



*Big Sister Shelley Wilbert with Little Sisters
Erin Cox and Faith Parker*

In This Issue

The Truth Editorial
Page 2

Jack Ford
Page 3

Mike Bell Leaving
Page 4

Kattie Bond Moving Up
Page 4

The Mayor's Pride and
Passion
Page 5

Anita Lopez's Transition
Page 6

Cover Story:
Shelley Wilbert
Page 7

Museum of Art Presents
Aminah Lynn Robinson
Page 11

Stephen Ward's Perspective
Page 12

Minister's Interview
Page 13

The Lima Truth
Pages 14-15

BlackMarketPlace
Page 17

Classifieds
Pages 18-19

*“I do not believe there are any at-risk children.
I believe that all children have the same
capabilities but just different struggles.”*

This Strikes Us ...

A Sojourner's Truth Editorial

Wanted:

A few good people of color to help provide leadership for a mid-sized city located in northwest Ohio.

What a difference four or five years make.

Not too very long ago, during then-Mayor Jack Ford's first year or so in office, the mayor spoke with a large group of rural/small town school children who were visiting the big city for a day.

The meeting between the school children and the mayor took place in Toledo City Council chambers and during the course of the 45 minutes or so that the kids learned a little about the inner workings of big city/big county government, they were introduced to a host of public officials – councilmen, department heads, etc. They met the Fire Chief Mike Bell who, of course, was in his element explaining to children what a fire man and a fire department do and how they do it.

Eventually Ford introduced the children to Police Chief Michael Navarre. As he did so, Ford commented, only half jokingly, that it was necessary to bring Navarre in because he did not want the all-white group of rural kids to think that Toledo was run entirely by African-Americans.

What a difference four or five years make.

Last week, Bell announced his retirement/resignation as the recent exodus of black leadership continued unabated – Bill Copeland, Jack Ford, Karyn McConnell Hancock, Jimmy Gaines, Yulanda McCarty Harris, Jay Black, to name a few, and now Mike Bell.

The question keeps arising in the days since Bell admitted he has submitted his letter of retirement whether the African-American community would like to see a black person be appointed to lead the Fire Department.

It's a shame that the question has to be asked. But there is a definite context for that question.

Back in the day, the day we described several paragraphs ago, many observers within the African-American community spoke of the numerous black leaders and recalled a time, not so very long ago, when there seemed to be a glass ceiling on the number of positions blacks could hold in this city.

It seemed to be an unwritten rule in Toledo, went the conversation, that only one African-American could serve on City Council at a time. And, of course, the obverse side of that coin, which for a while became almost an article of faith, was that a seat on the Lucas County Board of Commissioners should be reserved for the black community.

When the community lost County Commissioner Bill Copeland, no one seemed to object that an African-American was not automatically slated to fill the post. Of course, there were so many other black leaders in place at the time, it did not seem to matter much then.

Little did we know that the loss of Bill Copeland was just the start of a downward spiral in terms of African-American leadership here in Toledo.

Losing Mike Bell, perhaps to another city since he is in the midst of interviewing for a similar position in Washington, D.C., will be a huge blow for this entire community but particularly for the black community. Mike Bell, remarked Mayor Carty Finkbeiner in the wake of the retirement notice, is Mr. Toledo. As such, there is probably, other than the mayor himself, no more recognizable face in town. Mike Bell has been Toledo's biggest booster and one of the most involved city leaders we could have. With any luck – at least for Toledo – Bell will be turned down for the post in the nation's capital, remain in Toledo and eventually run for elective office during the next phase of his public life.

That said, there still remains the question of what has happened to the black leadership of this city.

Is this just the normal ebb and flow of politics or is the problem more deeply rooted?

We can't answer that question, we don't know anyone who can. Therefore, we have to conclude that the African-American community has to be doubly vigilant in the pursuit of developing black leadership – community leaders.

We have to find ways to keep the Mike Bells, and the potential Mike Bells, here in town. We have to find ways of identifying and nurturing potential leaders.

All of this requires a cooperative effort. One person or one agency working on its own is not enough. Politicians, business leaders, agency heads, church leaders will all have to row in the same direction to stem the tide of the vanishing city African-American leadership.

It really is not a matter of whether there is a black person to take the place of Mike Bell. It is a matter of getting to the point at which losing someone of the caliber of Mike Bell will not leave such a gaping hole in the leadership ranks of people of color.

The Sojourner's Truth

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Community Calendar

January 31

• Women's Entrepreneurial Network: "Getting Started" business seminars; "Financing and Record-keeping for Your Business;" 6:30 pm; Maumee Branch of the Toledo-Lucas County Library: 419-536-6732

February

Black History Month!!

February 3

• Toledo Chapter of The Links, Inc: Health & Wellness Luncheon; "Community Forum for Healthy Living;" Zenobia Shriners; 11:30 am to 2:30 pm; Discussions on domestic violence, teenage prostitution
• Amazon Lodge #4 Fish Fry: 11 am to 5 pm; Deliveries available on orders of 3 or more: 419-531-7079
• Maumee Valley Country Day School's African-American Society: "Stand Up! Speak Up! Be Heard! Talented Teens of 2007;" Raffles, vendors, workshops, live performances; Day long event starts at 8:30 am: 419-381-1313

February 4

• Ridgewood Church of Christ: A Celebration of Black History Month; 12:30 to 5 pm; Blood pressure checks, health screenings, crafts, ethnic food, free haircuts, manicures, games, door prizes, among other activities: 419-726-2210

February 5

• "Boys Booked on Barbershops:" Blendz Barbershop; For Boys ages six to 10; Free books, pizza, pop and cookies; Sponsored by Top Ladies of Distinction, Blendz Barbershop and Ruth Court #6: 419-244-7062 or 419-578-9400

February 7

• National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day: Toledo-Lucas County Health Dept from 9 am to 4 pm or Planned Parenthood of NW Ohio from 4 pm to 8 pm: 419-213-4131 or 419-255-1123 ext.308

February 9

• Mays Chapel United Holy Church: Wyndham Hotel; Speakers Bill and Ann Harris; "Men Are Like Waffles, Women Are Like Spaghetti;" Food, fun and fellowship: 419-246-4046 or 419-243-4509
• Northwestern Ohio Missionary Baptist Association: "The Outstanding Servant Leadership Award" and "The Outstanding Stewardship Award;" 6 pm; Union Grove MBC: 419-537-0420 or 419-213-6902

February 10

• End Time Christian Fellowship: Adult Singles and Couples Valentine's Dinner; night of love, laughter and inspiration; 6 pm; Dinner, music, entertainment and more: 419-729-1027 or 419-346-7426
• Youth Kwanzaa Committee Meeting: Lighthouse Community Center; Training, education on Kwanzaa/mentoring: 419-471-1912

February 11

• Calvary Baptist Church: Annual Culinary Heritage Food Taster; 4 pm; Deadline for registration for women's Ministry 2007 Spring Retreat: 419-865-0019/419-531-9443

February 12

• Toledo Lucas County Library Kent Branch: Black History Film Series: *Rising from the Rails: The Story of the Pullman Porter*; 6:30 to 8 pm: 419-259-5381

February 15

• Fair Housing's Mardi Gras Party: The Pinnacle; Fundraiser to benefit the Fair Housing Center; Cajun food; Music by KGB; Costume contest: 419-243-6163

February 17

• Toledo Lucas County Library Kent Branch: Black History Month program; *Slavery to Freedom: The Story of Africans in the Americas*; African drummers and dancers, speakers, a storyteller and a marketplace full of vendors: 419-259-5381

February 18

• Ridgewood Church of Christ: A Celebration of Black History Month; 12:30 to 5 pm; Blood pressure checks, health screenings, crafts, ethnic food, free haircuts, manicures, games, door prizes, among other activities: 419-726-2210
• Third Baptist Church (Holland): Mass Choir sponsors 20th Annual Black History Musical; 4 pm

The Sojourner's Truth

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Becky McQueen

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My View

By Jack Ford
The Truth's Political Columnist

Our continued comments about the unnecessary City of Toledo budget deficit has finally gotten a rise out of Councilman George Sarantou, chairman of the Finance Committee.

Sarantou now says that the unfunded pension pickup that he voted for in 2005 was first put in place in 1995 when the city fathers passed it for non-uniformed workers. It has been inferred by some that I had a hand in that in the 1995 vote. I did not. I was in the legislature in 1995 not on City Council.

Toledoans may be close to losing their right to vote for a real school board. The most recent flare up among school board members while on retreat at a Metro Parks building did not look or sound productive. I think we have

reached the point where some folks just need to resign from the board. I see no way that a school board levy can pass given the atmosphere we presently operate in at Manhattan and Elm.

