness.toledo.org

Clerk of Council
One Government Center, 21st Floor
Downtown Toledo, Jackson & Erie Streets
website: <https://toledo.oh.gov/government/city-council/>

Toledo-Lucas County Public Library
325 Michigan Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604
website: www.toledolibrary.org

The Fair Housing Center
1806 Madison Avenue
Toledo, Ohio 43604
website: www.toledofhc.org

Lucas Co. Board of Developmental Disabilities
1154 Larc Lane
Toledo, Ohio 43614
website: www.lucasdd.info

Public Hearings on the **Draft One-Year Action Plan** are scheduled as follows:

Thursday, March 26, 2026, 5:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers, 1st Floor
One Government Center, Toledo, OH 43604

Thursday, April 2, 2026, 5:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers, 1st Floor
One Government Center, Toledo, OH 43604

The City of Toledo will also receive comments from the public in writing beginning **Wednesday, March 25, 2026** through **Friday, April 24, 2026**, at the following address:

CITY OF TOLEDO
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
2026-2027 ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN
ONE GOVERNMENT CENTER, SUITE 1800
TOLEDO, OHIO 43604

The City of Toledo supports the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you would like to request a reasonable accommodation, please contact the Office of Diversity and Inclusion ADA coordinator at (419) 245-1198 or submit a request online at toledo.oh.gov/ada.

Call to place your ad:

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www.TheTruthToledo.com

The AKA 118th Founders Day Celebration

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Zeta Alpha Omega, Alpha Lambda and Iota Iota Chapters held their 118th Founders Day Celebration: Black Girls Rock in Exemplary Service, February 28, at The Pinnacle. The event honored 10 local women for their service to the community.

The program opened with a processional of the sorority sisters and honorees into the event hall. The Mistress of Ceremonies was Kristian Brown, news anchor for 13abc News. The Introduction of the dais by Shelia Brown was followed by Pearls of Harmony, members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. singing "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

"Today, we gather in reflection and in gratitude," remarked Katrina Barry, Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter president, during her welcome. "Reflection on the vision, courage and commitment of those who came before us, and expressing gratitude for the leaders who continue to carry that legacy forth. Founders' Day is more than just a celebration," she said. "It is a sacred reminder of our call to services and our responsibility to uplift our communities."

"This year, as we celebrate Black Girls Rock, we proudly shine a well-deserved spotlight on phenomenal women and community leaders whose dedication, resilience and impact exemplify excellence in action. This leadership rooted in service inspires progress and meaningful change. Thank you for joining us as we honor our legacy, celebrate service and recommit ourselves to the work of empowering others. Welcome, and may today's celebration leave us inspired and uplifted in purpose," she concluded.

Greetings and remarks were also shared by Alessandra Dews, Alpha Lambda Chapter president; Amira Welch, Iota Iota Chapter president and Lisa E. Dubose, EdD, Great Lakes Region Representative to the International Membership Committee and Great Lakes Region Membership Committee chairman.

Greetings and Recognitions were given by Felicia Roberts-Dunston 118th Founders' Day chair and the Sorority History by Clara Petty 118th Founders' Day co-chair. The invocation was provided by Nya Green of the Iota Iota Chapter.

Following lunch, a Program Initiative Presentation was given by Demecia Wilson Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter, vice president.

The 2026 Black Girls Rock in Exemplary Service Honorees:

- Pearl of Promise Award - Alessandra Dews

- Ivy of Distinction Award - Lisa McDuffie
- Sisterhood Award - Andrea Price
- Legacy of Excellence Award - Jenai Hicklin
- EmpowHER Award - Tahyah Smith
- Shot Caller Award - Aufwiedersehen (Veda) Winfield
- Social Humanitarian Award - Ohio State Representative Erika White
- Young Gifted and Black Award - Dejah Griffith
- Community Change Agent Award - Deborah Barnett
- Icon Award - Dr. Brenda L. Kynard-Holsey

Remarks were given by Felicia Roberts-Dunston 118th Founders' Day Chairman and closing remarks by Katrina Barry Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter, President.

Committee Members for the 118th Founders Day Celebration

Felicia Roberts-Dunston, Chairman; Clara Petty, Co-Chairman; Katrina Barry, Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter President; Alessandra Dews, Alpha Lambda Chapter President;

Amira Welch, Iota Iota Chapter President; Andrea Price; Ashleigh Foster; Ashley Benson;

Cheryl Slack; Donnetta Carter; Leigh Utley; Lisa Dubose, EdD; Nazarene Tubman; Olla Avery; Pam Green-Jones; Patrice McClellan, PhD; Sonya Randall; Rhea Young; Richelle Watkins

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter is currently accepting applications for their 2026-2027 Scholarships for high school senior ladies with 3.0 GPA or higher accepted into an accredited 4 year college or university for fall semester 2026. The application closes April 10, 2026.

To learn more about the chapter and scholarship requirements visit zetaalphaomega.org or AKA Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter, Toledo OH on Facebook.



Alpha Kappa Alpha members sing Lift Every Voice and Sing



Attendees at the 118th Founders' Day Celebration



Clara Petty, 118th Founders' Day Co-Chair Day Celebration



Felicia Roberts-Dunston, 118th Founders' Day Chair



Mistress of Ceremonies Kristian Brown



Zeta Alpha Omega President Katrina Barry



Members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority