



Volume 97 No. 3

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

September 16, 2026



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Soldiers Without Swords

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

The Truth Contributor

We wish to plead our own cause. Too long have others spoken for us.

- Freedom's Journal, March 16, 1827



The Toledo Blade might not exist by January unless somebody buys it — ending a run that started in 1835, two years before Toledo was even a city. A former editor called the paper “the glue” that held this town together, whether people loved it or hated it. He’s right. The Blade’s closing would represent a tragic loss to our city and deserves real grief first and foremost.

But Toledo didn’t invent the question the potential closure raises. Black folks in this country have been answering it since before the Blade’s first edition ever ran.

Too Long Have Others Spoken for Us

In 1827, John Russwurm and Samuel Cornish published the nation’s first Black-owned newspaper — eight years before the Blade existed, 10 years before Toledo was even a city. Papers were everywhere already. What wasn’t out there was a paper that saw Black people as anything other than a crime story or nothing at all. So, Russwurm and Cornish built one and said exactly why in their first issue: “We wish to plead our own cause. Too long have others spoken for us.”

That declaration held. Sixty-some years later, a mob in Memphis burned Ida B. Wells’s printing press to the ground because she wrote the truth about lynching and wouldn’t stop. She didn’t stop. She left town, kept writing and got her reporting into the New York Age instead — the same white-owned papers that wouldn’t print the word “lynching” couldn’t stop her from finding another way to say it.

Soldiers Without Swords

During World War II, the Pittsburgh Courier ran a campaign called Double V — victory over fascism in Europe, victory over racism at home, treated as the same fight because they were the same fight. The government’s answer was to call it treason. J. Edgar Hoover pushed the Justice Department to indict the Black press outright, branding its publishers and reporters “soldiers without swords.”

When the attorney general actually looked at what the Black press had printed, he found no case for treason and refused to bring charges — so the presses kept running. That contemptuous insult stuck around longer than Hoover’s investigation did. Stanley Nelson used it as the title of his 1998 documentary on the Black press, and I borrowed it from there, too.

Hoover meant it as disrespect — men and women doing something that looked like combat without the legitimacy of an actual weapon. But he

“got it twisted,” because a sword can be taken from you, sold out from under you, handed off to a corporation’s balance sheet. What Russwurm and Cornish started in 1827 never depended on any one printing press surviving. The Blade just lost its sword. The soldiers who never carried one are still standing.

Putting Itself Out of Business

Once the civil rights movement finally forced white papers to hire Black reporters and cover Black communities as something other than a crime blotter, Black newspaper circulation declined. It looked, on paper, like the fight to be seen and heard had finally been won — like the Black press had worked its way out of a job by winning it.

It wasn’t. Toledo proved that this month. The city slipped a produce market contract to a corporate distributor behind the backs of the Black growers who had already been feeding Englewood and Junction for years. The Blade didn’t write the piece calling that what it actually was — “institutional racism dressed up as community investment.” The Sojourner’s Truth did! And from a Black contributor, on a fraction of the Blade’s budget.

Toledo should still grieve if The Blade passes away. Without a well-staffed newsroom, it is impossible to hold every corner of Toledo’s government accountable. Our community deserves that, and no single Black paper, including this one, has the staff to replace it.

But don’t let the grief convince you this city will go quiet. It was never going to be silent. Two hundred years before this month, somebody already answered the question of what a community does when the record it’s handed leaves it out — it builds its own, and keeps building it, in public, with its name attached.

Of every institution this country has ever produced, none moved social and political change further than the Black press.

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

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Community Calendar

September 20

Calvary Missionary Baptist Church: Roses of Calvary Flower Ministry will celebrate an anniversary: 4:00pm. Guest speaker, Pastor Melvin Barnes, Greater Faith Fellowship Church.

September 30

Calvary MBC Roses of Calvary Flower Ministry Anniversary Celebration: 4 pm; Speaker Pastor Melvin Barnes of Greater Faith Fellowship Church

October 3

First Church of God Installation Service: For Bishop Robert S. Davis, Jr. and First Lady Robin Davis; Noon: 419-255-0097, ext 204 or fcoginstallation@fcogtoledo.com

October 18

Toledo NAACP Youth Council Meeting: 3:00 pm @ Sanger Branch Library

October 20

Toledo NAACP report of the Nominating Committee and election of the Supervisory Committee: 5:00 pm; 3450 W. Central Ave, Suite 374

November 17

Toledo NAACP election of officers and at-large members of the Executive Committee will be administered using our election voting platform. Voting from 3 pm to 7 pm.

Two Civil Rights Men, Different Parties, One Bill of Rights

Most gun deaths in this country are suicides. We argue about guns as if they were all murders.

By Ben Jealous

Guest Column

When I was a boy two brothers lived on our block and we ran together every weekend. Ball in the street, made-up games, War!

Then one day they were gone. My buddy said their father had lost his job at the tire factory and taken his own life in the basement, with a gun the family already owned.

That was a gun death in America. Quiet street, good schools. In all my years arguing guns, a death like that almost never came up.

Our children are back in school, and September is Suicide Prevention Month.

Guns, children, and despair are one subject. We rarely treat them so.

My friend Lenny McAllister has never made me pick. He is a Black Republican, a voice on Rust Belt radio from WVON in Chicago to KDKA in Pittsburgh. I was the Democratic nominee for governor of Maryland. We have gone at each other's parties twenty years and stayed friends.

What people miss is that we are both civil rights men, and civil rights work is Bill of Rights work.

The First Amendment is why we could march. The Fourth is why an officer needs a reason to search you. The Second sits in that same document, and we believe in all of it.

Lenny's father was shot on a Rust Belt street and spent nearly a year in the hospital. In 2001 a man broke into Lenny's home and tied him up. He tells it in his new book, "A Venn Diagram of One", an honest book about refusing to be one thing in a country that insists you choose.



Dr. Amy Acton Backs Flock Camera Ban

Amidst reports of misuse, growing concern and increased bipartisan support to regulate the use of automatic license plate readers across Ohio, Dr. Amy Acton announced that she would support bipartisan legislation banning the use of Flock across the state.

Cleveland.com: Acton backs statewide ban on Flock cameras * As growing public concern about Flock cameras has made them an increasingly significant political issue, two of the three candidates for Ohio governor this year are backing major new restrictions on the automated license plate readers.

* Democratic nominee Amy Acton and Libertarian Don Kissick each want some sort of ban on the controversial cameras, which in recent years have been set up in thousands of communities nationwide, including dozens in Ohio.

* ...[Vivek Ramaswamy] has offered few details so far about exactly what policies and restrictions he would seek to create if elected.

* Acton, a former state health director from suburban Columbus, "would support bipartisan legislation banning the use of Flock across Ohio" if elected governor, according to campaign spokeswoman Virginia Schaus.

* Acton also supports a recent request from a bipartisan group of state lawmakers for the Ohio Department of Transportation to stop approvals of any new automatic license-plate readers along state highways, as well as review all existing permits, Schaus said.

* Ramaswamy's campaign did not respond to questions for this story, continuing a pattern of declining to answer detailed questions from The Plain Dealer and cleveland.com about the candidate's positions on major policy issues.

* The Republican nominee has also, so far, said little in public about what, if anything, he specifically would do about Flock cameras as governor.

My cousin was shot and killed at a gas station in Columbia, Maryland, at noon. A cousin I called uncle agreed to testify against a Prince George's County drug dealer, who shot him at his door. He lived. At the hospital they would not let us up to his room, for fear the shooter's friends would come finish the job.

When Lenny writes that we can respect the Second Amendment and still use common sense about who buys a gun, I hear no man splitting a difference. I hear a man who has waited on word about his father, and lain on his own floor with a gun at his head.

Then he writes this. "There is a right greater than the right to bear arms; it is the right to a liberty-filled life."

Now let me tell you what I got wrong.

Thirty years ago at Oxford I needed a thesis topic. A headline in the International Herald Tribune stopped me on the sidewalk. Black teen suicides were surging. I was sure I knew why. Handguns were flooding the inner cities.

I was wrong. The children dying were not in the cities. They were in the suburbs.

Black families moved out there in the late sixties and seventies. Twenty years later their children began killing themselves. Children like me, with the big backyard and the shiny bike.

Our mothers gave us what they had been denied in the projects and tenements and row houses they came up in. Without meaning to, they cost us the one thing those places had, a house full of family who would listen no matter what.

One of the strongest predictors of a suicide attempt is isolation. Ask a woman how many people she talks to after her worst day and she names two or three. Ask a man and he names one, or nobody. Her circle grows all her life. His shrinks toward zero.

That headline should have said the Black teen suicide rate was catching up to the White one. Among young Black men it has passed it.

About nine in ten suicide attempts with a gun end in death. With most other methods people live, and most who live never die by suicide.

In 2024 there were 27,593 gun suicides, well over half of all gun deaths.

Money is no shield. A gun in a cul-de-sac is as final as a gun on a corner.

The Bill of Rights is not a menu. You do not get to order the Second and send the rest back to the kitchen. None of it means much to a child who does not live to grow into the promise of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

So set partisanship aside. Lock your own guns in a safe at home. Keep them away from people in crisis. And build friendships across party lines that bind this nation back together for all our children.

Ben Jealous is a professor of practice at the University of Pennsylvania and former president and CEO of the NAACP.

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Two Systems of Justice: How Success Makes Leaders of Color Targets

By Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.
Guest Column

Unless you have lived through it, it is easy to dismiss as racial paranoia the wariness and discomfort felt by many successful business leaders of color who have reached the elite ranks of the business world.

To outside observers, modern corporate America appears to be a meritocracy where performance dictates how far an individual can rise. Yet history reveals a far more sobering reality: No matter how much success an outsider of color accumulates, his or her place at the top is often accompanied by a question mark – by a lingering sense that acceptance is fleeting and the status earned over decades is more fragile than it appears.

Nowhere is that more evident than in moments of crisis and failure. When an established company led by white American executives' falters, media pundits, investors, business analysts, regulators and other stakeholders follow a predictable script. Their failure is framed as the result of harsh economic cycles, bad timing, changing consumer preferences, miscalculation or bad luck. Rarely is the white executive's integrity put on trial.

But African Americans and other people of color corporate leaders are rarely afforded the same benefit of the doubt when a damaging crisis erupts under their watch. Instead, people are often quick to assume that incompetence, poor work ethic, character flaws, dishonesty, or criminal intent was at the root of the problem.

The 2008 mortgage crisis vividly illustrated this double standard. Wall Street banks made enormous profits from a housing boom built on risky mortgages. When Americans began defaulting in staggering numbers, millions lost their homes, trillions in household wealth vanished, and the global economy neared collapse.

And how many of the overwhelmingly white Wall Street executives behind this scheme were criminally prosecuted? Virtually none. Instead, the financial system received billions in taxpayer bailouts while the institutions at the center of the crisis paid executives lavish bonuses.

The double standard hardly ends there. A few years later, global banking giant HSBC avoided criminal prosecution after admitting that its lax controls



Benjamin Chavis,
DMin

allowed Mexican drug cartels to launder hundreds of millions of dollars. Instead, federal prosecutors levied financial penalties against the bank. In the world of high finance, global breakdowns seem to be routinely treated as the cost of doing business.

Contrast this grace with the treatment reserved for outsiders who aren't in the club, usually African American executives or other business leaders of color whose organizations come under strain -- whether in municipal services, finance, or manufacturing. The institutional response is too often vilification, press leaks, and the immediate criminalization of business failure.

Consider a case I wrote about a few years ago involving Jack Brown III, a visionary African American entrepreneur who built CORE Services Group into one of New York City's most effective social services providers. Yet when CORE demanded tens of millions in overdue payments from the cash-strapped city for services delivered, city officials launched a campaign of press leaks and innuendo, suggesting that Brown's executive compensation was corrupt. It was a classic example of how leaders of color can be characterized demonized in an instant.

More recently, there's a troubling case in the American heartland involving both the forced liquidation of First Brands Group, an auto parts manufacturer that anchored many communities with jobs, and the unfair aggressive prosecution of its founder, Patrick James.

James, an immigrant entrepreneur of color who arrived in Ohio in the 1980s, chose a path modern Wall Street had largely abandoned. Rather than relocating operations and shipping jobs overseas, James entered the struggling world of Midwestern manufacturing and worked to turn it around. Over three decades, he acquired numerous iconic but fading American auto-parts brands -- like FRAM, Trico, and Raybestos -- bringing them under an industrial giant in a vitally important American industry.

As an industry outsider with limited access to easy credit from giant mainstream banks, James funded this expansion through high-yield, high-risk private lenders that resemble the payday lenders found in urban neighborhoods. When the economy faltered -- driven by historic interest rate hikes, inflation, and pandemic-era shipping bottlenecks -- First Brands' heavy debt burden became unsustainable.

In a fair system, staggering debt during an economic downturn triggers standard Chapter 11 protections: debt is reorganized, ancillary assets are sold, and the company continues to employ thousands. Instead, the private credit lenders who earned lucrative returns worsened the problem. To insulate themselves from their own bad bets, they ran to federal law enforcement, spinning a story of executive fraud out of a complex debt default they helped create.

The response from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York was swift. Prosecutors dusted off the "Financial Kingpin" statute, a drug-cartel-era law carrying a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years to life.

Instead of stabilizing the business, court-appointed restructuring advisors collected large professional fees while liquidating plants, firing thousands of American workers, and selling off specialized manufacturing machinery. At the same time, they worked with the government to build an indictment against James, while prosecutors cut off his access to the corporate documents he needed to defend himself, according to court filings.

In the end, China has been the real beneficiary of this debacle, quickly stepping in to absorb the domestic market share First Brands once held. In that sense, the destruction of First Brands represents another example of Wall Street undermining Main Street by dismantling an effort to rebuild America's hollowed-out manufacturing base.

Still, there is good reason to believe the ugly facts will finally be heard on the merits rather than through creditor-driven spin.

The James case is before U.S. District Judge Analisa Torres -- a trailblazing Latina appointed by President Obama and veteran of the New York bench known for her impartiality, deep respect for working people and labor, and refusal to let institutional power tilt the scales. In a courtroom led by a judge who understands the challenges outsiders face, this corporate undoing may finally get the thorough scrutiny it deserves.

American democracy can only be sustained when African Americans and other people of color are treated fairly, equality, justly, and equitably. The racial targeting of successful corporate leaders of color must be stopped.

Reverend Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is president and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and executive producer of *The Chavis Chronicles* on PBS TV network across the nation, and can be reached at dr.chavis@nnpr.org

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Generations at Work: Why Generational Differences Matter in the Workplace

An Anthropological Perspective

By Willie L. McKether, Ph.D.

Professor of Anthropology, The University of Toledo

CEO, WLM Cultural Communications, Inc.

Guest Column

Picture a Monday morning team meeting. A Baby Boomer manager kicks things off with a structured agenda and expects everyone on camera and fully present — that's what professionalism looks like to them. A Millennial team lead glances at the agenda shared in Slack the night before and wonders why this couldn't have been handled asynchronously. A Gen Z analyst, hired six months ago and already one of the most technically skilled people in the room, quietly wonders whether this organization values what they bring — or just wants them to fit a mold made before they were born. Nobody is wrong. But nobody fully understands anyone else, either. This is the defining challenge of the modern workplace.

For the first time in modern history, five generations are working side by side: the Silent Generation, Baby Boomers, Generation X, Millennials, and Generation Z. Each brings its own cultural values, communication styles, and definitions of success. This is not simply a human resources concern — it is a business challenge with measurable costs, and most organizations aren't equipped to address it.

Every workplace is a cultural ecosystem. Cultural anthropology — the study of the systems of meaning people construct to navigate the world — offers a powerful lens here. Anthropologist Clifford Geertz described culture as “webs of significance” that humans spin and then inhabit. Each generation, shaped by the historical moment of its formative years, spins its own web of assumptions about authority, loyalty, time, and technology. When generations share a workplace, they aren't just voicing different opinions — they are bringing different cultures, and the resulting friction is genuinely intercultural.

To understand today's generations, we have to understand the cultural soil from which American business grew. Between 1600 and 1865 — built on the labor of enslaved Africans and land taken from Indigenous peoples — European immigrants forged what anthropologists would call Cultural Core Axioms, including: Individualism, Freedom, Hard Work and Material Gain, and Equality. These became the assumed rules of American business.

But as my mentor, business anthropologist Julia Gluesing, PhD, taught me: the environment requires and allows — it requires adaptation, and it allows survival through change. Each generation has reinterpreted those same axioms through a radically different environment, and that process explains why generations clash at work.

Generational traits aren't monolithic — they're shaped differently by race, class, gender, and other identities, and should be read with that in-

tersectionality in mind.

The Silent Generation (1928–1945), forged by the Depression and World War II, built the corporate infrastructure — the 9-to-5, seniority-based promotion, lifetime employment — that later generations inherited. Baby Boomers (1946–1964),

shaped by postwar prosperity and the upheavals of civil rights, feminism and Vietnam, fused that institutional loyalty with personal ambition, making career advancement itself a marker of identity. Generation X (1965–1980) came of age watching institutions fail — Watergate, downsizing, rising divorce — and responded with self-reliant “portfolio culture,” valuing autonomy and results over face time; they remain the quiet bridge generation between Boomer leadership and the workforce below. Millennials (1981–1996), formed by the digital revolution, 9/11 and the 2008 collapse, demand meaning from work because material security feels perpetually out of reach — yet Gallup finds only 29 percent report being engaged at work. Generation Z (1997–2012), the first digital-native cohort, shaped further by pandemic-era uncertainty, is pragmatic, distrustful of large systems and fluent in AI — 55 percent already use it to solve problems at work, 75 percent to build new skills. By 2035, Gen Z will be the largest generational cohort in the global workforce.

Anthropologist Mary Louise Pratt's term “contact zone” — spaces where distinct cultures meet and negotiate — describes today's multi-generational workplace precisely. A Boomer who reads a Gen Z request for flexibility as laziness is committing ethnocentrism, judging another culture by her own standards. A Gen Z employee dismissing structured process as needless rigidity makes the same error in reverse. Neither behavior is irrational — each is reasonable within its own cultural logic.

The costs of ignoring this are real. SHRM estimates replacing an employee costs 50–200 percent of their salary, and generational misalignment — not pay — is a primary driver of turnover; Millennial turnover alone costs the U.S. economy an estimated \$30.5 billion annually.

Unresolved generational friction eats management time, suppresses

...continued on page 6



Willie McKether, PhD

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Lucas County Commissioners, The Arts Commission Announce New Lucas County Poet Laureate

Special to The Truth

The Board of Lucas County Commissioners in partnership with The Arts Commission is pleased to announce that Sandra Rivers-Gill has been selected to be Lucas County's next Poet Laureate.

"Poetry has a unique ability to tell our stories, connect us across differences, and help us see our community through a new lens. Sandra Rivers-Gill has devoted her talent not only to her craft but to lifting up the voices and experiences of people throughout Lucas County," the Commissioners said in a joint statement. "We look forward to the ways she will use poetry to inspire, strengthen, and engage our community in her new role."

Rivers-Gill is a teaching artist and award-winning poet and playwright. Her debut poetry chapbook "As We Cover Ourselves With Light" (Sheila-Na-Gig Editions, 2023) was a finalist for the 2024 Eric Hoffer Book Award and featured at the 2024 Ohioana Book Festival.

She is the editor of poetry anthologies "Dopeless Hope Fiends" (Radio Room Press, 2018), written by women in recovery; "Vibrant Voices" (PP&P Press, 2025), written by creatively aging adults; and "Amplify," a poetry anthology of black and brown voices. She wrote and performed her first one-woman show at the Bowling Green State University's Black Issues Conference and was one of five Ohio poets selected to write about Toledo Metroparks for #5poets5parks2025.

Established in 2007 through a County Commissioners resolution, the



Sandra Rivers-Gill

Poet Laureate is an appointed two-year position that was created to recognize the place that poetry has in the county's cultural tradition and civic life.

Rivers-Gill is the fourth poet to hold this esteemed position. She will receive a \$5,000 annual honorarium (\$10,000 total for a two-year term) and will organize public workshops and programs, as well as perform public readings and attend cultural events.

Previous Lucas County Poet Laureates include: Jonie McIntire (2022-2026), Jim Ferris (2014-2020), and Joel Lipman (2008-2014).

"We remain deeply grateful to the Lucas County Commissioners for recognizing the importance of poetry in our community and civic life and for honoring these traditions by appointing a Poet Laureate for Lucas County," Marc Folk, President and Chief Executive Officer of The Arts Commission, said. "We are delighted to celebrate the appointment of the esteemed Sandra Rivers-Gill as our next Poet Laureate and look forward to her continued contributions to the literary heritage of Lucas County."

Rivers-Gill was among three finalists nominated by the Lucas County Poet Laureate Committee to the Commissioners. She also received multiple recommendations from the community supporting her application. The Committee consists of Zach Huber, representative of the Toledo Lucas County Public Library, and former Poet Laureates Jonie McIntire and Jim Ferris.



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SCAN ME!

Generations at Work... continued from page 5

engagement, and shows up again as organizations build leadership pipelines still designed for a workforce that no longer exists, even as 77 percent of Gen Z candidates call diversity and inclusion non-negotiable in choosing an employer. Meanwhile, every Boomer who retires without structured knowledge transfer takes irreplaceable institutional memory with them — a silent, ongoing emergency few organizations are addressing.

The path forward, as anthropology has long prescribed for intercultural encounters, is translation, not assimilation. Assimilation asks one group to abandon its framework for another's; translation asks all parties to build enough mutual understanding to communicate across their differences. That means redesigning onboarding, teaching cross-generational communication as a core leadership competency, and building mentorship that flows in both directions — senior wisdom moving down, digital fluency moving up. Done well, generational difference stops being a management problem and becomes an organizational asset.

Dr. McKether's consulting firm, WLM Cultural Communications, is hosting a one-day conference, *Generational Differences in the Workplace*, on Friday, October 30, 2026, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn in Perrysburg, Ohio. Featured speakers include generational expert Dr. Tim Elmore, founder of Growing Leaders, and Vince DiPofi, CEO of SSOE. Learn more about the event & register: generationaldifferencesconference.com For more information, contact Dr. Willie McKether at wmckether@gmail.com.

When the Keys Change Hands: Who Gets to Own Toledo's Future?

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

Toledo's Housing Market Is Changing

When **Engelo Rumora**, owner of **OZ Realty**, first discovered Toledo's real estate market, he still lived in Australia.

That was around 2012.

Fourteen years later, the Australian-born entrepreneur has made Toledo home and built a business around a market that once seemed like an unlikely destination.

"People used to joke around and say, what is an Australian doing in Toledo, Ohio?" Rumora recalls.

His answer, in many ways, now stands in bricks, mortar and renovated homes.

Toledo caught his attention because it offered something increasingly difficult to find in larger markets: opportunity.

While housing prices on the East and West coasts climbed beyond the reach of many buyers, Toledo remained comparatively affordable.

Today, Rumora says that difference draws investors from across the country.

"At one point, everyone and their dog started coming to Toledo," he jokes.

The influx raises a question that matters to anyone who lives here, particularly renters and would-be homeowners: **When outside investors see opportunity in Toledo, how can Toledo residents make sure they see it, too?**

More Investment, More Housing?

Rumora believes investment can bring something Toledo needs: housing.

He points to investors who purchase neglected properties, renovate them and return them to the rental market. In his view, those renovations add available housing and can help keep rents from rising even further.

"If we're getting a lot of foreign investment, it's just going to make more housing available to more everyday people," he explains.

But another side of that equation deserves attention.

A house can look like an investment on paper. To the person renting it, it is simply home.

Rumora understands that delineation. Property management, he says, can become "a very thankless business" because managers often find themselves between tenants who want repairs completed and landlords concerned about the cost.

His goal is to make that relationship work.

"When tenants are happy, they stay and pay on time. The landlord is happy. We are happy," he says. "It's just a win-win across the board."

For Toledo renters, particularly those trying to stretch every dollar, that win matters.

Modernizing Property Management

Oz Realty is a highly rated, tech-oriented property management company based in Toledo, Ohio. Founded in 2014 as an ancillary wing to the turnkey investment company *Ohio Cashflow*, Oz Realty specializes in handling residential rental portfolios for property owners, particularly focusing on out-of-state and international real estate investors.

As an Inc. 5000 honoree, the firm positions itself as a modern, digital-first alternative to traditional property managers.

From Renting to Owning

Rumora's advice to people who want to own real estate starts less with complicated investment strategies and more with financial discipline.

He remembers when money was tight for him. He described eating peanut butter for breakfast and drinking inexpensive gas-station coffee simply to keep going.

"But one thing that I always did was I paid my rent," he shares.

That experience reinforced something he still emphasizes: People need to understand where their money comes from, where it goes and how they can save toward a larger goal.

"Live below your means," he advises.

Simple advice does not always mean easy advice.

For families trying to move from renting to owning, education can become a critical first step. Rumora believes people need more information about saving for a down payment, managing money and understanding what homeownership actually requires.

"These things aren't taught in school," he says. "You don't learn in school how to invest money, how to save money, or how to spend diligently."

For Black Toledoans, that knowledge can carry particular weight. Home-

ownership represents more than a roof. It can create equity, stability and something a family can eventually pass down.

Who Gets a Seat at the Table?

There is another part of the real estate conversation that deserves attention: Who participates in the industry itself?

Rumora described OZ Realty as a mostly female local team. He identified employees working in business development, office management, finance, leasing, maintenance and the front office. The company also works with remote employees in the Philippines.

"We are pretty diverse," he says of his broader team.

He describes the workplace as "very casual, very fun, very down to earth," where employees enjoy working together, as "life's too short" not to enjoy what you do.

That distinction matters.

For residents watching investors purchase and renovate property in their neighborhoods, representation should not stop with who rents the home or who handles the maintenance request.

Who owns the properties?

Who gets the contracts?

Who gets hired?

Who learns the real estate business?

And perhaps most importantly, who gets the chance to become an investor themselves?

Those questions belong in the larger wealth conversation happening across Toledo.

Building for Toledo's Future

Rumora is not simply talking about Toledo's potential. He is investing in it.

He recently purchased a commercial building near Adams Street and plans to develop it into six apartments with retail space.

He remains optimistic about downtown Toledo and believes the city deserves significant investment in its infrastructure, schools and neighborhoods.

"I think this market deserves it," he notes.

But his biggest wish goes beyond more investors.

Rumora suggests he would love to see someone with deep ties to the re-

... continued on page 13



Suzette and George Cowell Celebrate 50 Years of Love and Life

A golden anniversary filled with family, friendship, music and memories

By Valerie Simmons-Walston

Guest Contributor



Suzette and George Cowell

Love was in the air as more than 150 family members and friends gathered at the Gesu Conference Hall on Saturday, September 12, to celebrate an extraordinary milestone – 50 years of marriage for George and Suzette Cowell, ThD.

The evening was more than an anniversary celebration – it was a tribute to five decades of love, family, friendship and a life built together.

The celebration began on a beautiful note as the Cowells made their grand entrance to Natalie Cole's classic "inseparable," a fitting tribute for a

... continued on page 10



The Cowells



Family and Friends



Valerie Simmons-Walston introduces family members to the audience



Suzette cuts the cake



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OJPC Applauds New Law to Speed Up Process for Formerly Incarcerated People to Qualify for Jobs

Special to The Truth

The Ohio Justice and Policy Center (OJPC) applauded Gov. Mike DeWine this week for signing House Bill 268, a new law that will modify the waiting period for individuals with felony convictions to apply for a Certificate of Qualification for Employment (CQE).

CQEs help people overcome legal barriers to get a job or occupational license once they leave prison. "This is great news. This new law gives formerly incarcerated people new hope for the opportunity to work and begin contributing to their communities sooner rather than later. They can apply for a Certificate of Qualification for Employment one year after their release. This is a giant step forward in reforming our criminal justice system that benefits everyone in our society," said Gabe Davis, chief executive officer for the Ohio Justice & Policy Center.

"We knocked down walls to housing, and now we are helping formerly incarcerated individuals break down barriers to a good job. We know the chances to make it for people after leaving prison are so dependent on their opportunity to find a good job and good housing. There is still more work to be done, but we believe HB 268 will help more people return to their communities in helpful ways instead of returning to prison," said Michaela Burris, policy director for the Ohio Justice & Policy Center.

The Ohio Justice and Policy Center is a 501(c)3 nonprofit law firm with offices in Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Columbus, Ohio. We fight for equal justice and fair treatment in all stages of incarceration, because every person deserves dignity after their conviction and freedom after their sentence. To learn more about our work and our ongoing initiatives, visit <https://ohiojpc.org/>.

Suzette and George Cowell...continued from page 8

couple whose lives have been intertwined for half a century.

Music continued to tell the story of their love throughout the evening. Big Woo delivered a special performance of two songs that were played at the Cowells' wedding 50 years ago: "Love Don't Love Nobody" and "You Are My Starship." The performance was a surprise for George, lovingly arranged by his bride, Suzette.

One of the evening's most touching moments came during "You Are My Starship," when the emcee invited other couples in attendance to join the Cowells on the dance floor. Soon, the floor was filled with couples celebrat-

ing not only George and Suzette's marriage, but also the enduring power of love and commitment.

Their children and grandchildren offered heartfelt well wishes, sharing memories and words of appreciation for the example of love and family the Cowells have provided over the years. Friends also came from near and far to honor the couple, including one special friend from California to be part of the celebration.

The memorable moments continued as Darius Coleman serenaded the couple while they cut their 50th anniversary cake, adding another special touch to an evening filled with music and emotion.

Perhaps one of the most memorable reflections of the night came from George Cowell himself. He shared that his mother was 53 years old on the day that he and Suzette were married. Fifty years later, she was there once again – this time to witness and help celebrate their golden wedding anniversary.

It was a powerful reminder of the generations, memories and blessings represented in the room.

For Suzette and George Cowell, the evening celebrated much more than a date on the calendar, it honored 50 years of choosing one another, building family, creating memories and traveling through life side-by-side.

Surrounded by more than 150 people who have been touched by their lives, the Cowells celebrated a milestone few couples are fortunate enough to experience.

"I am ecstatic that my brother-in-law, George, whom I have loved unconditionally for years now, because of the way he has loved my sister and the compassion he has given her," Tina Butts, Suzette's sister, told The Truth. "He has given her everything she has ever asked for and on top of all that love, the beautiful nephews and nieces they have blessed me with. I have been so honored to walk in their footsteps along with God. Happy Anniversary!"

Fifty years. One love. One life built together.

It was truly an evening to celebrate love – and a good time was had by all.



Karen Harris



Henry 'Woo' King

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The September IMA Meeting

The Truth Staff

If you are new in town or even if you have been around for a while and have a need to learn more about the services and opportunities available in the Glass City, one of the best ways to get that information is by attending the monthly Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance meetings held at Mt. Nebo Baptist Church.