There are discussions going on involving county officials, The University of Toledo and business leaders concerning the school system. Dr. Lloyd Jacobs, UT president, went so far as to disavow a takeover. This is always a dangerous first sign. One scenario would have UT becoming a guiding force for TPS with the sign-off and cash from the state legislature. Far-fetched?

Not really. And maybe that development would be the lesser of two evils if our school board cannot get their act together. I was in Colum-

bias when the legislature gave the Cleveland school district to then-Mayor Mike White. The Cleveland mayor now appoints school board members.

There are still some in the legislature who do not believe wholeheartedly in public education but rather in charter schools, vouchers, etc. We need to really get our school board act together, pronto!

It is clear that the United States is going to be eclipsed within the next 20 years by either China or India in the area of science and technology unless we change our ways. It is just as clear that we have not figured out how to match high school, or college, graduates with the existing job market, particularly in the expanding health care

field and the other opportunities that exist in northwest Ohio.

And, it is clear that the graduates we produce too often do not match the basic needs of the entry or starter jobs in business or industry including retail down to food service. This all needs to change.

In the short term, call School Board President Deborah Barnett and offer to help. In the long term, go to school board meetings, run

for school board, reclaim your schools before it is too late to make a difference.

Not much, if any, mention has been given to the status of the City of Toledo tow lot. You remember that one?

City Council President Rob Ludeman and others were against anything that smacked of the city taking on this function. Now, the city auditors smack their lips and drool over the revenues generated by the tow lot. Two million dollars!



Jack Ford

Just think of the hole the city would be facing if the tow lot had not come on board in 2004?

Contact Jack Ford at jack@thetruthtoledo.com

Promise Land Ambassadors

A nonprofit organization, has been selected as an exhibitor for the 2007 Toledo Art Museum Juneteenth Celebration. The group will be highlighting the African-American residents that integrated into the Old West End. They are seeking items such as photos and art. Stories of residents' memories living in the Old West End in the 60's and prior will also be accepted.

Anyone interested in submitting information can contact Sandra Alexander By email alexanderfamilyga@msn.com or call 770-808-2301.

Toledo Exodus

By Jan Scotland, Special to the Truth

"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

That timeless line is from the Emma Lazarus poem, "The New Colossus." It is engraved on a tablet in the pedestal on which the Statue of Liberty stands. It is a world-wide welcome to immigrants and exiles to enter our country ... a strong beacon of our melting pot tradition that has made this country great. It is also an appropriate call for citizens, foreign and domestic, to come back to the shores of the Maumee or more precisely to the City of Toledo. But this won't happen until the politics in this city fall in line with the present needs of the city.

When Toledo went to a strong mayor's form of government the idea was that stronger candidates would arise to handle the daunting task of running the business that is the city. The city managers of the past were felt to be too detached from the needs of the citizens. The strong mayor would combine the desires of the citizens with the know-how to run the city. In addition to this we would have district and at-large council elections to ensure the same results.

Unfortunately the parties and the citizens did not fully grasp their responsibility to the new system. They did not understand that with new powers new candidates needed to emerge. As a result the popularity contest that has always ruled Toledo politics continues. This is not to say that we don't have some competent council members or that all of the members aren't sincere about their

jobs. I have a lot of respect for anyone willing to take on the task of holding office. What I mean is that willingness to serve is not enough.

In recent weeks both the Democratic and Republican Parties put out their own candidate pleas to the masses. But these parties have different problems.

The Democrats who dominate Toledo politics don't understand that electing a majority of candidates with overweening social agendas such as right-to-work, hire Toledo and smoking bans must be tempered with candidates who understand how to attract business. They have a responsibility to find candidates who know how to generate revenue for the city in ways other than tax levies. They need to take an example from their national party who successfully elected middle of the road candidates to take back control of Congress. Maintaining control of the mayor's seat and council has to be tempered by the need to reverse the exodus from our borders.

And what about the Lucas County Grand Old Party? I have written in the past about the failure to provide the loyal opposition. The GOP's biggest problem now is the inability to field good candidates to provide the balance needed downtown. Good Republican citizens have forgotten the sacrifices of their forefathers who suffered greatly to serve the masses. Republican businessman and community leaders have to understand that their business and families are not immune to the actions of Toledo city government. It is our duty to serve. The fears of the public exposure that comes with service should not render us stagnant. In the face of laws and taxes that sicken us our main answer can not be exodus.

I haven't forgotten the citizens of Toledo. There are



Jan Scotland

those that still think that Bill Copeland (rest his soul) not Phil Copeland, his nephew, is an elected official. We continue to vote for names, party affiliation and campaign rhetoric instead of researching the records of the people we are electing. Our only two strong majors have been popular councilmen from the old system. Even the supposed new blood either have old council names like McNamara or familiar, popular union names like Szollosi. We spend countless hours at work and on talk shows complaining about it, but then act as if our vote and ability to influence other votes are meaningless. Let's also remember the sacrifices of those who preceded us and demand more from our city government. We have to act now if we are to save the long-term strength of the city we love.

Otherwise, the "tired and poor" aren't stupid. They will go to cities that give them hope. "The huddled masses yearning" will go where they can indeed breathe free of the shackles of government bureaucracy. "The wretched refuse" will not leave their shores to be buried in excessive city taxes. And the "homeless and tempest-tost" will not like the images revealed when we lift our light at Toledo's golden door.

Ed. Note: Jan Scotland, owner of a State Farm Insurance agency, was the co-chairman of the Ken Blackwell for governor campaign.

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It's time for a Quiet Conversation.™

Moving On

Fire Chief Mike Bell Getting Ready for the Next Phase of His Life

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

Toledo Fire Chief Mike Bell has tendered his notice of retirement he admitted last week on the eve of a flight to Washington, D.C. in order to interview for a similar position in the nation's capital.

"I'm starting the last third of my life and I want the opportunity to do the things I want to do," said Bell last Wednesday afternoon during a press conference to confirm the reports of his impending retirement after 27 years on the fire department, the last 16 and a half as the chief.

According to Bell, and his letter of retirement—he was careful state that it was not a resignation—which was released to the media at that time, he informed Mayor Carty Finkbeiner of his intention to retire on December 26 and made it effective March 22, 2007.

"Every career ends at some point in time," said Bell. "I've had a good career, I've had good people in the department to work with and I've had good political people to work with. My time is growing short and I want to be able to get on with enjoying life."

The Truth's political columnist Jack Ford broke the story last week of Bell's retirement and also reported of a heated argument between the fire chief and the mayor which immediately preceded Bell's decision to move on. Dur-

ing the press conference, both Bell and Finkbeiner denied that there was any rift between them. The mayor, in fact, said that he would make an effort to change Bell's mind about leaving his post.

"Mike Bell is a great fire chief and Bob Reinbolt and I will do what we can prudently do, following his return from Washington, D.C., to keep him on his job," said the mayor.

Certainly part of the equation in trying to keep Bell in place would be financial considerations. Bell earns \$91,500 and has not had a pay raise for the past five years. The fire chief's position in Washington starts at \$170,000.

Finkbeiner also said that he has been instrumental in trying to generate interest in Bell as a candidate for the Toledo Public Schools' vacant superintendent position. The mayor has approached the Milwaukee search firm, Proact Search, Inc., that has a contract with TPS, on Bell's behalf.

"I think you would see charter school kids flocking back to TPS if he were in charge," said Finkbeiner.

And, then there is a possibility that Bell might be open to running for elective office in the future. There has been speculation that he has been approached to run for mayor.

Bell, a graduate of Woodward High School, received his bachelor's of education degree from The University of Toledo where he was a three-letter varsity football



Fire Chief Mike Bell

winner and co-captain of the team during his senior year. He began with the fire department in 1980 and, in 1990, at the age of 35, was appointed chief. He supervises 500 uniformed members and 40 civilians who work in the nine bureaus of the Department of Fire and Rescue Operations. During his rise through the ranks, he was a water rescue diver, a paramedic and a fire department recruiter. When he was named fire chief in 1990, Bell was the African-American chief of an Ohio metro city. Bell recently became the longest-serving Toledo Fire Chief in the history of the department.

"In 16 and a half years, we have been able to do a lot of great things," he said last week. "The issue of black and white is not as much of an issue now; we are one of a few accredited metro departments in the world; we went for 22 months without having a fire death."

According to reports, Bell is one of five candidates for the Washington, D.C. position.

Moving Up

Kattie Bond to Head the Department of Neighborhoods

Sojourner's Truth Staff

"It's like coming back home," said Kattie Bond last week on her excitement at being appointed acting Director of the Department of Neighborhoods. "Before I went to the Department of Parks, [Recreation and Forestry], I was here for five years."

Bond, who served as the Director of the Department of Parks for three years during the Jack Ford administration, was removed from that position when Carty Finkbeiner took office and was re-assigned to the Housing Division as Manager of Housing.

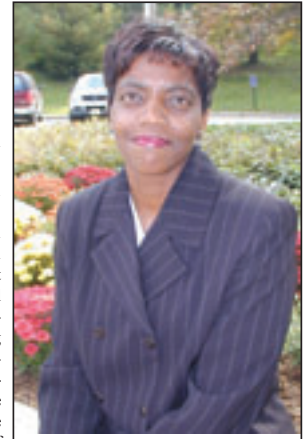
"Kattie Bond is so soft-spoken it's easy to overlook her talents," said Finkbeiner last week. "We interviewed her and three other capable people. Kattie finished first in the assessment."

Bond grew up in Holland, OH where she graduated from Springfield High School. She

earned her bachelor's of science degree in business administration from Ohio Northern and for the next 13 years pursued a career in banking before joining the City of Toledo as a Financial Assistance Specialist in the Department of Neighborhoods.

As the newly-appointed head of Neighborhoods, Bond has some big challenges. "We are in the process of rolling out a housing project—working with community development corporations—to do market rate and mixed income projects," she said.

In addition to the housing projects, the department's other major tasks include



Kattie Bond

enforcing the codes against abatement nuisances and putting in place the city's new building codes.

"We need to get back to being more neighborhood oriented, more grass roots, more 501(c)(3) oriented," said Finkbeiner of the Department of Neighborhoods mission. "and we need to become more helpful to neighborhood organizations."

THE COMMUNITY CLUB

Members of Toledo's fastest-growing male-driven (non-profit) community club posed for a group photo after their first official meeting of the year. The meeting set the stage for the club's first quarter 2007 calendar of events.



"We want to remind area residents about some of the activities we have planned for the community," said the club president, Clifton Beasley. "If you're looking for a safe and comfortable environment where you can enjoy a wholesome conversation or just kick back with some friends, we have lots of opportunities." Here are some of our ongoing and upcoming events:

JANUARY: Please join us Friday or Saturday evening as we listen to those back-in-the-day R&B sounds and play some of the old-fashioned table games. On Sundays and Mondays, we continue to cheer on our favorite sports team as we gear up for the Super Bowl Party of the year!!!

FEBRUARY: We will kick off February by hosting a FREE community-wide Super Bowl party beginning at noon. Residents are still talking about all the food and fun from the Michigan/Ohio State Tailgate CLASH. You don't want to miss this event. In honor of Black History Month the club will host a tribute to jazz and the visual arts on 2-10-07. Mr. Audrey and Associates will provide a Black History visual arts exhibit. This event will launch the club's plan for an ongoing night of live jazz entertainment on the third Friday of every month.

MARCH: In recognition of national "Women's" month, the community club will host an after-work social every Wednesday beginning at 6:00 p.m. This setting targets the working woman of our community and is designed to allow them to be waited on by the club members. We see this as our first gathering of women whose primary purpose is to share in positive life experiences and to plan random acts of kindness. Also much excitement will be generated as we follow the college basketball tournament during "March Madness." Of course, this will include the bracket competition.

Keep the Community Club in mind. There is always something going on that we're sure you will appreciate.



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Mayor Carty Finkbeiner: The Pride and The Passion

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

"If you've done your homework and you stand up and do what's right, you may get some heat from the press or your opponents, but ultimately the truth comes out," says Mayor Carty Finkbeiner as he describes the underlying passion he has for taking stands that sometimes leave observers shaking their heads in bemusement.

He acknowledges the fact that he could every now and then just let matters settle, matters such as the dust-up at the Ottawa County jail when he and his wife Amy went to visit their son recently or the public spat with a local radio station, WSPD, over the objectivity of one of their talk show hosts who wanted access to the mayor.

But letting such matters settle is not this mayor's style. "I'm not going to forget something that's wrong," he insists as he raises those very issues during a conversation with The Sojourner's Truth well before his visitor can ask about those subjects.

But even as he waxes passionately about such perceived offenses, he points out that he has no trouble

working with those who happen to be either not on his side of every issue or those who, for whatever reasons, are less than inclined to work with him, even when the goals are the same for all parties involved.

This mayor's relations with Toledo City Council, for example, have been troublesome at best during this most recent tenure. Unlike the pique he expresses over the previously mentioned incidents, he expresses no rancor at all over the spats he has had with the City of Toledo's legislative body.

"It's hard for me to get too upset over that," says the mayor. "I was on council once and you are always, in that position of being one of many, looking for a way to get your voice and your picture heard and seen."

Finkbeiner does interject, however, with a laugh, that "we may be keeping the Republican Party alive."

But can you accomplish what you want to accomplish in this environment his visitor asks?

"As long as headlines are being given to everyone," he

answers.

Finkbeiner is enjoying himself during this second stint in office, he says, because of his past experiences and the ups and downs of his first eight years.

"I'm not sure that without a certain dynamic tension that the Democratic process works. So it's OK if there is a little gamesmanship going on," he adds.

He also admits that while he doesn't expect to win every battle, he won't shy away from speaking up when he feels that it is the right thing to do, even at the cost of losing a fight in a very public arena. The battle over Costco was one that he still feels was worth waging even though he found no comfort on City Council during that particular fight.

Finkbeiner objected to the Costco project on aesthetic grounds – he did not favor the box-styled storefront surrounded by gas stations for the Westgate area and he felt that the company would accept such style restrictions had they been put to the test.

"Council was doing what they thought was right, I was

doing what I thought was right," he says now. "In the gamesmanship that's played, I have to remember that is what it is."

Choosing his words carefully, the mayor speaks of his own pride in and passion for the citizens of Toledo as he explains what he understands of this group of constituents.

"I think that there is a wisdom coming through that the public will put up with some degree of game playing but ultimately – Toledo doesn't like a whole lot of conniving or scheming... trying to live by your wits instead of by hard work. They also look at politicians and will put up with a little of that but ultimately they have respect for those whom they think are working very hard for their interests. Toledoans love battlers and those who work hard."

Many battles loom ahead for Finkbeiner, not the least of which is the difficulty of solving a budget deficit that is projected to be, for this fiscal year, just under \$12 million if revenues are not enhanced or expenses not drastically cut.

The past fiscal year brought revenue growth in the amount of about four and a half to five percent. Not many observers are optimistic that fiscal 2007 will be so generous to this area. Finkbeiner expects that in order to balance this budget, and the budgets for the next few years, some structural changes will need to be made in the City of Toledo's expense situation. Structural changes such as lay offs.

Which areas or departments will be hit hardest by such lay offs?

The mayor expects the lay offs to be rather spread out over departments. City officials will have to consider three things, he says. First, "can we get by without that person?" Second, are there circumstances "when one person can do several jobs?" And, third, who are the very new city employees who can be cut, or the very veteran ones who can retire and live well off their pensions?



Of course, fire and police personnel are always the primary focus of attention whenever lay offs are being discussed – always an issue of safety vs. cost. The police class that was projected for 2007 will apparently be a casualty of the new realism of revenue shortfall.

"This year it will be challenging to have a police class – not impossible – but challenging," says Finkbeiner. He points out, however, that a large police class may not even be necessary when it comes to maintaining public safety. While it is often observed that uniformed police officers' numbers have been dwindling for several years, the reality, the mayor points out, is that the population of Toledo has been dwindling at a significant rate as well. Indeed, the police department as a whole – when one adds in the non-uniformed civilians – "has never had more people than there are now."

Of course, this mayor, as is well known, is not prone to projecting pessimism on any topic. And as he ponders what the year will bring in terms of revenues for the City of Toledo, he points out that there do exist the possibilities for a good year – the coke plant, the GM plant, the Marina District, assorted housing initiatives, all of which, he believes, will help the city continue the upward financial trend it experienced in 2006.

That part of the discussion naturally led him to the subject of development, most particularly, the Marina District. "I wish we could have

done this two years ago," he says of the progress made on that project.

And by progress, he means specifically the decision by the administration to go with Larry Dillin, rather than Ron Pizzuti of Columbus, the previous administration's choice. Dillin, after all, is local. "Dillin is a great gift to northwest Ohio and we are blessed to have him," says Finkbeiner. "If you have a good team, you are going to win more than you lose."

According to the mayor, the key to keeping the project moving is the roadway along the river's edge. Finkbeiner estimates that the developer will need \$25 million to complete the roadway and approximately \$16 to 17 million of that, he has been told by Dillin, is already in place. The roadway is critical because it will spur private investment. And this year, the mayor anticipates that the roadway will be started and that the city "will see the housing footprints in place." He is also optimistic that the Sports Arena will be razed in the near future, further attracting potential retailers.

But as always, when one is speaking to Mayor Finkbeiner, the conversation comes back to people – the people at work in the city or the people for whom they are working... Toledoans all.

The Toledoans and what they expect from their city or, given the timing of this discussion, what happens next for certain people. Fire Chief Mike Bell had announced, on the previous day, that he was going to retire from his post and move on with his life, possibly move to Washington D.C. to take over that city's fire department.

"Mike Bell is Mr. Toledo," says the mayor. "As much as I am or as much as Marcy Kaptur is. He's special. The city will be evaluating what we may be able to do to keep him."

He was, of course, optimistic he could get that done.



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Anita Lopez Prepares to Take the Reins at the Auditor's Office

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

As has been widely reported, Lucas County Recorder Anita Lopez has encountered anything but a smooth transition as she prepares to take over the Lucas County Auditor's office on March 12.

The current Auditor, Larry Kaczala, whom Lopez defeated in last November's election, has attempted, says the auditor-to-be, to protect the jobs of family and friends in the office by a variety of stalling tactics.

Nevertheless, Lopez has plowed ahead, making plans, hiring key staff members and focusing on the issues she raised during her campaign, such as the inequities of the home valuation process.

"My number one qualification is that I am committed to serving everyone fairly," she says of her aspirations for the new position. "Everyone is someone."

One of the reasons for that commitment, admits Lopez, is the fact that she has had some personal history of financial struggles and she has learned lessons from those difficult times that are not easily forgotten or dismissed. As a college and law student, for example, she had to overcome some hardships in making ends meet and getting through school. Some of those hardships were brought to light during the recent campaign by her opponent as a way to discredit her

"I was so poor in college that they couldn't even garnish my wages," she recalls also noting that her opponent managed to cast the roles of the two candidates as one of "borderline corruption versus struggling girl."

Ultimately, the voters could relate to her economic struggles, she says, and "people know that I will never forget those struggles in the administration of my office."

But even before she has had the opportunity to assume her new duties, she has encountered struggles. First, a number of non-supervisory employees decided to join a bargaining unit. Then, as she questioned the fact that the jobs of current Auditor's family and friends were being protected, communication and cooperation shut down completely.

Lopez attributes part of those difficulties to the fact that Kaczala was anticipating a judicial appointment in the waning days of the Bob Taft administration. Most of his friends and family would have gone with him. When the appointment failed to materialize, his friends and family attempted, in large measure, to lock down their jobs in the Auditor's Office.

Lopez was particularly incensed when she discovered that managers in the Auditor's Office were hiring their offspring for interim positions, even

for relatively low wages of nine dollars per hour.

"What we have here are two worlds colliding," she says. "I told them 'do you know how many people there are who could change their families' lives with this position?' I said 'there's a student at UT now trying to live on Ramen Noodles every day who would love to have a nine dollar an hour job and whose dad doesn't make \$99,000 per year.'"

That situation has improved recently, says Lopez, as she has clearly stated her intentions not to permit such cronyism to continue and she feels that she is somewhat back on track with her transition plans.

"Citizens are entitled to people who are dedicated and looking out for their well-being," she says of what she expects in a staff. "Each individual will be held accountable to do their job and do it well — union, non-union, my cabinet. We are going to weed out those who don't. If there is cheating to be done, I won't shy away from it. Everyone will have to prove themselves."

The early part of the phase includes getting people on staff in key positions — chief accountant, assistant chief accountant and human resources director/general counsel. "I am hiring individuals with extensive experience" she

says. One of those will be Jim Gant, a lawyer in the City of Toledo's Law Department who will be the Auditor's HR Director/General Counsel.

Gant is African-American, a matter of no small concern to Lopez who notes that among the current cabinet in the Auditor's Office, there is "no diversity among the decision makers — in the real estate section, yes, but not at the top."

The Auditor's Office is a sizeable move up for Lopez with its 150 or so employees ("I literally have not been able to get a straight answer about how many employees are over there"). The Recorder's Office has 16 employees.

The Truth asked Lopez why she felt qualified for the job given her lack of accounting background.

"I think I'm qualified, number one, by virtue of the fact of my ability to understand legally how to operate," she says. "It's the enforcement of the law that matters and my legal background helps me understand [the issues.] In addition, my years as an administrator have prepared me to understand how



to get the job done. My ability to take responsibility and my talent at holding people's feet to the fire.

"I'm not going to be in the office crunching numbers but I can orchestrate the abilities of others who do that."

Chief among her tasks will be to focus on the issue of property valuation, a subject she devoted much time during her campaign holding the incumbent's feet to the fire.

"We have to revamp the system," she says promising to stay personally involved in such matters. Indeed the board of revisions deadline, she mentions, is on March 31 and she is already encouraging homeowners who have questions about their properties'

value to contact her office at 419-213-4412 or 419-213-4406. The board of revision's telephone number is 419-213-4464.

The move to the Auditor's Office marks the most recent transition for Lopez who has encountered criticism in recent years due to her failure to finish a term in elective office — even as she continues to win elections. She was elected to the Toledo Board of Education in 2002, ran for and was elected to the Lucas County Recorder's Office in 2004 and ran, in 2006, for Auditor. What's the next move, we asked jokingly?

"I promise the public, my husband and my mother that I will finish my four years here," she responds with a laugh.



You are cordially invited to **My Real Name: Breaking the Silence on Child Sex Trafficking in Ohio**

A play about prostitution and real life accounts of life underground.

When: Friday, February 2, 2006 at 7:00pm
Where: The University of Toledo Doerman Theatre
What: An artistic retelling of stories of women and girls in prostitution and life underground.
This is the debut showing of a local play soon to go national.

All proceeds of My Real Name will benefit Second Chance.
Second Chance provides services to women and girls who are caught up in a cycle of abuse related to prostitution.

Parking on UT campus is free, except in the handicapped or reserved spaces — however, please mention you are coming to see the play: **MY REAL NAME**

Please call Toledo Area Ministries for reservations: (419) 242-7401
Or email at tam@tamohio.org

Minimum Ticket Donation \$10 (donations exceeding \$10 will be accepted)
Please indicate number of tickets in the space below.

Number of Tickets Needed _____ @ \$10 each = _____ Total

Make Your Tax Deductible Check out to "Second Chance"

Mail to: Second Chance, Toledo Area Ministries, 444 Floyd Street, Toledo, Ohio 43620


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City _____ State _____ Zip code _____
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Tickets will be sold at the door for \$15

- Some Facts about Prostitution and Sex Trafficking in Toledo and Lucas County, Ohio:**
- According to the FBI, Toledo is currently the number one site for recruitment of teens into sex trafficking
 - Without intervention, teens who are lured into prostitution by traffickers often graduate into adult prostitution
 - Up to 60% of women being prostituted in Toledo right now were sexually exploited or abused as young girls (Williamson, 2004)
 - 82% of women being prostituted experience violence on a regular basis (Williamson, 2004)
 - Almost 50% of women in Lucas County entered into prostitution between 14 and 15 years of age.
 - More than 600 prostitution and prostitution-related arrests occur in Toledo every year (Williamson, 2006) with most of these arrests involving girls and adult women with children.
 - According to study completed in 2004, women involved in street prostitution in Toledo experience chronic substance abuse (97%), poor mental health (52%), and HIV health risks (41%). Most will also face deteriorating physical health and homelessness.
 - 92% of those surveyed have expressed a wish to "escape" the life.



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Shelley Wilbert: Mentoring the Success of Area Young People

By Alan Abrams
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Whenever Shelley Wilbert addresses an organization about the benefits of becoming a volunteer mentor for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Ohio, she can easily point to herself as proof that the program brings positive results. "I've been a mentor all my life," recalls Wilbert, who

oversees the agency's recruitment of volunteer mentors. "I remember being mentored as a child. My mother and my father were wonderful parents. And I had an extended family of grandparents, aunts and uncles. Even our neighbors helped mold and shape me into what I am.

"I'm very thankful that they continue to be in my life. I feel I'm giving back what was shared with me," says Wilbert who is a Big Sister to two young women, one a teen, the other a college student.

"Faith Parker is a junior at Notre Dame Academy. I met her through my daughter,

"says Wilbert. "Faith came to us as a high school mentor last year. She is both a mentor and a mentee.

"Erin Cox, my other Little Sister, is 19, and a student at Stautzenberger College. I've known her since she was a little girl. She is a graduate of Perrysburg High School.

"I have always had a passion to help kids, especially so-called at-risk youth. I do not believe there are any at-risk children. I believe all children have the same capabilities but just different struggles. Drugs are a problem with rich kids, and drugs are a problem with poor kids. Money does not define health. We need to give all children the same opportunities," says Wilbert.

"I came to this agency because I wanted to continue working with youth," says Wilbert.

"I go into the community to make partnerships. Community can mean a business, a fraternity, a social group. I usually match them to a school, but it does not have to be a school or after-school program. It used to be only community-based.

"When I speak to organizations or companies, I not only ask them for money but for mentors who once a week through the school year can go to school to mentor a student.

"One of our best success stories is the Medical University of Ohio, which we have matched with Pickett School. This is the second year of that relationship. Last year, about 21 people participated. This year, the total is 34 and growing. Once a week they mentor the kids. They can do tutoring for school work. But others give recreation time and conversation time. The boys really like to play football and the young med students are happy to



accommodate," says Wilbert.

She adds that high school students need mentors to help them build self esteem and leadership. "If we can love ourselves from within, we can handle any obstacle or challenge that comes along," says Wilbert.

Born in Detroit, Wilbert graduated from Cass Technical High School. She is the daughter of the late Chester Pelton and Dorothy Pelton Soroack. Her parents met in high school when they both played basketball. Wilbert has a brother, Darryl, who lives in Boston and whose wife is from Nicaragua. Wilbert has also spent some time in Nicaragua.

She married Walter Wilbert, Jr. whom she had first met in Detroit when both were high school students. She went on to Howard University; he went to Michigan State University.

Her husband's job brought them to Memphis where Wilbert worked at the Methodist Hospital Teen and Youth Open Psych Unit. After "a couple of years," Walter was transferred to Birmingham, Alabama. While living there, Wilbert worked at the University of Alabama Heart Transplant Unit, where

her area of expertise was youth heart transplants.

After living in Birmingham for two and a half years, the Wilberts moved to Toledo. They have been here for almost 13 years. Shelley was pleased because it was closer to Detroit.

The Wilberts have two daughters. Ashley is 16, Semone is 13.

Wilbert's first job after moving to Toledo was at Connecting Point as a prevention specialist and specialist trainer, later becoming the after school site director. She was at the agency for six years before joining Community Partnership as the community youth coordinator. She came to Big Brothers, Big Sisters two years ago.

Wilbert is excited about the agency's upcoming Bowl for Kids Sake fundraiser, in which all proceeds go to the agency. She is honored that last year's Indianapolis 500 winner Sam Hornish of Defiance has agreed to be the honorary chairman of the event.


She suggests participants choose a date from the schedule below and then call the agency at (419) 243-4600 or visit their Web site at www.bbbsnwo.org to register.

Here's the list:
Sunday, Feb. 4 at 10:30 a.m. and 1 pm and Sunday, Feb. 11 at 10:30 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. at Southwyck Lanes.

Saturday, Feb. 10 and Saturday, Feb. 17 at 10:30 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. at Interstate Lanes.

Sign up and say hello to Shelley Wilbert. It is a great cause and she promises you'll have a great time. You might even meet a few local sports and radio personalities.

Contact Alan Abrams at alan@thetruthtoledo.com



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*Team Captains will receive a kit containing everything needed to form a Bowl for Kids' Sake team starting December 8, 2006.

<p>Sundays at Southwyck Lanes Toledo, Ohio</p> <p>February 4, 2007 10:30 am & 1:00 pm</p> <p>February 11, 2007 10:30 am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm</p>	<p>Saturdays at Interstate Lanes Rossford, Ohio</p> <p>February 10 & 17, 2007 10:30 am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm</p>
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Yes! I am committed to Bowl For Kids' Sake for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Ohio

You can count on me to be a Team Captain!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Day Ph: _____ Mobile Ph: _____

E-mail: _____

Team Name: _____

Bowling Date & Time: _____

Mail form to: BBBSNWO/One Stranahan Square/Toledo, OH 43604
Email: CFord@totalink.net
Fax to: 419-243-2402

**For more information call
419-243-4600**



*Kneeling: Faith Parker and Erin Cox
Standing (l. to r.): Ashley Traynum, Athena Lane,
Semone Wilbert, Taylour Rogers, Ashley Wilbert and Sara Cox*

Do We Still Need Black History Month?

By James Litwin
Guest Editorial

About this time of the year, letters to the editor begin to question why we are having another Black History Month. Don't minorities get enough attention? When will we have White History Month and Men's History Month, etc., etc?

My stock response to those queries is that we pretty much have mostly white and men's history the other 11 months of the year.

Personally, I look forward to the day when we have one connected American History, a history that treats us all equally and fairly but we are not at that point yet.

So, I generally support the continuation of these special months which include Women's History and Hispanic Heritage and lesser known months based on the Native American and Asian American experience.

These months are necessary for many reasons.

First, Americans need to understand history of all kinds. Any idea that can help us learn more about our past is a good idea.

Black History Month has a distinguished history of its own, started by Dr. Carter Woodson as Negro History Week in 1926 to share the many contributions of blacks to America. But black history is not just for blacks. It is also for white people. Just like Martin Luther King, Jr. is a hero for all people, black history in America is a history of all of us.

It is my experience that many people literally cannot identify a person or a significant event in the history of black America beyond a Jackie Robinson or the end of slavery. And, despite the offices and businesses closed that day, some still do not know that Dr. King's Day really is an official Ohio holiday.

But, to benefit from any of these histories we must also go beyond the names and dates approach to history. We must grasp and appreciate the raw emotions associated with these events.

I have recently come across two examples that have convinced me of this truth.

The first was the photography and subsequent postcards associated with the lynchings of blacks since the Civil War. Some 2500 people have been lynched, some then doused with kerosene and set on fire before they were dead, with fingers and toes cut off for souvenirs. These were often called "n—barbecues." Usually photographed with white towns-

people gawking and sometimes even posing.

Second, historian James Loewen has recently documented the phenomenon of "sundown towns." Sundown towns made it very clear to blacks (and some others) to be out of the city limits by sundown or face severe consequences. There are occasions of this in northwest Ohio — people may not have called them sundown towns, but the same dynamic was at work. The message: you are not wanted here.

If I were a minority, I would hope I could forgive, but I would probably not forget. I would hope I could get past the anger and other emotions that lynchings and sundown towns would present. I am glad so many do.

Yes, we all have it rough at times. The working classes have always fought an uphill battle and have often been brutalized. But the point is not to compare, the point is to understand the unique histories available to us.

Until we comprehend that experience, can we truly say that we understand it? Can we comment with any assurance on what images and feelings black people or women or any other group must let go of in order to go about their lives?

The point of this article is to not make anybody feel guilty. That is not what these special months are about.

Most white people living today did not participate in these crimes. I know that. But what we can do is to understand that many white people have benefited from a system of privilege and advantage

that was built on the labor and sweat and discrimination of others.

The disparities that still exist (differentials in assets, the wage gaps, etc.) are partially a result of those histories, and until we understand them, we may not be able to get past them.

The irony is that those who question the need for Black History Month and such other months are often from the middle and working classes. The greatest trick of all by the ruling class is to get the rest of us to argue amongst each other and to stir up false accusations of reverse discrimination. This is a cruel joke, and one that needs further discussion elsewhere.

Until we all understand and appreciate the history of blacks and other minorities and women we need to have these months. I suggest the time to end them will be when the groups themselves will want to end them, not when white or other males say they should be ended.

I am looking forward to learning more in these upcoming months, so that we as a people can continue to make progress on a diverse, yet unified society, one that understands and appreciates all people as special. I do believe these months help us make progress. Please consider taking advantage of them.

Jim Litwin, Ph.D. is on the adjunct faculty and teaches sociology and diversity at Northwest State Community College in Archbold, Ohio

The Village Elders – Part One

By Robert Smith
Director, African American Legacy Project
Special to The Truth

Traditions, once passed generation to generation, are slowly eroding — quite frankly — disappearing. That which made us strong — the experiences of our predecessors — has all but vanished... and so goes our community!

The African American Legacy Project (The AALP), thanks to a grant and support from the Toledo Community Foundation, began an oral history project in June 2006 called The Village Elders. The AALP has begun documenting the stories and recollections of the most senior members of our community. These stories recorded digitally are being deposited in The AALP archives for community access.

What is the value and significance of documenting our elder community members? Simply put, there are lessons to be learned. They — those who migrated or whose families migrated to Toledo, i.e., northwest Ohio — have stories to tell. They have wisdoms to offer us, wisdoms that only living a long life can give. They, our Village Elders, have given of themselves... once again.

Doctors, Lawyers, Indian Chiefs

In order to tell a complete, community story, The African American Legacy Project continues to talk to people from every

part of our community. Our community is made of athletes and actors, musicians, ministers and moms, the helpless and the helpful. The stories we are gathering represent the our essence.

There is a certain majesty and nobility that time grants to those who are graced with longevity; while their physical skills are gradually diminishing, each remains astute and particularly aware of the present and the past.

It is this foundation that we have knowingly and unknowingly relied upon as we grew as individuals and as a community. Our Village Elders have literally breathed life into us. They have sustained us. They have groomed us. They have left footprints for succeeding generations to follow.

UT Students Meet Their History Face-to-Face

Martino Harmon, director of the University of Toledo's African American Student Enrichment Program recently reached out to The African American Legacy project and proposes the two organizations [AASE and The AALP] develop a special experience for students of African American descent during this Black History Month. According to Harmon, "The mission of UT's African American Student Enrichment Program is to

promote awareness and appreciation for the African-

American college experience through services, programs, and events that enhance academic excellence and strengthen cultural competence for The University of Toledo campus and surrounding communities." Harmon also serves as chair of the 2007 University of Toledo Black History Month which functions under the Office of Multicultural Student Services.

Campus will meet community on Friday, February 16, 2007. Students will travel from the university to The African American Legacy Project's facility to view The AALP's special collections on African-Americans from Northwest Ohio. Students and faculty will tour the facility and view recent oral interviews collected as part of The AALP's Village Elders Project underwritten by the Toledo Community Foundation.

The Village Elders is the beginning of the documentation and celebration of Toledo's African-American experience. Sandra Rivers, a gifted Toledo writer, authored a poem to express the purpose and intent of The Village Elders Project. Her words are our words, only better.

Next Week: Excerpts of interviews from The Village Elders and John Scott, Ph.D., discusses his early Toledo experiences.

Hospice helped our family reach a final goal.



Having my dad at graduation made my wish come true, too.

"My husband, Willie, found out nothing more could be done for his cancer. He still had one last goal: to see our daughter, Joya, graduate from nursing school — which was nearly a year away.

"Hospice of Northwest Ohio provided care for Willie, right in our home. I believe their expertise helped him live to see the graduation, and made a lot more good days possible for him along the way."

Laura, Willie's Wife

"Whenever we had questions, Hospice explained every answer. They knew what to provide even before we knew what to ask for. And the staff connected on a personal level, too. My dad's nurse was like part of our family.

"Hospice made all the arrangements to get dad to my graduation, including the wheelchair and portable oxygen. Having dad see me cross that stage meant the world to me. Now that I'm an RN, I know great care when I see it. My dad had the best."

Joya, Willie's Daughter



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2nd Public Meeting re: Connecting the Pieces Project

East Toledo Family Center will hold the second public meeting on the "Connecting the Pieces" project.

• Public Meeting 7:00p.m. Thursday, February 1, 2007 at the East Toledo Family Center located at 1020 Varland Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43605.

• This meeting will be the first opportunity for the community to respond with questions, comments and present their ideas about the Garfield neighborhood and the Main-Starr commercial corridor. Residents will specifically be asked to share their ideas on the following:

- What amenities are needed for a more "walkable" or "bike-able" neighborhood?
- What should the community identity be (i.e. his-

toric/modern, exactly like/similar to the Marina District, etc)?

- What recreation needs are currently missing?
- What kinds of shops or businesses would the community support?
- What physical improvements are needed (i.e. sidewalks, lighting, transportation, roads, etc)?
- What types of housing are needed that the community doesn't currently have?

Partners in the process in addition to the East Toledo Family Center include:

Housing East Revitalization Corporation, Neighborhood Housing Service, River East Economic Revitalization Corporation, River East Associates, the Design Center, the Urban Affairs Center of the University of Toledo and Paul Sullivan Architects. Toledo Local Initiatives

Support Corporation selected this neighborhood transformation planning proposal through a competitive process in which a number of neighborhood planning proposals were received.

LISC is taking a new approach intended to encourage collaboration and tighter focus among community development organizations and other non-profits serving neighborhoods. "Neighborhoods are comprised of people and it is the people in the community that can best determine its future," states Hugh Grefe, Senior Program Director of LISC. Residents and business representatives from East Toledo are invited to participate in the meetings and work together with area agencies to develop and implement this endeavor.

Living Our Legacy

I stand upon the shoulders of the elders who stepped out and took a leap of faith. They were encouraged and knew that the God they served would provide a net that would miraculously appear as they endured tears. They had a purpose, a part to play and one day leave a legacy for those who would follow as they blazed trails and cut down trees in the forests of their lives. They were firsts, not seconds; a community to be reckoned with. They were queens while in their teens, allowing their freedom to ring. They became postmasters that ensured that our messages got through to each other.



Dr. Samantha Adams



Mrs. Janet Quinn-Wyatt

They were broadcasters who blew their own horn, because stars were about to be born. They were chiropractors and community activists, persisting never resisting the enemy. They knew how to make adjustments and become change agents.

You stand upon the shoulders of those who have come before you. You are history, a springboard, a foundation, a stepping-stone from yesterday, an advocate for tomorrow; because if you do not know where we have come from, you will not know which way to go. You come from a village of people who were bound by determination, a peculiar generation; men and women from the mother land, time travelers, field hands who worked the land, mothers who made plans; fathers whose bloodlines continuously ran. You were house slaves who craved and abolitionists who were brave; extended families of value who knew how to spend time and encourage the discouraged.



Mrs. Jean Overton and Mr. Frank Goldie

He stands upon the broad shoulders of his forefathers who planted the seed to lead, to succeed, after being called a boy. His eyes are cast down in prayer, because he has struggled to be the man that God has called him to be. He stands proud and strong like a tree rooted by the river - he is delivered; someone to look up to, a defender, contender, not a surrenderer. With calloused hands he is a man who dares to dream of hope, he is that spark, because sometimes men do cry in the dark. He is resolute as he opens the windows after doors have been closed in his face. He is not erased.

She stands upon the hips of her foremothers. It is a circumference versatile and wide enough to embrace the right and the wrong, the rich and the poor, the saints or the aints, the learned and the unlearned while speaking love into existence. She passes on the recipes of her soul, who is bold enough to say to another's child, "Honey you know that's not right" without fear of being beat down in the night.

We stand because we are role models, lifting each other up, not tearing down. We are compelled to tell our stories of how we got over, because we have a rich legacy to share. We are a community that loves, respects, gathers, cultivates, embraces and celebrates ourselves. I stand so you can see. You stand so they can see that we are leaders, teachers, preachers, builders, forgivers, actors, rappers, hairdressers, politicians, musicians, scientists, artists, athletes and entrepreneurs and more.

We stand collectively upon the shoulders of each other so that we can depart a strong and prosperous heritage. We must give back and pass on the baton, because there is always somebody watching how we walk and listening to how we talk. We stand with hands held through all generations; the old school and the new. If we stand together, somebody will look up and declare, "I can." We were strong. We belong and we are able to reach back and pull someone along as we journey to a reunion of ourselves.

9/23/06 © Sandra R. Rivers

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Lincoln's All Pro Dads' Breakfast

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Lincoln Academy for Boys hosted its monthly All Pro Dads' breakfast on Thursday, January 25 as guest speakers Richard Jackson, Sr. and Richard Jackson, Jr. addressed a group of about 75 students and their fathers or father figures.

"We know the importance of family and their involvement and I applaud each and every one of you," said the elder Jackson, a longtime administrator with the Toledo Public Schools.

"We are very proud of the young men who are here because you are showing this

whole city how well you can do academically and how you can become great citizens," he added.

"The most important thing you can have with your son is time," said the younger Jackson, an executive with the Westfield Franklin Park Shopping mall. "I enjoy that to this day," he said of the time he spends with his own father. "I can't remember a big moment in my life that he wasn't there to share with me."

Lincoln Academy has been hosting the once-a-month All Pro Dads Day



Richard and Richard Jackson

breakfasts since October 2005. The breakfasts bring together students and fathers or father figures for a breakfast sponsored by

McDonalds and an inspirational speech. The events are the brainchild of Mark Robinson, a school-based mental health professional with Connecting Point. Robinson works within the school through the LEAP Project funded by the Lucas County Mental Health Board.

For more information on how you can support or attend the events call Robinson at 419-244-5823 or 419-870-3829.



UT to Honor Black History Month by Uncovering 'Hidden Histories: Untold Stories of a Journey'

Special to The Truth

The University of Toledo will celebrate Black History Month with the theme of "Hidden Histories: Untold Stories of a Journey." During February, offices and student organizations have planned special activities and presentations to highlight "hidden" or overlooked contributions of African-Americans to society.

Three-month long activities on Main Campus are the Black Arts Movement display in the Carlson Library, a poster and quiz about well-known African-Americans with disabilities in the Office of Accessibility in Snyder Memorial Building Room 1400, and "Hidden Histories: Untold Stories of a Journey," an art exhibit of works by Thomas Vines, in the Office of Multicultural Student Services, Student Union Room 2500. The Health Science Campus will feature the "African-Americans of the Nation: The Late Great Marvin Vines, Artist, Works Unseen: Part Two" in the Mulford Library glass connector during February, as well.

In addition, Ritter Planetarium will present "The Skywatchers of Africa" on every Friday, at 7:30 p.m. and "Follow the Drinking Gourd" every Saturday, at 1 p.m. Each program cost \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and children 4-12, free for children 3 and younger.

For more information about these or any of the events listed below, call the

UT Office of Multicultural Student Services at 419.530.2261.

The rest of the schedule is as follows:

Thursday, Feb. 1

- Black History Month Kick-off Luncheon - The Murphy's, featuring Clifford Murphy on bass and Claude Black on piano, will perform. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Student Union Auditorium.

Monday, Feb. 5

- Dining Services Black History Month Soul Food - 4-7 p.m. Horton International House Dining Hall. Free for students on meal plans, \$6.50 for faculty and staff and a \$.50 discount with faculty or staff ID.

Tuesday, Feb. 6

- African-American Dance Exhibitions - 8-9 p.m. Student Recreation Center.

Wednesday, Feb. 7

- R.A.A.P. Session, "Harlem Renaissance" - Speaker Gerald Natal, visiting instructor in University Libraries. 12:30-2 p.m. Student Union Room 2582.

- African Continent Spin and Win (a la "Wheel of Fortune") - 2-4 p.m. Student Union South Lounge.

- Black Student Union Meeting "Health Issues" - 7:30 p.m. Student Union Room 2592.

Thursday, Feb. 8

- Commuter Break Soul Food - Even though you're at UT, that doesn't mean you can't get a taste of home by sampling some of the best soul food dishes. Noon-1 p.m. Student Union Room 2500.
- Brown-Bag Talk, "Black

Migration" - Speaker Dr. Willie McKether, UT assistant professor of anthropology. Noon-1 p.m. Student Union Room 2500.

- African-American Dance Exhibitions - 8-9 p.m. Student Recreation Center.

Friday, Feb. 9

- Brown-Bag Talk, "Little Wyatt: The Story of" - Speaker Dr. Brenda McGadney-Douglass, UT associate professor of social work. Noon-1:30 p.m. Health and Human Services Building Room 1711

- Black Student Union Fashion Show and After Party - 7 p.m. Student Union Auditorium. \$7 for show, \$5 for after party, or \$10 for both.

Monday, Feb. 12

- UT NAACP Meeting - 7:30-9 p.m. Student Union Room 2591.

- Dining Services Black History Month Soul Food - 4-8 p.m. The Crossings dining hall. Free for students on meal plans, \$6.50 for faculty and staff and a \$.50 discount with faculty or staff ID.

Tuesday, Feb. 13

- UT NAACP Bake Sale - 11 a.m.-2 p.m. In front of the Student Union Huntington Bank location.

- Brown-Bag Talk, "The History of the NAACP" - Speaker: TBA. Noon-1 p.m. Student Union Room 2500.

- UT NAACP Old School Game Night - 7 p.m. The Crossings Multipurpose Room.

Wednesday, Feb. 14

(Continued on Page 11)



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February 6 - February 25

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Toledo Museum of Art to Open Symphonic Poem Exhibit

By John Dorsey
Special to the Truth

In late September 2004, Ohio fiber artist Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson received a MacArthur Fellows Genius Grant. These grants provide \$500,000 to "talented individuals who have shown extraordinary originality and dedication in their creative pursuits and a marked capacity for self-direction."

On February 23, the Toledo Museum of Art will be opening *Symphonic Poem: The Art of Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson*. Robinson relates poetic stories of the people and places in her life using materials that are readily available, including buttons, beads,



Aminah Studio

fabrics, twigs, bark, and a homemade media she calls *hogmawg*. By "making do," as her ancestors did, Robinson creates works of art that defy categorization, but are grounded by history, personal experience, and spiritual essence.

The retrospective exhibition *Symphonic Poem* spans more than 50 years and features more than 100 of Robinson's works of art, including paintings, sculpture, prints, journals, and her extensive *RagGonNons*—which she researches and creates over years and continuously refines. The *RagGonNons* are elaborate mixed-media works that



Vendor at Demascus

Robinson describes as *Button-Beaded Music Box Pop-Up BoOks*; they combine the needle and button work she learned from her mother and the craft of bookmaking she learned from her father. Regardless of her chosen media, Robinson's works of art mirror the people and places that have influenced her and serve as the perfect vehicle for the eloquent stories she tells—all connected by references to the past, present and future.

A Columbus native, Robinson has created over 20,000 works, including cloth paintings, sculptures, drawings, prints, book illustrations and quilts. Her work is based on extensive research, oral history and first-hand observation, but all of it is primarily concerned with documenting the lives and history of her family, friends, and community. Robinson often works for many years on a fabric piece, incorporating buttons, shells, twigs and fabric to create richly-textured works that

weave a memory into a colorful and grand collage. Her work is in the collections of the Columbus Museum of Art and the Wexner Center for the Arts, the Akron Art Museum, Ohio; the Oakland Museum; the Baltimore Museum of Art; and the Studio Museum in Harlem. Robinson is represented by the Hammond



Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson

Harkins Gallery.

"My work is about people, historical data, traditions, lost communities. For me, there is no distinction between life and art. The button work is the core. It is important because of long traditions in my family, especially from



My Lord What a Morning

These traditions are still being passed on today, not only through me but also through the younger generation. It takes time to produce work. It takes everything you have because it takes your life to leave something for those who are coming after," said Robinson.

Robinson doesn't limit her work to strictly fiber. Capital University has a collage on fig leaf by Robinson. That same collection also includes a *Figure Study Triptych*, done in watercolor and ink. From her constant creativity, Robinson has also illustrated several children's books, including "Elijah's Angel: A Story for Chanukah and Christmas", "The Shaking Bag" and "A Street Called Home."

Robinson's MacArthur Fellowship biography states, "Aminah Robinson uses fabric, needlepoint, paint, ink, charcoal, clay, and found ob-

jects to create signature works on canvas and in three-dimensional construction. Folk artist, storyteller, and visual historian, Robinson celebrates and memorializes the neighborhood of her childhood, and her journeys to and from her home. In drawings, paintings, sculpture, puppetry, and music boxes, she reflects on themes of family and ancestry, and on the grandeur of simple objects and everyday tasks. Her works are both freestanding monuments and fractional components of an ongoing odyssey. Robinson is a master of assemblage; her elegant collages are Homeric in content,

quantity, and scale (some canvases are 20 feet or larger) and many of her exhibited pieces are works-in-progress, several years in the making."

Born in 1940, Robinson was raised in the close-knit community of Poindexter Village, one of the country's first federally-funded metropolitan housing developments. Her artistic ability emerged at a very young age with her family's encouragement; from her father she learned the processes of book making, from her mother, button and needle-

work. Her use of found objects in her later work can be traced to her childhood interest in readily available material such as sticks, leaves, recycled paper pulp and fruit and vegetable dyes. Robinson

UT to Honor Black History Month by Uncovering 'Hidden Histories: Untold Stories of a Journey'

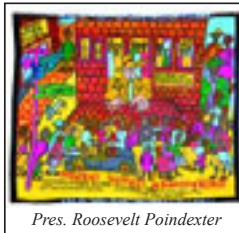
(Continued from Page 10)

- R.A.A.P. Session, "Male/Female Relationships" - 12:30-2 p.m. Student Union Room 2582.
- Black Student Union Meeting, "Let BSU Be Your Date Tonight" - 7:30 p.m. Student Union Room 2592.
- Thursday, Feb. 15**
- Brown-Bag Lecture, "The Strange Career of Jezebel: Black Women, Representation and Sexuality" - Speaker Dr. Nikki Taylor, University of Cincinnati assistant professor of history. 12:30-1:30 p.m. in Tucker Hall Room 180, 6:30 p.m. in Driscoll Alumni Center

- Room 1019.
- Night at the Apollo - 7-9 p.m. Rocky's Attic in the Student Union.
- 16th Annual Art Tatum Memorial Scholarship Concert featuring jazz pianist Scott Gwinnell - 8 p.m. Center for Performing Arts Recital Hall. \$5 for students and seniors, \$12 for Toledo Jazz Society members, \$15 for the public, and \$40 for patrons.
- Friday, Feb. 16**
- "Toledo's Untold Stories" and a visit to Toledo's Legacy Center - 11 a.m. - (Continued on Page 16)

received her formal art training at the Columbus Art School (now the Columbus College of Art and Design).

Robinson has been interested in art since childhood when her father showed her how to combine mud, glue, dyes, lime and sticks to form *hogmawg*, a substance used in making sculpture. Her



Pres. Roosevelt Poindexter

memories of Poindexter Village are an enduring source of inspiration, as are her research expeditions to Africa, the Middle East, and South America to study regional traditions and art forms. Through her vibrant, expressive compositions, Robinson chronicles the culture of both enduring communities and those no longer

in existence. *Symphonic Poem* was originally organized by the Columbus Museum of Art and Arts Midwest in partnership with the Ohio Arts Council. In addition to the Toledo Museum, the exhibit, which was first displayed in 2003, also came to the Brooklyn Museum in March 2006. Charlotta Kotik, Curator and Chair, Department of Contemporary Art coordinated that exhibition.

