



# THE TOLEDO JOURNAL

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Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



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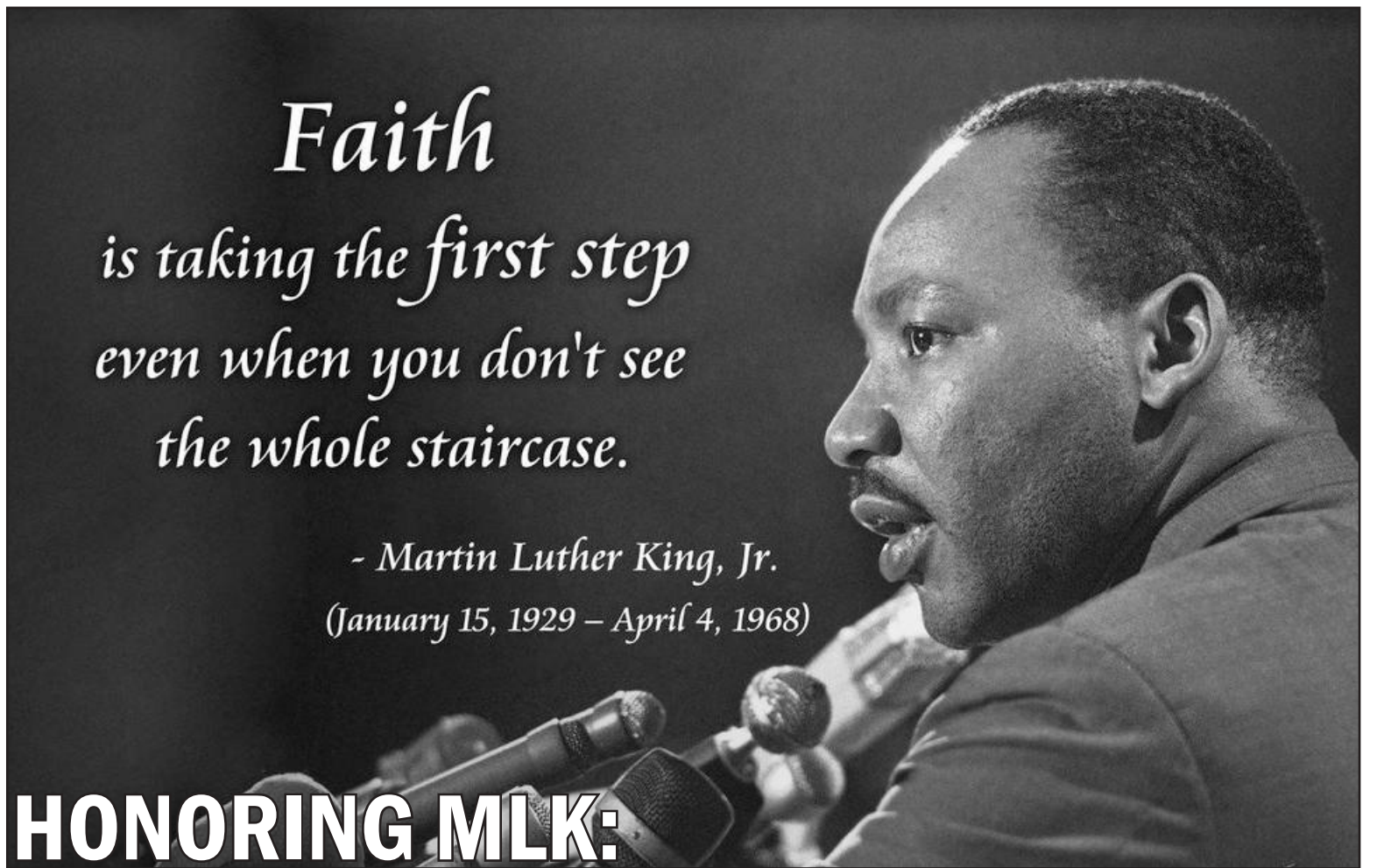
## AUTO/SPORTS

Franklin Park Lincoln, Mike Colbert gifted over 100 families



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EVERYBODY IS SOMEBODY IN THE TOLEDO JOURNAL



*Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.*

- Martin Luther King, Jr.  
(January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968)

## HONORING MLK: The unfinished journey towards economic freedom



By Charlene Crowell  
Senior Fellow, Center for Responsible Lending



This January 15, our nation again will observe the only national holiday designated as a day of service. The Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday was first observed in 1986. But it took another 17 years for all 50 states to recognize the holiday, according to the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture.

While Rev. King dedicated his life to the pursuit of freedom, peace, and justice for all Americans, too many economically marginalized people are reduced to fighting over scraps while others enjoy the nation's economic bounty.

In 2022, 37.9 million people – 11.5 percent of the nation – lived in poverty, according to the Census Bureau. Additionally, Black individuals made up 20.1% of the population in poverty in 2022 but only 13.5 percent of the total population. Black individuals made up 20.1% of the population in poverty in 2022 but only 13.5 percent of the to-

tal population, according to the Census Bureau.

The federal minimum wage, currently at \$7.25 an hour, has not increased since July 2009, according to the federal Bureau of Labor Standards.

And despite increases that take effect in many states in 2024, workers still earn only \$7.25 per hour in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee and Wyoming, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL).

On December 10, 1964, Gunnar Jahn, Chairman of the Nobel Committee presented its Nobel Peace Prize to Dr. King saying in part, "[D]iscrimination will still persist in the economic field and in social intercourse. Realistic as he is, Martin Luther King knows this."

Accepting the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, Dr. King said, "I am mindful that debilitating and

grinding poverty afflicts my people and chains them to the lowest rung of the economic ladder."

"The tortuous road which has led from Montgomery, Alabama to Oslo bears witness to this truth," Dr. King continued. "This is a road over which millions of Negroes are travelling to find a new sense of dignity... I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits. I believe that what self-centered men have torn down men other-centered can build up."

"This faith can give us courage to face the uncertainties of the future," added Dr. King. "It will give our tired feet new strength as we continue our forward stride toward the city of freedom... Today I come to Oslo as a trustee, inspired and with renewed dedication to humani-

ty. I accept this prize on behalf of all men who love peace and brotherhood. I say I come as a trustee, for in the depths of my heart I am aware that this prize is much more than an honor to me personally."

Dr. King would urge Americans to remain vigilant and vocal in fighting attacks against diversity, equity, and inclusion.

A true tribute to Dr. King would be a renewed groundswell of advocacy that ensures our march towards full freedom refuses to go back; but instead moves forward in the same determination of his life's work. Social equity cannot be sustained without economic parity.

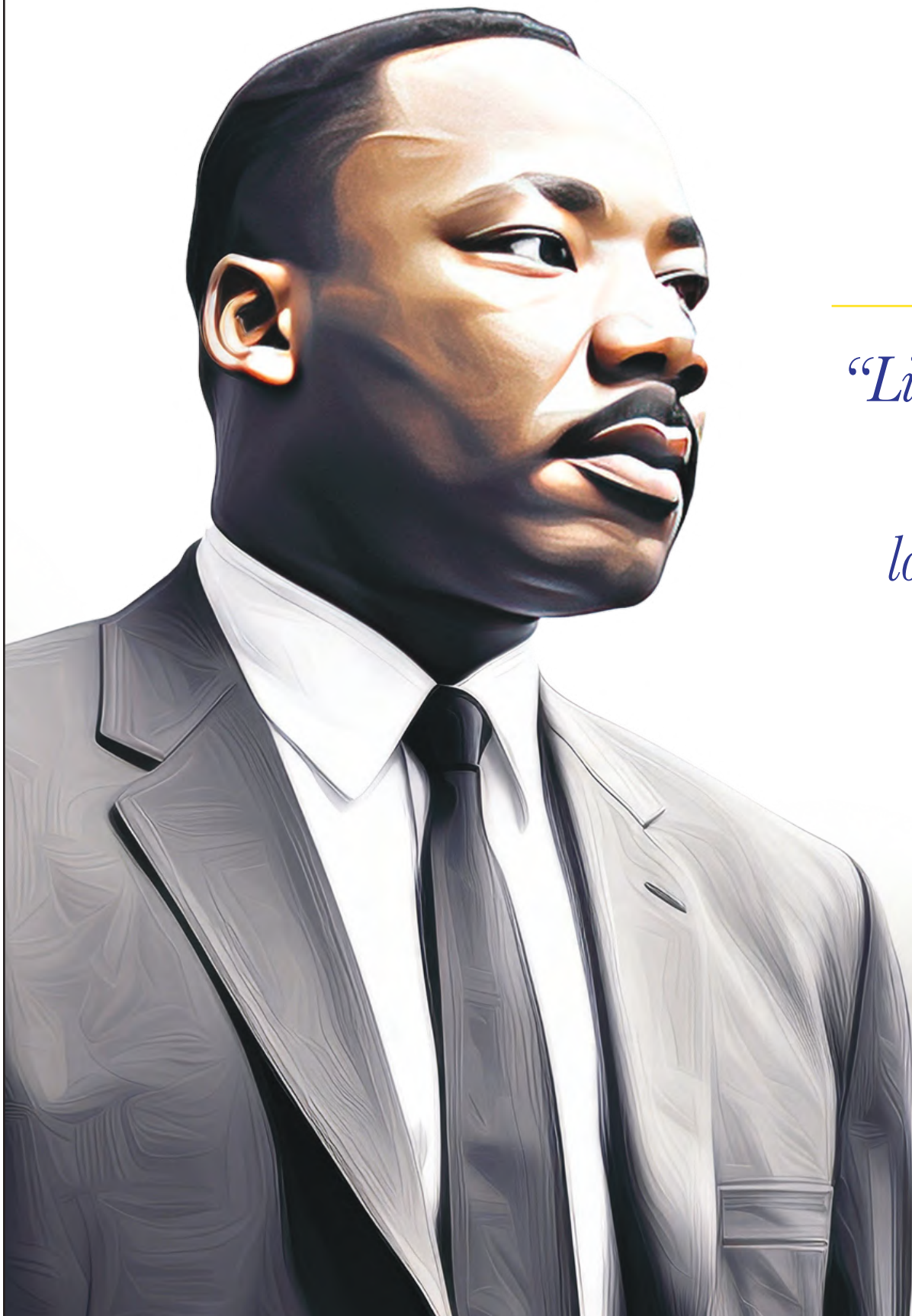
As a people and as a nation, let us confront these and other challenges in his memory.

Charlene Crowell is a senior fellow with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at [Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org](mailto:Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org).

AREA OFFICE ON AGING OF NORTHWESTERN OHIO

We Honor Him By Helping Others Have What He Desired...

# LONGEVITY



*“Like anybody, I would like to have a long life — longevity has its place.”*

— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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## What are your expectations for the year 2024?



**Charlie Neely**  
Business Owner

My expectation is there will be more government funding for small, Black business owners because it looks as if the government wants to provide those funds. Also, due to the rise in crime and how it affects all of us, it seems as if the local government wants to do more youth programming in order to help curb the violence. And it seems as if the government wants to address the homelessness problem, especially since the government is revitalizing the downtown area. Those are my expectations and hopes.



**Antwon Ezell**  
Student

With all of the problems in society, I think people will start to become united, in order to solve those problems. Right now, so many of us are divided and compete against one another, but the problems we're experiencing will force us to become united; that's my expectations and my hope.



**Penny Modeisett**  
Janitorial

My expectation is that the government will do more for elderly people trying to purchase a home. In order for the economy to thrive, there has to be home ownership, but currently, it's really hard for elderly people to buy a house, due to fixed income and age. So in order to make a healthier economy, I believe the government will make it easier for the elderly to purchase homes.



**Geri Griffin**  
Medical Receptionist

My expectations for the year is I'll be more focused on my finances and relationships; something I hope others will do, especially healthy relationships. Healthy relationships not only make a happier couple or friends or co-workers, but it eventually makes a happier society. With a happier society, there's a potential of reduced crime.



**Ebony Daniels**  
Social Worker

My expectation for 2024 is that the government will do more for people with mental health issues. Many of the homeless population struggles with various mental conditions which ultimately affects the society, so I believe the government will start investing in those with mental health issues and the homeless.



**Twanda Harris**  
Social Worker

My expectations for me is to work on getting my Master's Degree, put myself in a better financial bracket and continue to care for my grandchildren. Extended family being involved in the wellbeing of children is so important. Grandparents have always been involved with their grandchildren; even celebrities mention how the grandmother or grandfather played an important role in their life. The more involvement by extended family members, the greater the success of the child. Unfortunately, I've heard some of the more modern grandparents are willing to leave their grandchildren in foster care, which doesn't make sense to me. Not only are the children going to suffer, but potentially, the overall society because that child was neglected. Plus, the interaction between the grandparents and their grandchildren may be able to help that parent become better at parenting.



### Congratulations to Ms. Anita Lopez being appointed to vacant Lucas County Commissioners seat

The Board of Lucas County Commissioners congratulates Anita Lopez, who on January 8, 2024 was appointed as a Lucas County Commissioner by the Lucas County Democratic Party Central Committee.

She previously held the position as Lucas County Auditor.

"I encourage residents to continue to reach out to me in my new role. I'm not going to change how I

respond to folks," Commissioner Lopez said. "We have some big projects underway in Lucas County. I'm excited to get started."

The Commissioners on Monday appointed Emmanuel Yakumithis, the Auditor's Chief of Staff, as Acting Auditor of Lucas County to perform the Auditor's duties until an officer is appointed by the Lucas County Democratic Party Central Committee.

## Coming Events/Announcements

**Jan. 11th**  
Please Join Us for Conversations with Youth & Parents

**Teenagers on social media Understanding and Managing Privacy**

January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Northern Ohio Regional Efforts Aimed to Combat Human Trafficking (REACH) in collaboration with NANBPWC / Maumee Bay Club and other community partners will be presenting "Conversations with Youth & Parents, Teenagers on Social Media, Understanding and Managing Privacy".

This event will be held THURSDAY, JANUARY 11TH from 3:30pm-5:30pm at the Kent Branch Library located at 3101 COLLINGWOOD BLVD TOLEDO OH 43610.

For more information about this event Brenda Holsley, REACH Community Engagement Committee at (419) 450-5239 or sophinenaturals@gmail.com

**Jan. 12th**  
Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union Grand Opening of Our Monroe Branch

Friday, January 12, 2024 - 10:00 a.m.  
Please RSVP to Czaria Packer at cpacker@toledourban.net  
Or 419-255-8876 ext. 205

**Jan. 14th**  
A Celebration of MLK Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Making The Dream a Reality: Your Vote Is Your Voice is the theme of this year's event commemorating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The event will be held at Glenwood Lutheran Church. Sen. Paula Hicks-Hudson is the keynote speaker, Music Coordinator, Dr. Anthony Pattin. Sunday, Jan 14th, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. There will be a chamber music prelude beginning at 3:30 p.m. Glenwood Lutheran Church 2545 Monroe Street, Toledo, OH. All are welcome!

**Jan. 15th**  
2024 MLK Experience and Unity Day Celebration

City of Toledo, University of Toledo, and Human Relations Commission of Toledo Announce 2024 MLK Experience and Unity Day Celebration Programs, including Key to the City Presentation. 23rd annual Unity Day Celebration "I AM the dream". Mayor Kapszukiewicz will present the Key to the City to Darryl Brown, Founder/Creative Director of Midwest Kids Inc & Darryl Brown LLC, in recognition for his outstanding achievements in the fashion and entertainment industries. Virtually from 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**Jan 15th**  
MLK Day Church Service Celebration

LoSalem Baptist Church Pastor John F. Savage Sr., The MLK Kitchen for the Poor. MLK Day Church Service Celebration, Monday, January 15th, 660 Vance St. Toledo, OH. Start Service 10:00 AM, Guest Speaker: Pastor Marquisa Horton, Corinth Baptist Church.

# THE TWILIGHT OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY



By Lafe Tolliver, Attorney

"Due to the sensitive nature of this report, Lafe Tolliver is reporting, for safety reasons, from an undisclosed location in Toronto, Canada. Due to security concerns, his location will be changed every two weeks."

Dateline: January 25, 2025. The highly contested presidential election is over, and Donald Trump assumed the title of President in a swearing in ceremony at Mar-A-Lago presided over by a smiling Justice Clarence Thomas, with the Bible held by his wife, Ginni Thomas.

Only Fox News, Newsmax and OAN reporters were allowed into the brief ceremony. Jim Jordan, his surprise V.P. pick, read off the list of well-wishers which included telegrams from Kim Jung-un, Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping, all expressing their hopes for a successful four-

year term.

After a congratulatory meal of McDonald's Big Macs, fries and shakes, President Trump and his chosen chief of staff, Stephen Miller and his Secretary of Homeland Security, Steven Bannon, got down to business.

ITEMS ON THE AGENDA FOR DAY ONE:

[1] An executive order terminating all entries into the US from the southern border until further notice.

[2] A repeal of Obamacare with a plan yet to be determined.

[3] An order to the Justice Department, now headed by Mark Meadows, to bring criminal charges against Joe Biden and his son, Hunter Biden for "conduct unbecoming US citizens which can be deemed detrimental to the US government."

[4] A four-year extension of the Tax Relief Act which will provide billions of tax credits for the nation's richest one percenters.

[5] A "self-executing" presidential pardon for all the J6 "hostages".

[6] An indefinite hold on all current legal matters involving Donald Trump and

The Justice Department and the firing of prosecutor Jack Smith.

[7] A cessation of military aide to Ukraine.

[8] A twenty-five percent reduction in social security benefits and Medicaid benefits, effective in thirty days.

[9] The US to reduce

its payments to NATO by seventy percent, effective in sixty days.

There were more "executive" orders issued on that fateful date, but my inside source was unable to stay in the same room as those decisions were being made due to her transmitter being blocked by unknown radio frequencies; and as not to blow her cover, she quietly left the White House before risking being accosted by Trump's new personal security corps.

In cities across America, millions of Americans were in the streets protesting these outrageous measures, but they were held in check by the federalized national guard and all cell phone towers were blocked until the guise of being part of a national conspiracy to overthrow the government.

In both the House of Representatives and the US Senate, both chambers were deadlocked due to neither party having a majority by which the Democrats could pass legislation protesting these draconian measures.

In the dead of the night of January 24, 2025, Chuck Shumer, Jamie Raskin, Governor Galvin Newsom, Kamala Harris and The Morning Joe host and his wife were ostensibly kidnapped by members of the Oath Keepers but whose whereabouts are still unknown.

The new head of

the F.C.C., Marjorie Taylor Greene, issued guidelines stating that ABC, NBC, CBS and CNN were to re-evaluate their "biased" news coverage and allow for more diverse views of news reporting.

In order to continue to receive federal funding for education purposes, each state must submit to the Department of Education, as headed by Rudy Giuliani, detailed reports regarding the elimination of references to C.R.T., D.E.I., and "wokeness", the failure of which would result in the elimination of federal funds to their state coffers.

As I report these alarming developments, I can only think of the polling that showed that young people and some minorities, for reasons unknown to the pollsters, were considering voting for Trump despite his known dangers and unstable mental condition.

But seemingly to no avail, enough voters believed that Biden's age was a factor against him, and that Trump was good for the economy.

When quizzed about the ninety-one felony charges against him and his known records for being a pathological liar and proven con, those voters shrugged it off as just, "being politics."

Lafe Tolliver, Attorney

comments to: tolliver@juno.com

## Letter To the Editor Stress And Your Child

Remember back in the day when children enjoyed being children, and when school was so much fun? Activities like basketball games, proms, homecoming, pep assemblies were so exciting. I remember how we talked at the dinner table, enjoying a family meal, going to church on Sunday and discussing topics about the day's activities. What happened to the "good old days"?

Children today are dealing with lot of stressful situations. Back in the day we didn't have to worry about not returning home from school because of an active shooter, killing innocent children, carrying bullet proof back packs, being bullied to the point where they felt like life was not worth, and taking their own life, because of feelings that life wasn't worth living. It has been recorded children young as four, five years old, have died by suicide. Also, drive by shootings taking innocent lives, some were not the intended target, killed senselessly!

Teacher's today is stressed as well, many leaving the field because they are unable to make ends meet from low pay, violence, students who are disrespectful to them, their parents, peers, any authority figure. Just recently a student shot his teacher! Social media, Tic Tock, Face book is exposing our children to dangerous games, that in some cases are life ending. Life styles of families have changed too. Children are living with two moms or two dads, not fully understanding the many ramifications of this lifestyle, because of their young ages. Some African American children think being light skin makes them better than dark skin children, not realizing that some hate groups don't care if you are light or dark skin, you are still considered the "N" word. Some children think that expensive gym shoes, purses, designer clothing, make them better than other children. Back in the day parents worried about diseases like chicken pox, measles or mumps, then along came COVID, it shut our world down for tow years. COVID forced children today to learn a new method of being educated, which for some students caused a lot of stress.

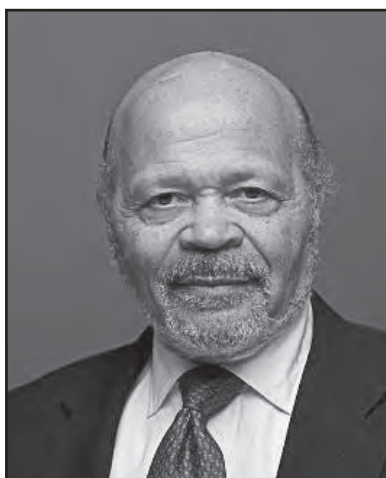
There are no easy answers for relieving stress. Back in the day, we talked to one another. Now cell phones keep our children and adults occupied, decreasing their higher level of functioning. Parents, talk to your children, answer any questions, on any topic, and speak the truth to your child. Demonstrate that your child is important to you by spending time with them, and being a positive example for them. Growing up in church, I feel you MUST raise your child with GOD, religion, and biblical principles. Our children are bombarded with wrong information, lies, coming at them from every direction. Children must be reached with the truth of God's word, let them know that he has meaningful, wonderful plan, for their lives. Teach them how to think, talk, be respectful, let them know there are consequences of wrong behavior, and wrong choices. Teach them moral skills, so they can have safe, happy, productive, Godly lives. Don't let devices influence your child, bring them up in the training and admonition God.

December 7, 2023

Cora Louise Jones

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## IS GAZA'S OIL FUELING GENOCIDE?



By Oscar H. Blayton Wire Writer

In 1973, Golda Meir, then Prime Minister of Israel, remarked about Moses during a state dinner, saying, "He took us 40 years through the desert in order to bring us to the one spot in the Middle East that has no oil."

There was a perception for many decades that the eastern

shore of the Mediterranean Sea was devoid of any oil deposits. But despite this common perception, there have been discoveries of oil and gas in the region. During the past half-century, the Israeli government has drilled approximately 470 wells in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza. Of those, about 120 were exploratory wells drilled in areas of known oil or gas reserves.

The first exploratory drilling began in 1947. In 1955, oil was discovered in the Heletz area, approximately four miles north-east of the northern Gaza border. By 1962, a report estimated that 500 million to 2 billion barrels of oil ultimately would be recovered from under the lands of Israel. By 1979, oil also had been discovered in the Sinai and Gulf of Suez regions, as well as in Israel's coastal plains. But Israel gave up its claims to oil in the Sinai and Gulf of Suez regions when it entered the Egypt-Israel peace treaty in 1979, which returned those

resources to Egypt.

In 1986, the Israeli government suspended all drilling operations in Israel and authorized a comprehensive study to ascertain its potential oil reserves. The study was completed and published in 1988, after which, licenses were granted to several small Israeli publicly traded limited partnerships and several large international oil and gas companies. At this point, large companies became involved in offshore exploration.

During the past several years, significant amounts of natural gas deposits estimated to contain as much as 3.5 trillion cubic feet have been discovered off the coast of Israel and Gaza. However, Israel has used the threat of military action to restrict the development of Gaza's offshore gas deposits, and there are allegations that Israel is exploiting those resources, belonging to Gaza that are estimated to be worth many billions of

continued on page 5

# FUELING GENOCIDE?

*continued from page 4*

dollars.

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTD) issued a study in 2019 stating in part, "Geologists and resources economists have confirmed that the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) lies above sizeable reservoirs of oil and natural gas wealth..." The report went on to express concerns that these are resources that "Israel has begun to exploit for its own benefit, while these resources may be considered shared resources, as the oil and natural gas exist in common pools." The report went on to say, "What could be a source of wealth and opportunities could prove disastrous if these common resources are exploited individually and exclusively, without due regard for international law and norms."

The Palestinian Authority was assured maritime jurisdiction over its waters up to 20 nautical miles from the coast of Gaza by the Oslo II Accord, which was signed in 1995 by the government of Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organization. Signatories from the United States, Russia, Egypt, Jordan, Norway and the European Union signed the accord as witnesses recognizing the stated agreement.

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While reaping financial gain from fossil fuel reserves may be one factor in the current crisis in the Middle East, it is also very clear that the Israeli government opposes the existence of a free and independent nation of Palestine.”

In 1999, The Palestinian Authority signed a 25-year contract for gas exploration with the British Gas Group, and later that year, a large gas field, now known as the "Gaza Marine," was discovered at 17 to 21 nautical miles off the Gaza coast. Since 2007, however, Israel has taken de facto control over Gaza's natural gas reserves and frozen the revenues paid by British Gas Group and demanded that the company deal solely with them. British Gas Group has acquiesced to the Israeli government's demands, and all proceeds from the well go to Israel. The result of this violation of international law is that the funds for Gazans' much-needed development are being denied to them.

In its 2019 report, UNCTD pointed out the inequity that was being imposed on Palestine when it stated, "Israel's exploitation of Palestinian natural resources, including oil and natural gas, imposes on the Palestinian people enormous costs that escalate as the occupation remains in effect."

In addition to the offshore resources discovered off the Gaza coast, it is estimated that more than 1.5 billion barrels of oil lie beneath the occupied West Bank. There are also charges of Israel's appropriation of the Palestinian Territory West Bank's onshore oil field, most of which lies beneath Palestinian territory occupied since the 1967 war, but which Israel claims is located west of the armistice line of 1948.

While it is reported that the United States is asking Israel to allow Palestinians to profit from their gas and

oil and build an independent energy system from offshore gas when the current war ceases, the sense is that the Israeli government will continue to prevent Palestinians from drilling for their own oil and gas.

Policy decisions by the Israeli government appear to be designed to continue to force Palestinians to be dependent upon Israel, both economically and in matters of energy. News reports have given evidence to the fact that the Israeli government even confiscates solar panels in some Palestinian communities. A UNCTD report issued in October 2023 highlighted the Palestinian economy's forced dependency on Israel, citing, among other things, "excessive production and transaction costs and barriers to trade with the rest of the world." These restrictive policies have resulted in Palestine relying on Israel for 72% of its trade in 2022.

According to UNCTD's report, "Living in Gaza in 2022 meant confinement in one of the most densely populated spaces in the world, without electricity half the time, and without adequate access to clean water or a proper sewage system.

"It meant a 65% probability of being poor, 41% probability of dropping out of the labour force in despair, and for those looking for work, a 45% probability of being unemployed." And, as is widely known, even when traveling to the West Bank, Gazans even need permits to move in and out of the Gaza Strip through two land crossing points controlled by Israel.

Past wars have arisen out of the desire to control the flow of oil and reap its profits. So, it is no wonder that some writers claim that control of fossil fuel deposits is a major contributing factor to the Israeli government's relentless attacks upon the Palestinian people.

While reaping financial gain from fossil fuel reserves may be one factor in the current crisis in the Middle East, it is also very clear that the Israeli government opposes the existence of a free and independent nation of Palestine. Allowing Palestine to have control over its own natural resources would ultimately result in it becoming an independent and sustainable nation. The issue then becomes one of existential opposites. The Israeli government claims that for the nation of Israel to exist, there can be no Palestinian nation. In response, Hamas believes that if the nation of Israel will not allow the nation of Palestine to exist, then for there to be a nation of Palestine, there can be no nation of Israel.

This dance of death has devolved into acts of genocide by one side against the other, and the United States is complicit in the carnage.

By allowing the government of Israel to blatantly abuse the rights of innocent Palestinians and clearly siding with the Israeli government when both the Israeli government and Hamas have resorted to violence, the United States has proven itself to be unworthy of any trust as a peacemaker. It is time for new leadership in the global community to step forward and tell the United States to step back because it clearly has failed as a champion of human rights.

It is also time for United States citizens to demand that their government stop fueling this war by supplying arms and being silent when asked to stand up for a cease-fire and human rights.

Oscar H. Blayton is a former Marine Corps combat pilot and human rights activist who practices law in Virginia. His earlier commentaries may be found at <https://oblayton1.medium.com/>

# Black Women and Pay Inequality



By David W. Marshall  
Wire Writer

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Taraji P. Henson is speaking out, and people are listening. It remains to be seen if the award-winning actress will become a catalyst for major changes within the entertainment industry, but her message is much needed.

Henson made her film debut in the 1998 movie *Streetwise* and later received an Oscar nomination for her portrayal of Queenie in *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, starring Brad Pitt. In 2016, she starred with Janelle Monáe and Octavia Spencer in the film *Hidden Figures*, which received three Oscar nominations. Henson is probably best known for her role as Cookie Lyon on the television show *Empire*. During the show's six seasons, Henson won two Emmy nominations and a Golden Globe for her performance.

Despite the depth of talent and the success throughout the careers of Black actresses, Hollywood is not immune from the issue of pay inequality for Black women. It is easy for fans to automatically assume television and movie celebrities have "rich and famous" lifestyles free from financial struggles. When we see so many Black female celebrities in high-profile roles on the big screen, we conclude that they have made it, and the infamous glass ceiling doesn't come to mind. As others have done before her, Henson has returned the spotlight to one of Hollywood's many dark sides.

In a recent conversation on SiriusXM, Henson spoke about how she is still treated as a novice regarding negotiating contracts for film and TV roles. "It seems every time I do something, and I break another glass ceiling, when it's time to renegotiate, I'm at the bottom again, like I never did what I just did," Henson said. There is a report claiming she considered quitting acting altogether. "I'm just tired of working so hard, being gracious at what I do, being paid a fraction of the cost," Henson said. "I'm tired of hearing my sisters say the same thing over and over. You get tired." It is unfortunate that an actress of her talent was brought to the point of giving up due to being undervalued, disrespected, and discriminated against. Race and gender should never determine a person's professional value. In 2019, she told *Variety* that she asked for "half a million" to perform in the movie *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, only to receive \$150,000. The film was a box office hit, grossing approximately \$335 million worldwide against a \$150 million budget.

The combination of racism mixed with sexism is not new. According to the National Women's Law Center, Black women are typically paid only 67 cents

for every dollar paid to white men. The wage gap widens to 65 cents on the dollar for Black women who hold doctorate degrees compared to white men with the same level of education. Pay disparity increases when educational and professional skill levels are the highest, decreasing with fewer skills and education. Emily Martin, vice president of Education and Workplace Justice at the National Women's Law Center, noted, "If you look at workers who don't have a high school diploma, that is the education level at which the wage gap is smallest for Black women, who make a whole 75 cents for every dollar white men because there is more of a cap on lower-wage earners." The Equal Pay Act requires "that men and women in the same workplace be given equal pay for equal work. The jobs need not be identical, but they must be substantially equal." That is the law that is often contradicted by reality. One way companies ultimately get around the pay disparity is to encourage employees to keep their salaries private. As a result,

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Despite the depth of talent and the success throughout the careers of Black actresses, Hollywood is not immune from the issue of pay inequality for Black women.”

the discrimination is not easily discovered.

As entertainment stars, Black actresses have shown their greatest talent in every film genre, from musicals, dramas, romance, and comedies. Many of them, such as Viola Davis, Angela Bassett, Taraji P. Henson, Octavia Spencer, Halle Berry, Alfre Woodard, Whoopi Goldberg, Kerry Washington, Cicely Tyson, Loretta Devine, Mo'Nique, Nia Long, and others have achieved star-power comparable to their white male and female counterparts. Yet, many of them still have horror stories of compensation discrimination.

In addition to Taraji P. Henson's recent remarks, Octavia Spencer has spoken out many times concerning pay inequality in Hollywood. In 2019, she highlighted the importance of men advocating for fair pay for Black actresses. During Spencer's salary negotiations for the Netflix series *Self Made: Inspired by the Life of Madam C.J. Walker*, Executive Producer LeBron James was forced to intervene on her behalf. Mo'Nique, an Oscar winner for her Best Supporting Actress role in the movie *Precious*, sued Netflix for alleged gender and racial bias regarding negotiating her salary. The lawsuit was eventually settled. Beyoncé, the former *Dreamgirls* actress, said it best, "But unless women and men both say this is unacceptable, things will not change. Men have to demand that their wives, daughters, mothers, and sisters earn more—commensurate with their qualifications and not their gender..." Her words are true in addressing the issue of pay disparity everywhere, not just in Hollywood.

David W. Marshall is the founder of the faith-based organization, TRB: The Reconciled Body, and author of the book *God Bless Our Divided America*. He can be reached at [www.davidwmarshallauthor.com](http://www.davidwmarshallauthor.com).

# 2023 Kwanzaa Celebration in Toledo started in 1966 held this year at the Frederick Douglass Center



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

Members of the Kwanzaa House planning committee were (seated L-R) Elsie Harbour, and Kwanzaa House Coordinator Diane Gordon, (standing back L-R) William Davis, Zaniel Williams, Reggie William: Ex. Director Frederick Douglass Center, Kwanzaa House Planning Committee Coordinators: Rodney Gordon Jr., and Rashid Spencer, with Donald Lynn, Brother Washington Mohammad, Oscar O.Shaheer, and Joshua Cunningham.

By Michael Daniels  
Journal Staff Writer

It was that time again and as always; the Frederick Douglass Center came through and served the community once more.

It was time to celebrate Kwanzaa, the unique African American ceremony that was created by Dr. Maulana Ron Karenga, a professor of African American Studies in 1966. He started it as a

method to bring the African American community back together, after the Watts riots, in LA.

It has since caught on and is celebrated during the last seven days of the year across the country by some African American in lieu of or with Christmas.

Kwanzaa is based on seven principles which are Umoja (Unity), Kujichagulla (Self Determination), Ujima (Col-

lective Work and Responsibility) Ujmaa (Cooperative Economics), Nia (Purpose), Kuumba (Creativity) and Imani (Faith). These ideals are observed one at a time each day of the Kwanzaa week in the order listed and by the lighting of a candle in a stand which is called the Kinara, and this is followed by other Kwanzaa related activities.

In Toledo, Ohio the local Kwanzaa celebration began in 1967 in the house of Mrs. Diane Gordon, who is the Coordinator of the Kwanzaa House. She said, "I started the celebration with my own family first, and then others eventually joined in with us and it has grown from there to what it is today. After all these years, as the coordinator of the yearly Kwanzaa program, I have decided it is time to pass the baton on to the younger generation. The new Co-

ordinators of the 2023 Kwanzaa Celebration are Mr. Rashid Spencer, along with my grandson Mr. Rodney Gordon Jr. Both young men are my proteges." She went on to say. "I feel that it is important to let Kwanzaa continue to develop and not to let it die. We must instill this custom in our young people so they will carry the legacy of Kwanzaa on into the future and to new heights."

On Tuesday night December 26, 2023, at the Douglass Center, the first night of Toledo's 2023 Kwanzaa Celebration, they did just that, they carried on the legacy of Kwanzaa in a grand new and fresh style. With sounds of live African drums playing unobtrusively in the background, throughout the evening, the tone and the atmosphere of the program was established. The

*continued on page 16*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE LUCAS COUNTY RECORDER

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

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# Take Control of Your Blood Pressure

## 7 changes to help manage your health

American Heart Association

**(Family Features)** What you eat and drink, as well as your activity level and habits, affect your heart and brain health and are essential for managing blood pressure, cholesterol and more. High blood pressure (readings consistently higher than 130/80 mm Hg) is a leading cause and controllable risk factor for heart disease and stroke as well as other issues such as kidney failure, vision loss and sexual problems.

In fact, nearly half of all American adults have high blood pressure, or hypertension, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, but many may not even realize they have it unless they experience other complications. What's more, ethnicity can also play a role in your risk factors.

For example, Hispanic adults have some of the highest prevalence of poorly controlled blood pressure, according to the American Heart Association, which is one of the major risk factors for heart disease. Due

Association." Food insecurity, or lack of access to adequate healthy food options, is also higher among Hispanic and Black women compared to white women, and one of the social factors that may impact high blood pressure risk.

To help maintain blood pressure below 120/80 mm Hg and manage risk factors, the American Heart Association with national support from Elance Health Foundation recommends these lifestyle changes.

**Maintain a healthy weight.** If you're overweight or obese, you're at increased risk of high blood pressure. Losing as few as 10 pounds (or 3-5% of your body weight) can provide health benefits, including lowering or preventing high blood pressure. Talk to your health care provider about a healthy approach to weight loss, including caloric intake and activities that may help both lose and maintain weight.

**Eat healthier.** Eating fruits and vegetables, such as mangos, avocados and blueberries, can lower blood pressure over time. Other smart



Photo credit/ Getty Images

the table salt and consider spices and herbs as seasoning alternatives.

**Manage stress.** Stress is known to contribute to risk factors for high blood pressure like poor diet and excessive alcohol consumption. Practicing relaxation tech-

sure. If you drink, limit consumption to no more than two drinks per day for men and one drink per day for women.

**Quit smoking.** Every time you smoke, it causes

a temporary increase in blood pressure. Both smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke also increase the risk for plaque buildup inside the arteries, a process high

blood pressure is known to accelerate.

Find more advice for managing your blood pressure at [Heart.org/](http://Heart.org/) [highbloodpressure.org/](http://highbloodpressure.org/).



Photo credit/ Getty Images

to longstanding systemic barriers, such as a historic lack of access to health care and nutritious foods, the Hispanic and Latino community is disproportionately affected by heart disease and related health issues.

Additionally, Black women of childbearing age are more than twice as likely to have uncontrolled blood pressure than their white counterparts, according to research published in a special Go Red for Women issue of the "Journal of the American Heart

choices include nuts and seeds, whole grains, low-fat dairy, lean proteins and fish. The Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension, or DASH, eating plan is geared toward reducing blood pressure and helps create a heart-healthy eating style.


**Reduce sodium.** Americans consume up to 75% of their sodium from processed foods like soups, tomato sauce, condiments and canned goods. To help cut back, read labels when shopping and choose lower-sodium versions of your favorite foods, skip

niques, such as yoga or deep breathing, practicing gratitude and doing things you enjoy can help reduce stress.

**Get active.** Physical activity not only helps control high blood pressure, it also aids in weight management, strengthens your heart and lowers stress levels. The American Heart Association recommends at least 150 minutes per week of moderate-intensity physical activity, such as brisk walking.

**Limit alcohol.** Drinking too much alcohol can raise your blood pres-

# Open for wellness




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# BlueGill Fishing Club donates \$500 to Boys & Girls Clubs of Toledo



Photo Credit/ Toledo Journal  
**Members of the BlueGill Fishing Club presented a check for \$500 to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Toledo. Seated from left to right are Perry Helms, Billy Mann and LA. Frost. Standing from left to right are Nate Greene, Thomas Walker, Johnnie Walker, Donnie Forrest, John Chapman and Gene Davis.**

BY JURRY TAALIB-DEEN  
 Journal Staff Writer

"Members at the BlueGill Fishing Club want to make sure Homer Hanham Boys & Girls Clubs open back up, because kids in the inner city can't get to the other clubs," John Chapman, president of the BlueGill Fishing Club, 642 N. Detroit, told The Toledo Journal the reason why the mem-

bers donated \$500 to the Boys & Girls Clubs.

The \$500 check was given to Billy Mann, director of Development & Communications at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Toledo. Mr. Mann then told the members that they have a goal of raising two million dollars for the year and the BlueGill Fishing Club were the first to contribute to that

goal.

"This donation helps us sustain our growth," he said.

Mr. Mann then explained to the members why the Homer Hanham Boys & Girls Clubs had been temporarily closed. Renovations, he said, to the club, which include a restroom that hasn't been upgraded since 1974. Currently,

there are 12 toilets in that facility that can easily have 100-150 kids per day during the summer months, but by the end of construction there will be 22 toilets. Further, there will be a new fire panel emergency system, security system and HVAC system, all added to the club that's been closed since August of 2023 and will reopen in

the spring of 2024.

Mr. Mann went on to say that, in addition to the various sporting activities offered at the club, children receive help with their school work, can earn scholarships, receive job training, character building, take field trips to the Imagination Station and go fishing. Also, he said, the swimming pool will still be open year round, staffed by professionally trained lifeguards, that will teach children how to swim.

Mr. Mann shared that the Boys & Girls Clubs of Toledo are steadily expanding throughout the city, including into the Washington local district, as well as, having locations inside of McTigue Elementary and Rogers High School, which is the first high school in the state of Ohio to have the club's presence.

"We're about making sure inner city youth are taken care of and making sure they're on the right path," said Mr. Chapman.



Photo Credit/ Toledo Journal  
**Billy Mann, director of Development & Communications explaining to the members of the BlueGill Fishing Club how their donation will help sustain growth at the area clubs.**



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# A warrior has fallen

A tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

By Herbert Harris, Jr.

A warrior has fallen  
 Let us honor him  
 Let us be still inside  
 And remember,  
 His triumphs and his failures.  
 He fought the dragons of his times  
 Against overwhelming odds Proudly standing  
 In the face of racial discrimination  
 And social injustice With honesty as his shield  
 With character and determination  
 As his mighty sword  
 A warrior has fallen  
 Let us honor him  
 He has waged the ultimate battle  
 And won.  
 Overcoming the final obstacle  
 Of this fleeting existence  
 To receive the ultimate award  
 Eternal and everlasting life  
 In the hearts, and minds, and spirits  
 Of all whose lives were touched by him  
 Who received the benefits of his counsel  
 And of his works  
 A warrior has fallen  
 Let us honor him With the gift of everlasting life  
 In our hearts,  
 In our minds,  
 And in our spirits



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"The time is always right to do what is right."  
 --Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Together, we do the community justice.**



## GHANA, 1957

Invited by Ghana's new president, Kwame Nkrumah, to attend the country's independence celebration, the Kings travel there in March 1957. In Accra they met Vice President Richard Nixon, and King pressed him to "come visit us down in Alabama" to see for himself how his fellow Americans were seeking the same kind of freedom that Ghana was about to enjoy.

Before entering the New Delhi shrine to Mohandas Gandhi, whose books, thinking, and methods he studied and adopted, King removes his shoes, a traditional sign of respect for the Mahatma. At the site he left a wreath of flowers and paused to pray.

# Happy Martin Luther King Jr. Day

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## BIRMINGHAM, 1960

Kenneth Kaunda, future president of Zambia, visits King and meets with members of the press in King's Birmingham office in 1960.

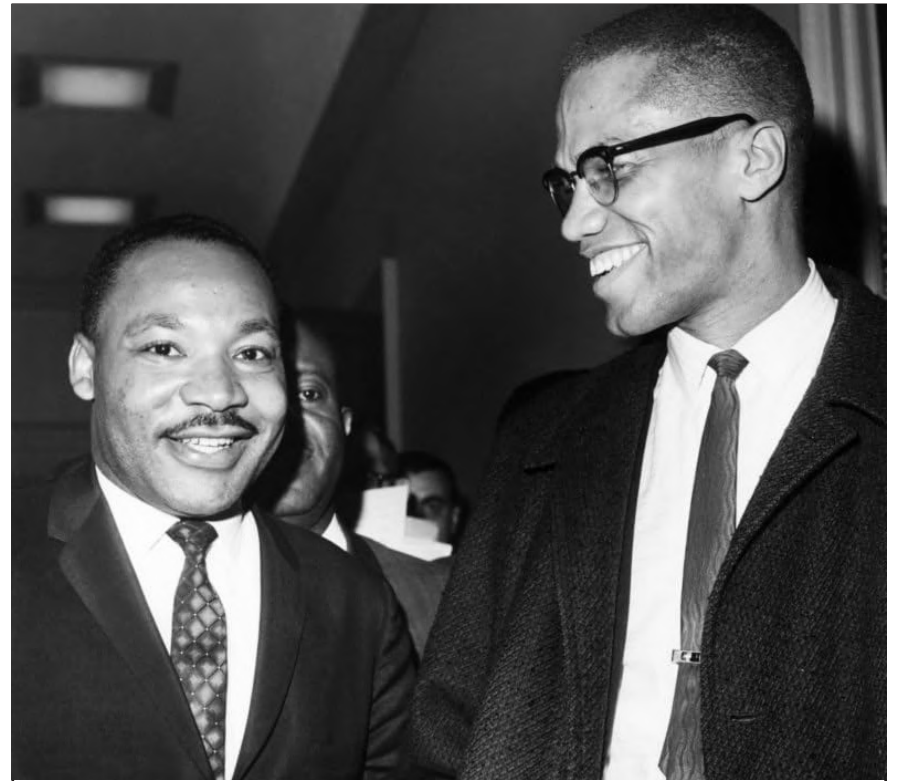


## Vatican, 1964

Baptist ministers King and Abernathy have a private audience with Pope Paul VI at the Vatican. The pontiff promises that he will issue a statement on inter-racial relations.

# MISSISSIPPI, 1963

Joined by Roy Wilkins and Ralph Abernathy, King walks in the funeral procession for the assassinated Mississippi NAACP organizer Medgar Evers.



# WASHINGTON, 1964

By happenstance King and Malcolm X meet face-to-face for the first and, regrettably, only time in Washington. They usually disagreed, but now they both speak out against a possible filibuster on the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

# MARTIN LUTHER KING JR

*Martin*

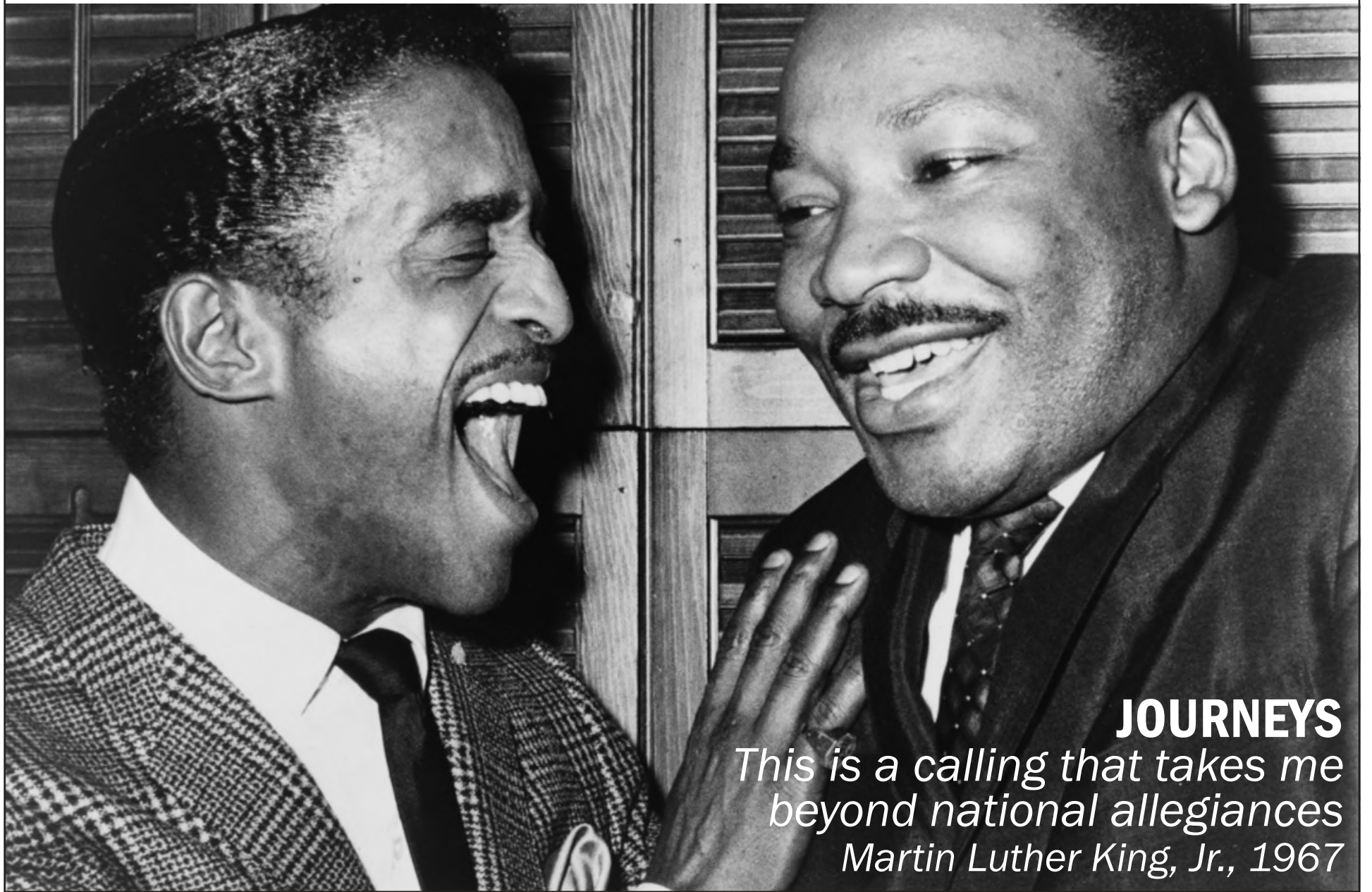
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# NEW YORK, 1965

Sammy Davis, Jr., an enthusiastic supporter, shares a laugh with King, who has come backstage to the star's dressing room to congratulate Davis after seeing him in Golden Boy.



## JOURNEYS

*This is a calling that takes me beyond national allegiances*  
Martin Luther King, Jr., 1967



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# MISSISSIPPI, 1966



Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts and Martin Luther King chat at a SCLC banquet in Jackson, Mississippi, in August 1966. Probably no one else in the Senate was more sympathetic to King's goals.

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## In Memory of George A. Clay



Sunrise – August 26, 1946  
Sunset – December 24, 2023

Toledo mourns the loss of George A. Clay, born August 26, 1946, a beloved son who passed away at the age of 77. George's life was marked by love, achievements, and unwavering dedication to family and community. Raised in the "Out Stickney" neighborhood, he excelled in basketball, football, and track at Devilbiss High School, earning recognition. His marriage to soulmate Jacqueline Wakefield

during their service in the U.S. Air Force blessed them with sons Kraig and Kirk. George's career spanned Ohio Bell, Ameritech, Lucid Technologies, and Nokia Bell Labs, and his community impact as "Coach Clay" is remembered fondly. Donations to Wayman Palmer YMCA in central Toledo are welcomed in his memory. May George rest in peace, cherished by all who loved him.

## In Loving Memory Happy 99th Birthday



Happy Birthday mother, we miss you and will forever love and cherish your memory. Karen your first grandchild has now joined you and James to celebrate your birthday.

Your Children, Helen, Leroy, Roosevelt (Gail), Grandchildren, Great Grandchildren & Great Grandchild.

**Willie Mae Gant**

**January 11, 1925 – April 12, 2012**



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# 2023 Kwanzaa Celebration in Toledo started in 1966 held this year at the Frederick Douglass Center

*continued from page 6*  
 celebration began with a warm welcome from new Kwanzaa House Committee Coordinator Mr. Rashid Spencer, who welcomed the crowd saying, "Habari gani (which means what's the news)." He went on to say, "Today on the opening night of Kwanzaa we will be talking about unity (Umoja) that is the theme of the first night of Kwanzaa and we will celebrate it together. We are also going to remember our past and look toward our future."

Next Rodney Gordon Jr., the other Kwanzaa House Committee Coordinator, began the formal duties of Kwanzaa by asking the elders, Elder Dr. Gwen Wilson, for permission to start the ceremony. With the permission granted he introduced Oscar O. Shaheer and Zaniel Williams, who performed the ritual of the libation on a living plant, which is done to honor the ancestors. At the end of this ritual Mr. Shaheer invited the audience to call out the name of an ancestor they honored after which everyone responded by saying Ashay, which is equivalent to saying Amen.

Following that, Rodney Gordon Jr. explained the meaning of the seven Kwanzaa candles before recruiting some children from the audience to help him light the black candle, which stands for unity (Umoja), and is the first candle lit on the first day of Kwanzaa.

As the night drew on, others who participated in the program included Brother Washington Mohammad, who spoke on the history of Kwanzaa. Donald Lynn explained the symbols of Kwanzaa, and Reggie Williams Exec. Director Frederick Douglass Center, spoke on the wellness of the Douglass Center and its place in the community.

Music for the program was provided by Dianne Elaine Stubblefield-Moore, who engaged the audience in a call and response song, and led the room in the singing of 'Life Every Voice and Sing.'

At the end of the celebration the audience was invited to express their concerns and Dawn Polk said, black men should live a life of righteousness and be a good example for our youth." There were also several vendors on hand and approximately 50 to 75 men, women, and children attended the first night of the 2023 Kwanzaa celebration and it was an immense success.



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

At the opening night ceremony of the Kwanzaa Celebration Oscar O. Shaheer (L) and Zaniel Williams performed the ritual of the libation on a living plant which is done to honor our ancestors.

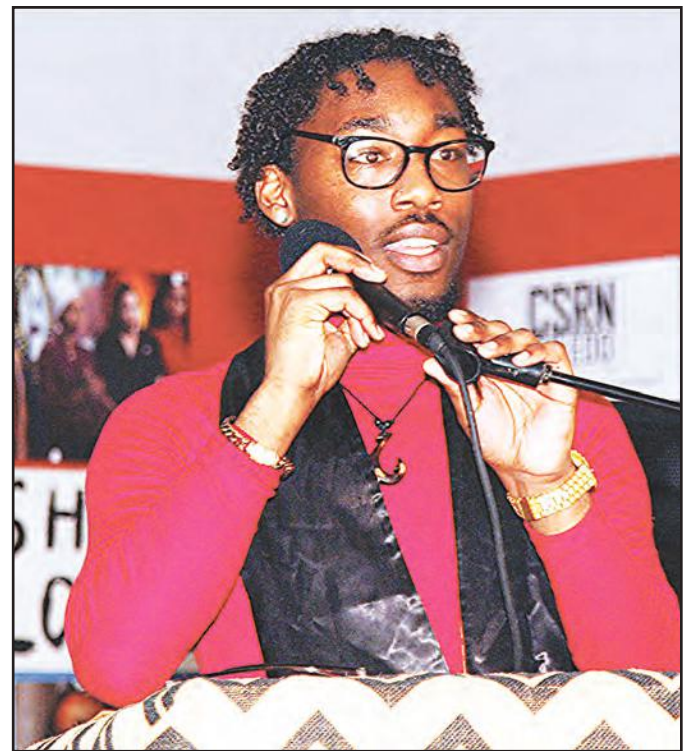


PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

Kwanzaa House Planning Committee Coordinator Rashid Spencer giving a warm welcomes to everyone (about 50 people) who attended the opening Celebration at the Frederick Douglass Center.



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

Always inspiring, Dianne Elaine Stubblefield-Moore gave a nice talk to the audience and led the room in singing 'Lift Every Voice and Sing.'



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

With a little help from children in the audience, Kwanzaa House Planning Committee Coordinator Rodney Gordon Jr., lights the Umoja (Unity) candle on the first night of the Kwanzaa celebration.



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

(ABOVE) Some of the Vendors at the opening night of Kwanzaa at the Frederick Douglass Center were Bro. Yasin Mohammad and Sis Yvette Mohammad from The Nation of Islam. (RIGHT TOP) When audience member Dawn Polk spoke, she said to the black men in the crowd that they should, "Live a life of righteousness and be a good example for our youth." (BOTTOM RIGHT) Vendor Annie Beckley Newell with her new book, 'Someone Prayed For Me', was on hand for the opening night of the Kwanzaa Celebration at the Frederick Douglass Center.



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

Elder Dr. Gwen Wilson granted the necessary permission from the elders to begin the opening night ceremony of the 2023 Kwanzaa Celebration at the Frederick Douglass Center.





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**HELP WANTED**

**OUTDOOR SKILLS INTERPRETER:**  
 Metroparks Toledo is looking for an individual to be our Outdoor Skills Interpreter at Oak Openings Preserve Metropark. The person in this position will connect people to parks through the development, production, and presentation of high quality park programs, special events, and experiences. Bachelor's degree or equivalent combination of education and work experience. Moderate experience in educational and public program development, production, and evaluation and presenting public or educational programs. Some outdoor skills-specific experience required. Must be at least 18 years of age and have a valid driver's license. Full time position with benefits. \$19.943/hr. EOE  
 Go to [www.MetroparksToledo.com/careers](http://www.MetroparksToledo.com/careers) to view the job description, position requirements and apply online.

**FACILITY OPERATOR:**

Metroparks Toledo is looking for a Facility Operator for Glass City Metropark. The person in this position will perform a variety of housekeeping, janitorial and basic maintenance. HS diploma or equivalent required as well as a valid driver's license. Some experience in janitorial and minor building maintenance is preferred. Full time position with benefits. EOE  
 Go to [www.MetroparkToledo.com/careers](http://www.MetroparkToledo.com/careers) to view the entire job description and to apply.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL LUCAS COUNTY CANINE CARE & CONTROL (LC4)**  
 Rudolph Libbe will receive proposals for Bid Package #5 on the LC4 project, a 42,000sf single-story canine welfare facility, located at 1301 Monroe Street, Toledo, OH.  
 Bids are due January 19, 2024 at 3:00 pm.  
 Documents and additional information is available upon request from [BuildingConnected.com](http://BuildingConnected.com)  
 This project has MBE/WBE requirements.  
 For more information on this project, please contact Andy Wren at 419-725-3291.

at age 15.  
**January 12, 1952:** Gene Gray is first African American student admitted to University of Tennessee  
**January 10, 1957:** Southern Christian Leadership Conference organized  
**January 11, 1965:** AFL All-Star Game moves due to racism encountered by African American players in host city

**HELP WANTED**

**ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR**  
 Northgate is looking for an Activities Director for our Senior Property. The position is part time (30 hours a week).  
 Northgate is looking for someone that has patience and a creative side to engage our residents.  
 The Activities Director should be open minded, creative, encouraging and always thinking about the residents and how to get them involved with different activities, keeping them engaged, active and let them know they are part of the Northgate Family.  
 The Activities Director along with our Social Worker is also responsible for keeping up with the food bank orders and coordinating the food picks up.  
 Applicant must have a clear driving record and License to drive our 14 passenger Northgate Bus. If interested, please contact us at 419-729-7118 or stop in to get an application. Office Hours are 8 am - 4:30 pm

**HELP WANTED**

**EDUCATIONAL SERVICE COORDINATOR**

Are you a dynamic and innovative educator with a genuine passion for learning? WGTE Public Media is searching for a dedicated individual to join our team as an Educational Services Coordinator. In this role, you will play a crucial part in creating, coordinating, and delivering engaging technology programs designed for both teachers and students.  
**Key Responsibilities:**  
 Develop and implement creative curriculum utilizing technology.  
 Collaborate with a team to coordinate and execute educational programs effectively.  
 Utilize technology to enhance learning experiences for teachers and learners and foster a modern educational environment.  
 Demonstrate expertise in curriculum development, ensuring alignment with educational standards.  
**Qualifications:**  
 Bachelor's degree in education.  
 At least one to three years of hands-on experience teaching.  
 Proven track record in curriculum development, with a strong preference for candidates with prior experience in integrating technology into educational programs.  
 Self-motivated with exceptional oral and written communication skills.  
 Strong organizational abilities to manage and streamline educational initiatives.  
 At WGTE Public Media, we offer a compelling compensation package along with outstanding benefits, reflecting our commitment to both attracting and retaining a diverse and talented staff that values and celebrates your unique experiences, perspectives, and identity. Our dedicated team at WGTE works collaboratively to foster inclusive, equitable, and welcoming working and learning environments.  
 Send your letter and r sum  to: Human Resources at [employment@wgte.org](mailto:employment@wgte.org), or Human Resources, P.O. Box 30, Toledo, OH 43614. EOE/ADA

**BLACK HISTORY**

**January 18, 1856:** Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, pioneer heart surgeon, born  
**January 16, 1865:** General Sherman s special field order promises African Americans forty acres and a mule  
**January 14, 1868:** African American delegates are majority at South Carolina's constitutional convention  
**January 21, 1906:** Willa Brown, first African American woman to earn a commercial pilot's license, born  
**January 19, 1918:** John H. Johnson, creator of Ebony and Jet, born  
**January 15, 1929:** Martin Luther King Jr., civil rights leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner, born  
**January 15, 1929:** Michael King, later known as Martin Luther King, Jr., is born to the Rev. Martin Luther King, Sr. and Mrs. Alberta Christine Williams King in Atlanta, Ga.  
**January 22, 1935:** Sam Cooke, songwriter and performer, born  
**January 15, 1935 to 1944:** King, Jr. attends David T. Howard Elementary School, Atlanta University Laboratory School and Booker T. Washington High School.  
**January 17, 1942:** Muhammad Ali (Cassius Clay), heavyweight boxing champion, born  
**January 15, 1947:** King, Jr. is licensed to preach with his father at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Ga.  
**January 15, 1948:** At age 19, King, Jr. graduates with a bachelor of arts degree in sociology from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Ga., where he enrolled

**January 13, 1966:** Robert C. Weaver, first African American cabinet member, nominated secretary of HUD

# Mecca Temple #43 And Mecca Court #73 host Annual Community Christmas Party at the Grenadier Club

By Michael Daniels  
Journal Staff Writer

A week before the Christmas holiday, the Nobles of Mecca Temple #73, in collaboration with the Daughters of Mecca Temple #73 held a Christmas celebration for club members and other guests from the community. December 17th, was the date the Nobles and daughters of the Temple held their annual social gathering at their Grenadier Club headquarters, located on the corner of Avondale and Junction Avenue.

This year's party was a three event celebration, first and foremost; it was a celebration of the Christmas holiday season. Secondly, it was a celebration of the newly elected Illustrious Potentate, Noble Sherman W. Thomas Sr. of Mecca Temple #43, and the newly elected Illustrious Commandress of Mecca Court #73, Daughter, Dionetta Richardson.

The crowd was estimated to be about 75 people as the party got started, however, as the evening progressed, more Nobles, Daughters, and folks from the community arrived as the crowd grew much larger and more boisterous with Christmas cheer. With everyone mixing and socializing with each other, all enjoyed the background music provided by, DJ Brustarr.

Later in the evening, a wonderful and delicious home cooked dinner was prepared and served by Mary Lightner. Her entrees featured chicken, ham, authentic black folk's mac and cheese, green beans, other vegetables, along with desserts, beverages and other holiday dinner staples. Before dinner was served, the meal was blessed by Honorary Past Potentate, Noble Leo Holmes. Onsite photographer Benjamin Gray, photographed the once in a lifetime festivities for the honorees, and their guest.

The Nobles and Daughters are members of a nationwide benevolent organization (Mecca Temple) whose mission is to serve their community in social conscious pursuits. In reference to this, Daughter, Dionetta Richardson, the Illustrious Commandress of Mecca Court #73 said, "We hold fundraisers throughout the year, and the money we earn, we invest back into the community, in numerous and various social conscious ways."

Illustrious Potentate Noble Sherman W. Thomas Sr. of Mecca Temple #43 added, "Getting everyone registered and get out to vote, at their correct location, will be one



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED  
Illustrious Potentate Noble Sherman W. Thomas Sr. of Mecca Temple #43 was with Daughter Dimetta Richardson Illustrious Commandress of Mecca Court #73, as they both celebrated their Coming Into Top Leadership positions in the two Masonic organizations, they are seen here at the joint Christmas Party of Mecca Temple 43 and Mecca Court 73 at the Grenadier Club



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED  
Julius Akins and Earl Stevens at the Mecca Temple #43 Joint Christmas Party.



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED  
(L-R) Daughter Toiya Coffee and Daughter Dimetta Richardson Illustrious Commandress of Mecca Court #73 with Mary Lightner (the cook) served a wonderful dinner at the Mason's joint Christmas party the Grenadier Club.



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED  
Celebrating the holidays at the Grenadier were Masons (L-R) PP Daryll Blair, OG Larry Bills II, Noble Nate Ford, Noble Terence Haynes, and PP Sherard Ramsey (front), at the community Christmas Party.



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED  
(L-R) Rachael Ridley, Dt. Teryonica Bates, Dt. Charlsena Smith Mecca Court #73, 42nd Past Imperial Commandress (2009-2011) and Dt. Brenda Ramsey at the joint Christmas Party.

of his organization's main priorities! "No" vote is a hopeless vote. There was a time, not so long ago in our history in America, when we, as Black people, by discriminatory, race, based laws, our people were not allowed to vote, but today, we can by law, and our vote matters. The powers that be, know this, and all we need to do today, is show it in our registration numbers, and in voter participation! If you need assistance in voting, contact us here

at 1342 Avondale, and we will assist you, in your voting process!"

He also said, "On January 13, 2024, Mecca Temple #43 will have its' first social event of the new year at St. Clement Hall. Come out and enjoy the ' Illustrious Potentate Breakfast', from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. There will be Raffles, vendors, and lots of fun for everyone, with an after party at the Grenadier Club. We look forward to seeing you."



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED  
(L-R) Annette Jefferson, Annie Green, Leo Homles, and Lillie Pack enjoying the evening at the Mason's joint community Christmas party at the Grenadier Club.



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED  
Illustrious Potentate Noble Sherman W. Thomas Sr. of Mecca Temple #43 (L) holds an extra light source as photographer Benjamin Gray take a picture at the joint Christmas Party at the Grenadier Club

# Franklin Park Lincoln, Mike Colbert gifted over 100 families Collaboration made Christmas better



Photo Credit/ Submitted  
Like clockwork, Mike Colbert and Franklin Park Lincoln, constantly give back to the community year round.



Photo Credit/ Submitted  
Three of Santa's helpers are, from left, Kathrine Coleman, Irma Colbert and Carletta Williams.



Photo Credit/ Submitted  
Michael Colbert, owner of Salon Rose' and Tanisha Battle, advanced cosmetologist at Salon Rose' helped boost the confidence in the young ladies who received a manicure.

annual event.

He explained that when the event first started 13 years ago, they were going to distribute gently handled coats, but the owner at Franklin Park Lincoln, Bob Fleisher, wanted to give out new coats.

Michael Colbert, son of Mike Colbert and owner of Salon Rose', a full service cosmetology business, gave free haircuts and manicures to the children, said, "The manicures help build the self-esteem of the girls. I love the fact that I can give back to the neighborhood that I grew up in."

"I look forward to it," said Tanisha Battle, advanced cosmetologist at

Salon Rose'. "I really like the fact the kids are excited about it."

Motivated by the act of charity by Franklin Park Lincoln and Mike Colbert was Katherine Coleman who was volunteering to help for the first time.

"This is amazing and

it's so beneficial to the community," she said. "I'll definitely be helping next year."

Mike Colbert extended a special thanks to Ruby's Kitchen, Zavotski Custom Meat & Deli who provided the food at the event.



Photo Credit/ Submitted  
Families were able to receive more than one coat if they had more than one child.



Photo Credit/ Submitted  
Helping someone with much needed items is Aaron Layson. No matter the event, day or night, hot or cold, Mr. Layson attends every charitable event to help.

BY JURRY TAALIB-DEEN  
Journal Staff Writer

When Irma Colbert started receiving calls for the 13th annual Christmas giveaway, sponsored by Franklin Park Lincoln and spearheaded by Mike Colbert, Mrs. Colbert said she could hear the gratitude in the voices of the people calling who needed winter items, as well as food, for the Christmas season. Those calls started on October 1 and went until November 24. "It's

so rewarding being able to help people," she told The Toledo Journal on Wednesday, December 20, at Word of Faith Ministries, 2911 Stickney Ave., where those Christmas items were distributed.

Eighteen-hundred coats, and other winter items, including Christmas dinner, with all the fixings, went to over 100 families. In addition, children received free haircuts and manicures. "I just love it. It's hard work, but rewarding and I nev-

er get tired of it," said Mike Colbert, salesman at Franklin Park Lincoln and who spearheads the

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