Normally held on the first Monday of each month, the September meeting was postponed to the second Monday due to the Labor Day holiday. Once again, an hour and a half was packed with information about happenings around Toledo.

This month's meeting, moderated by Rev. Cedric Brock, pastor of Mt. Nebo Baptist Church and president of the IMA, on September 14, featured, first on the agenda, Romules Durant, EdD, superintendent of Toledo Public Schools, who spoke of the impact TPS' wide range of educational opportunities has on those students whose interests may lie outside of traditional reading, writing and arithmetic offerings.

"We want kids to see where their talents lie," said Durant during his opening presentation. "Our goal is that every child graduates but graduates with industry credentials."

Avis Files, the longtime – 10 years – director

of Pathway's Brothers United program, has taken over the leadership of the Lucas County Fatherhood Network and, in that capacity, also works on issues such as infant mortality health and child welfare, especially as those issues relate to fathers.

"If we invest in our fathers, we can change the trajectory of this community," said Files.

Anita Madison, of Ohio Unity, introduced the issue of voting, an issue that would be repeated by a number of presenters given the timeliness of the issue. "We are gearing up to get our people out to vote," said Madison of the effort that started the very next day, Tuesday, September 15, at the new offices of Ohio Unity at 1565 S. Byrne Rd, which featured a rally on National Voter Registration Day.

State Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson iterated Madison's call for voter awareness and the ability of all those in the room to make sure that local residents are registered and actually get out to the polls. Early voting starts on October 6 this year.

"You can get people to the polls," said Hicks-Hudson to her listeners. "Ask yourself if you know 50 people and can get them to the Board of Elections, then tell them to each get five people to the polls."

A wide range of presenters gave the attendees a quick vision of what their organizations had to offer, such as Jason Kusma, CEO of the Toledo Lucas County Public Library; Tina Williams of the Area Office on Aging; Allison Huff of the Zepf Center; Elaine Page of the Grace Community Center; Latoya Morgan of the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union; Darlene Sweeney Newbern of the Toledo NAACP; Blair Johnson of the Greater Toledo Realtist Association; Harvey Savage, Jr, of the Kitchen for the Poor; John Jones, of HOPE Toledo.

The theme of voter registration and getting people to the polls was recurring. Harold Harris, former independent candidate for mayor spoke passionately about the subject near the end of the meeting as did Shaun Strong, who is part of Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur's Black Leadership Table re-election campaign.

The next IMA meeting will be at Mt. Nebo on October 5.



Avis Files



Rev. Otis Gordon, Rev. James Willis present Toledo NAACP President Darlene Sweeney Newbern with a donation as Rev. Cedric Brock looks on



Bishop Robert Culp (center), and his successor at First Church of God, Bishop Robert Davis, Jr. (right) close out the IMA meeting



Romules Durant, EdD



Rev. John Jones



State Sen. Paula Hicks-Hudson



Terry Crosby (right) introduces Erickka Jones, who has started a new local podcast

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Building Better Futures

STEM Education Is on the Rise in America's Afterschool Programs

Special to The Truth

Millions of people are concerned that artificial intelligence (AI) and other technological advances will take away the jobs people need to support themselves and their families. But a new study finds that many more afterschool programs are providing STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education to prepare children and youth for the workforce of the future.



The study from the Afterschool Alliance, "Afterschool STEM Takes Off," finds that 92% of parents of afterschool students now say their child's program offers STEM learning – a significant increase from a decade ago. But access for students in rural communities and low-income families is lagging, and more than three in four children and youth whose parents want afterschool programs for them are not enrolled at all.

There has been a dramatic jump in parents reporting their children engage with STEM in their afterschool programs, from 69 percent in 2014, to 73 percent in 2020, to 92 percent – or 6.4 million students – today. A majority of families today (54 percent) report that their children engage with STEM in afterschool at least two or three times per week. But parents with low incomes report significantly less frequency than parents with higher incomes.

Rural families also face barriers to accessing STEM in afterschool, with 88% of rural families reporting that STEM activities are available in their child's afterschool program, compared to 96% of urban parents. Rural par-

ents also report less tech and computer science in afterschool programs than urban parents.

"STEM literacy is no longer optional. It's the foundation of nearly every aspect of our world today. We're counting on the next generation to ensure AI and other innovations are used responsibly and in ways that improve our lives," says Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. "Afterschool is an optimal setting for STEM education because it creates opportunities for students to explore their interests and see how hands-on engagement with STEM can solve real-world problems outside the school day. We are thrilled with the tremendous uptick in afterschool STEM learning."

Most parents agree this is important. Three in five (61 percent) report satisfaction with the STEM offerings in their child's afterschool program. Among the other findings:

- There were increases in STEM in afterschool from 2014 to 2025 in every state.
- Parents of boys and girls report similar levels of access to STEM in their child's afterschool program, but parents of girls prioritize computer science, technology and engineering less than parents of boys.
- Parents prioritize STEM, and specifically computer science, more as their children age.

According to advocates, the following policy recommendations will continue the progress:

- Increase funding to meet the demand for afterschool and summer programs.
- Ensure afterschool programs are included as partners in legislation focused on education and training in emerging STEM fields.
- Increase targeted investments in computer science, technology and engineering offerings in afterschool programs.
- Increase investments in afterschool programs serving rural communities.

To learn more and read the full report, visit <https://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/landing/>.

"We need to continue the progress and, most of all, ensure that millions more children and youth can access afterschool programs and the STEM learning opportunities they provide," Grant says. "As long as 22.6 million students whose parents want afterschool programs for them are missing out, we have urgent unfinished business."

Courtesy StatePoint

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Laws of Solomon by Eriq La Salle

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

Finally, after so much work, you've left your past behind.

That's what you tell yourself: what's done is done and you can't undo history. It's over. You try not to think about last month, last year, a decade back because what does it matter? As in the new novel, **Laws of Solomon** by Eriq La Salle, remembering is too full of pain.

The monsters that came to him early in his sleep were the easy ones. It was the later demons that stole Solomon Nangobi's sleep, the spirits of all the people he killed when he was a child soldier in Uganda, and when he was a fixer in New York as an adult. Their ghosts called to him with urgent voices, though he left that life behind long ago.

Now his days were filled working the soil in gardens near Malibu, and he loved the quite life. Still, he kept his guns.

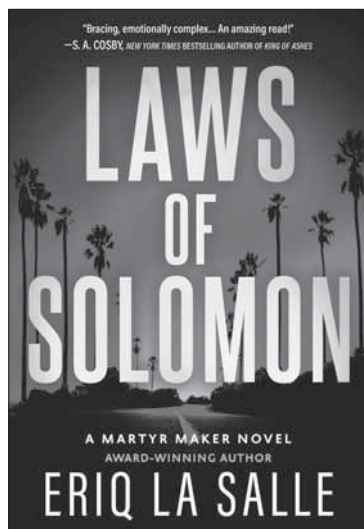
And he was glad: when Solomon recognized two Zeta gunmen stalking a well-dressed man, woman, and child through the gardens, he couldn't walk away. He stopped the gangsters with bullets, but not before the adults and their bodyguards were dead. The child, an eight-year-old boy named Gaby,

was safe, but Gaby couldn't tell Solomon what was going on.

What became quickly certain, however, was that Solomon was now Gaby's guardian, and the Zeta crime boss wanted them dead, too.

When he was the same age as Gaby, Solomon saw unspeakable things, the murder of his parents, the destruction of his homeland, and the atrocities that Idi Amin's soldiers committed. He learned to kill, he observed, and he was hardened, understanding as a small boy that revenge was often necessary and needed, and that blood would shed at those times. But Gaby was pure, an innocent, a child.

c. 2026
Poisoned Pen Press
\$18.99
304 pages



Solomon reached out to his contacts to try to get the boy to safety, but being a contact of a marked man was likewise a dangerous thing: the monsters outside were worse than the ones inside him...

Two words for you: Whoo weee. That's what you're going to say when you close the back cover of **Laws of Solomon**, knowing that you've just been taken on a wild up-and-down, around-and-round ride.

Author Eriq La Salle makes it impossible not to like Solomon, an African man who has, over time, lost nearly everything dear to him and who has no faith in much of anything. Readers get that part of the story eventually, and there's historical authenticity in some of it, but we never really get to know Solomon, which makes the book feel dark and dangerous. Along the way, we meet and get to know his helpers, which buoys Solomon's chase to find safety for the boy, and your heart won't stop pounding.

Keep in mind that this is a thriller partially set in 1970s Uganda, so expect lots of violence but don't expect a lot of people to live. If you're up for that, find **Laws of Solomon**. You won't be able to leave it behind.



Laws of Solomon
author, courtesy c)
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Allister Foster

Keys Change Hands...continued from page 7

gion make a major investment in Toledo, similar to what Dan Gilbert has done in Detroit. (Gilbert is the founder of Bedrock, among other holdings, a full-service real estate firm that has invested roughly \$7.5 billion to acquire, restore, and manage more than 140 properties in downtown Detroit.)

That vision points to something bigger than real estate.

Cities are not just collections of properties. They are people, families, memories and dreams.

The Bigger Opportunity

Rumora says he has no hidden agenda when he speaks publicly about real estate. He wants to offer value and perhaps give someone a piece of advice that changes what they believe is possible.

"Sometimes all it takes is one sentence in a book or someone that you hear on a radio interview that kicks you into gear and gets you going," he adds.

Maybe Toledo's greatest opportunity is not choosing between local resi-

... continued on page 14



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What's Happening This Week in Toledo

Tuesday, September 15

Toledo Homesteaders Network

Your Community Market, 1501 Nebraska Ave. | 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

This session will be Home Budget Basics

Pickleball Clinic: Trilby Park

Trilby Park, 3125 Shawnee Rd. | 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Each two-week session is \$20 per person. Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6-8 p.m. Must be 18 or older to register. (<https://secure.rec1.com/OH/toledo-oh/catalog?filter=c2VhcmNoPTQzMDE5Mzk=>)

Wednesday, September 16

Join Toledo Fire & Rescue Informational Meeting

Goodwill Building Basement, 1120 Madison Ave | 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

There will be a second session at 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Register here (<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/a1c4272f48814682820bcb4645f661c5>)

Thursday, September 17

Pickleball Clinic: Trilby Park

Trilby Park, 3125 Shawnee Rd. | 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Each two-week session is \$20 per person. Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6-8 p.m. Must be 18 or older to register. (<https://secure.rec1.com/OH/toledo-oh/catalog?filter=c2VhcmNoPTQzMDE5Mzk=>)

Saturday, September 19

Urban Wholistics Pop-Up Market - 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. 1209 City Park - Urban Wholistics provides fresh, healthy and affordable produce directly to the community!

Swayne Field Pop-Up Produce Market: Saturday Market

Swayne Field, 3030 Monroe St. | 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The Swayne Field Pop-up Produce Market, in partnership with Al Peake & Sons Food Service, is bringing fresh, healthy, and affordable produce directly to the community! Be sure to check out the Halloween Harvest on October 24.

More to Explore

Explore More Pass (<https://explore.toledo.oh.gov/checkout/1063/city-of-toledo-oh/4881/explore-toledo>)

This mobile exclusive passport is a collection of curated parks, special events and more for you to explore this year in Toledo.

Pickleball Clinics (<https://toledo.oh.gov/summer/pickleball-clinics>)

Limited spots will fill up fast! Each two-week session is \$20. Must be 18 or older to register.

Kayak at Cullen Park (<https://toledo.oh.gov/residents/parks/kayaking>)

Self-serve rental lockers are stocked with equipment for your kayak adventure!

Golf Muni Courses (<https://www.toledocitygolf.com/>)

Schedule your tee time at one of our three public courses.

Keys Change Hands...continued from page 13

dents and outside investors. Maybe it is creating a city where both can contribute to its next chapter.

Investment can bring capital. Renovation can breathe new life into old properties. New businesses can fill once-empty storefronts. And with the right knowledge and resources, local residents can find their own pathways into ownership, entrepreneurship and investment.

That possibility begins with access to information and the belief that real estate is not a world reserved for someone else.

For the Toledo resident saving for a first home, the entrepreneur searching for a storefront, the family hoping to leave something behind, or the person simply wondering where to begin, opportunity can start with a single question: **How can Toledo make sure the people who call this city home have a meaningful opportunity to benefit from its growth?**

Embracing Toledo's Next Chapter

Toledo is changing. Its neighborhoods are evolving, new investment is arriving, and the city continues to write its story.

The most encouraging part is that the next chapter has not been written yet.

There is room for investors. There is room for homeowners. There is room for entrepreneurs, developers, renters and dreamers.

And there is room for Toledo residents to step forward, learn the game and become part of the investment in their own community.

Because when the keys change hands, they do not have to represent the end of one story.

Sometimes, they can be the beginning of another.

Learn More About Oz Realty as they bridge the gap between local real estate and global capital. They provide both in-state and out-of-state investors with hands-off, flat-fee portfolio management, offer renters a seamless, digital-first leasing experience, and support local residents by providing quality housing that strengthens community neighborhoods.

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September 16, 2026

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Electronic proposals will be received by the Board of County Commissioners of Lucas County, Ohio, by the Purchasing Department, One Government Center, Suite 480, Toledo, Ohio 43604-2247 until 2:00 P.M. (local time), September 15, 2026 and opened immediately thereafter for **#2184-Request for Proposals for Centralized Record Storage** for the Lucas County Clerk of Courts Records Center, according to specifications available for examination, or download the proposal by going to the site, <http://www.co.lucas.oh.us/bids.asp>. Suppliers interested in doing business with Lucas County must register in the Supplier Portal. To access the Lucas County Oracle Supplier Portal, please visit: https://eieb.fa.us6.oraclecloud.com/fscmUI/faces/NegotiationAbstracts?prcBuld=300000007278812&_adf.ctrlstate=l5ps8sau3_1&_af_rLoop=7126760101772357&_afWindow-Mode=0&_afWindowId=avudlxmca&_afFS=16&_afMT=screen&_afMFW=1920&_afMFH=932&_afMFDW=1920&_afMFDH=1080&_afMFC=8&_afMFCI=0&_afMFM=0&_afMFR=96&_afMFG=0&_afMFS=0&_afMFO=0

Prior to 2:00 P.M. (local time), September 15, 2026 each proposal shall contain the full name of each person submitting the proposal and the name of every person or company interested in same. The right is reserved to reject any and all bids.

By order of the Board of County Commissioners, Lucas County, Ohio.
Lisa A. Sobecki – President
Pete Gerken – Commissioner
Anita Lopez – Commissioner

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES RFP26-R010

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Environmental Services in accordance with RFP26-R010**. Received in accordance with law until **September 21, 2026, at 3:00 PM EST**. For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



TOLEDO FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT HIRING SOON

Information sessions are being held on September 16, October 7, October 22 and November 3 at 10 am and 7 pm each day!

Goodwill Building – 1120 Madison Avenue – Meeting room in the basement

AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING DIRECTOR

The Padua Center is seeking an After School Tutoring Director, the Nia Program. The successful applicant will have experience in an educational field as either a teacher or classroom aide. The main responsibilities of the Director are to provide tutoring and educational enrichment to about 15 elementary school children from 2:30-5:30 Monday through Thursday, beginning September 8, 2026 and will continue until the end of the school year. Volunteer helpers are available. Transportation and meals are managed by other employees. Pay range is \$17-\$20 an hour. Approximately 12 hours a week.

Please submit resume to thepaduacenter@gmail.com

For more information call: The Padua Center, 419 241 6465

GET READY TO SHOP TILL YOU DROP

Come out Saturday, September 12, from 10 AM to 6 PM for the Shop Till You Drop Community Garage Sale at Solomon Temple MBC, 573 Nebraska Avenue.

We're looking for vendors, food vendors, local businesses and community sellers to join us. Vendor spaces are available for just a \$40 donation, with proceeds benefiting the Solomon Temple Building Fund.

Come shop for great deals, hidden treasures, food and more while supporting a great cause. For vendor information, contact MZ at 419-514-0203 or Linda Lee at 419-699-0396.

Shop! Sell! Support! And don't miss the fun!!

CSU DAY IN TOLEDO

Central State University will host **CSU Day in Toledo** on **September 26-27, 2026, at Third Baptist Church, 402 Pinewood Ave., Toledo**. Students and families from Northwest Ohio are invited to meet with university representatives, learn about admissions, scholarships, financial aid, academic programs, and student life.

OFFICE SPACES FOR RENT

Several to choose from in the heart of the Warren Sherman area – corner of Franklin and Bancroft and close to the Wayman Palmer YMCA. Contact 419-509-0492 for more information

Call to place your ad:

419-243-0007

www.TheTruthToledo.com

The 12th Annual Motown Dinner & Dance Cruise

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Editor



Dancing to the music



Donnetta Carter donates to the Corvette Club

It was another thoroughly delightful night aboard the Detroit Princess on Friday, August 28, as about 140 guests, mostly from Toledo, joined Donnetta Carter – the Social Butterfly – and the rest of the groups on the second level of the Princess, on a cruise of the Detroit River to enjoy a sumptuous buffet, to view the waterfront structures of Detroit and Windsor and to dance and sing along to music by the crowd-pleasing Prolifics, who once again dazzled their audience with their Motown renditions.

One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of a donation by Carter to the Competition Corvette Club



The Windsor viewmembers



of Ohio in the amount of \$1,800. Carter has donated funds on every cruise to a worthy Toledo-area group or organization that is providing important services to the community.

The Detroit Princess, in the meantime, cruised north past Bois Blanc (Boblo) Island and, turning, floated down past the Ambassador Bridge before turning again and returning to dock at around 9:30.

As the sun set and the ship cruised past the sights along the river, the guests on the second deck sang along to the music of the Temptations, the Miracles, the Four Tops, Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye and more – the Motown R & B legends of the 60s and 70s. The Prolifics, the house band for the Detroit Princess, were effusive in their praise for the enthusiastic audience.

The Prolifics concluded their act by reimagining the famous Soul Train disco line and audience members strutted their stuff on the dance floor.

In addition to the Social Butterfly, other sponsors for the 12th annual Motown Dinner & Dance Cruise were Tayler Automotive and The Sojourner's Truth.



Toledo Competition Corvette Club members



The Prolifics



Shonda Jones and Donnetta Carter

HOUSE OF DAY FUNERAL SERVICE 2550 NEBRASKA AVENUE TOLEDO, OHIO 43607

PREPLAN TODAY!

CALL TODAY: 419-534-2550



NEED PEACE OF MIND CONCERNING YOUR FINAL ARRANGEMENTS?

Call today to make an appointment to let us assist you with your PRE-PLANNING.



*We accept all preneed agreements.