The TMA's exhibit will be available for viewing through May 20.

The fully illustrated 199-page color catalogue, *Symphonic Poem: The Art of Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson* accompanies the exhibition. The large format, hardbound catalogue is available for \$45 at the Museum Store or by calling 419-254-5766.

Visit www.toledomuseum.org for more information.

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Come Together!: A New Life Production

Special to the Truth

In celebration of Black History Month, New Life Productions proudly presents the hit stage play, *Come Together!* Written, directed, and produced entirely by Toledo resident, JaJuan Turner, *Come Together!* stresses the importance of unity amongst all people. The play points out problems that often divide us, but also offers solutions to

help bring us together. Featuring a multicultural cast, *Come Together!* will be performed on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 23 & 24, at The Maumee Indoor Theater, 601 Conant St. in Maumee, Ohio. Both shows will begin promptly at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$12.00 in advance and \$15.00 @ the door and are available at The Maumee Indoor Theater box office or by calling New Life

Productions @ (419) 514-0668.

Turner created New Life Productions in 1999 after becoming agitated with the lack of positive images in mainstream media, in an effort to provide a counterbalance by offering thought provoking, inspirational & motivational, yet entertaining works of art such as *Come Together!*

Another Perspective: There Is Always Hope for Our Youth

By Bishop Stephen Ward, Remix Ministries
Special to The Truth

"You do the crime, you pay the time," is a common phrase uttered throughout our society in regard to juvenile delinquency. It has been suggested that a punitive response to the problem of youth violence in America is an effective means of solving the issue of youth crime, and would also deter future offenders. As a result, the existence of rehabilitation strategies within the system available to offenders is under threat.

A harsh and punitive response to youth violence was, in part, brought about by a moral panic across America. Exaggerations by the media and political figures act as instigators of panic. Both the media and politicians promoted the concept of the super-predator youth. The media played its part by publishing or airing many individual stories of violent youth. Those in question represented only a small amount of the adolescent population. However, many Americans took these media-conveyed stories at face value, and it seemed to the public that there could be a juvenile delinquent around every corner just slaving to steal their wallet or sell them narcotics.

As a political ploy, many of those running for office and looking to gain support drew on this fear and called for more punitive measures toward youth violence. Politicians pushed to confine youth within adult prisons. In some states, those under the age of 16 can now be sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole, and the ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in the United States reserved the right to execution of those under the age of 18. Eighteen youths have been put to death in the United States. There were high hopes of deterring violence in this manner, which was supported by much of the public.

Just as the public had or still has hopes to reduce youth violence via a punitive response, there is also hope for those who have already been deemed hopeless. Many Americans believe it is not too late to assist in pulling these young men and women

out of their criminal rut. But it must be shown that certain rehabilitative programs are worth the time, effort and money needed to put them into play. In this regard, programs designed for the lowering of recidivism rates for already institutionalized offenders are especially important. Not only do effective rehabilitation programs help to ensure the offender a crime-free future, but they also benefit communities and neighborhoods in reducing recidivism rates.

Despite the damper put on intervention programs by strict authoritarian responses to youth violence over the last few decades, today there is an increasing emphasis on rehabilitation in the juvenile justice system. The system recognizes that youths are different from adults in their capacity to commit crime, and also their ability to recover from a criminal past and become responsible and law-abiding. Using effective punishment that won't forfeit life chances as adults is regarded as an effective policy.

Further investigation into the subject of intervention strategies would be valuable to individuals and society alike. Rallying support for such programs by teaching their value and benefits to all could be done by such investigations. We must explore the workings, benefits, and societal response to intervention strategies such as teaching interpersonal skills, teaching family homes, cognitive-behavioral methods and multi-systemic therapy. In some states, those under the age of 16 can now be sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole, and the ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in the United States reserved the right to execution of those under the age of 18. Eighteen youths have been put to death in the United States. There were high hopes of deterring violence in this manner, which was supported by much of the public.

Some punishments may be an ineffective means of inhibiting delinquency. Studies show rates of recidivism increasing for those juveniles who were given the unfortunate "lock 'em up and throw away the key" nature of punishment. One such example is that of juveniles

transferred from juvenile corrections to adult corrections. Juveniles, when given a punitive sentence and sent to live for a long period of time around criminal peers, absorb their surroundings and are shaped by exactly what the system was trying to eradicate within their lives. This holds true for boot-camps, long terms of confinement and possibly even in wilderness challenge programs.

The outlook on youth offenders' capability for rehabilitation has been all wrong. Young people are not completely rigid. Rather, they are malleable and, with the right treatment, can be helped to change their lives for the better. Youth have "room-to-reform" and have "diminished capacity," and that proportionality should be regarded in considering the severity of a crime and its proper punishment.

By "room-to-reform," I mean that youth are still developing mentally and are capable of change. "Diminished capacity" relates to the idea that youth are not fully responsible for their actions because their logic and understanding of consequences have not fully developed. These two outlooks toward the juvenile offender make it evident that rehabilitation opportunities are the best option for youth in contrast to long sentences and other punitive measures.

The Juvenile Court was built upon this concept. It was recognized that youth should be set apart from adults because of their obvious differences in mental processes and capability for change. The room-to-reform concept is the main foundation of Juvenile corrections. Unfortunately this has not held true throughout history and at times this foundational concept had been pushed aside.

There is little evidence that prison has much of a deterrent effect, especially for young people who come from poor, crime-blighted neighborhoods with little hope for the future.

Problems arise in lack of socialization skills, mental health problems and unfortunate family situations. Thus, an emphasis is put on

the need and importance of recognizing these problems within the juvenile justice system, and addressing them appropriately with the most effective means available. It is putting the effective programs into play that is the real challenge.

I believe that there is hope for our youth here in Toledo and abroad. I challenge city officials, politicians, the school board, clergy and all those who are in position to make a difference. I say that we all must remember that we were young at some time. And with that ...we all have made some bad choices and decisions.

We all have taken our bumps and bruises because that is a part of life, that is a part of growing up. Despite our various childhood situations, one thing that we all looked for and need today is love. I believe that we can have all the centers, all the programs in the world for our youth but, if we leave out



Bishop Stephen Ward

the key element of true genuine love, it is all done in vain.

What is love? Love is patient, love is kind. Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. So, as we continue to search for answers to assist our youth

into developing into respectable young men and women, let us not forget about the key element which is love. After all, if no one, better yet, if God didn't take time out to love you despite of your flaws, where would you be?

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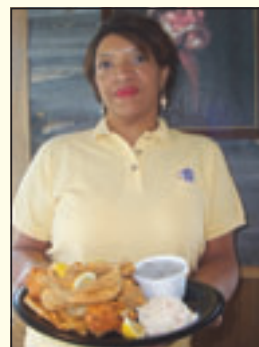
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Interview with Toledo Radio Legend Jerry Hobbs a/k/a The Drummer Co-host of On The Edge Talk Show

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

I've been trying to get with some of Toledo's current urban radio personalities for a while just to basically sit down and chop it up with them. But while waiting on that to come through, I was contacted by a personal friend of mine who just happens to be an important fixture in Toledo's proud heritage of African-American radio.

No doubt, this is before my time and probably before the time of most of my readership but it's still very important.

Back in the late 60s/early 70s, the Glass City airwaves were treated to a show hosted by The Mad Hatter and The Drummer every Saturday evening. It was funky, it was funny and it was cutting edge. Fast forward more than 30 years, and Jerry Hobbs is still making noise and it's still cutting edge. I sat down with The Drummer and his new partner in crime, Joe Gozdowski at Sicily Studios, their base of operation.

They interviewed me for

their On The Edge podcast show back in September after my "The Truth About 9/11" article. So it's only right to return the favor, this is how it went.

Michael: The name of the podcast show is what?

Jerry: ON THE EDGE! You want the motto?

Michael: Please.

Jerry: We talk about subject matters up to and including things that are taboo.

Joe: Yeah, that's what I put online. Yeah, we talk about everything.

Jerry: That's why we've had psychics on, professional people on and everything.

Joe: It's a production of Sicily Studios, hosted by both of us.

Michael: And you have no stipulations on who the guests can be?

Joe & Jerry: NONE! Anyone can be on.

Michael: When did the show start?

Jerry: March of '06.

Michael: So you're about a year into it... tell me where it all came from.

Jerry: I've got to give credit to Virgilio Baker. He's got an office over at the Douglas Center and he remembers me from doing radio back in the day.

He asked me one day "Do you know about podcasting?" and I say "no, what the hell is that?" He had been at the bookstore one day and came across a book all about podcasting and he studied it.

He and I actually ended up doing our first podcast about the

North Toledo riots. We talked about the riots, we talked about Carty and everything. I actually thought he was contacting me about needing me and Joe to do a commercial for him, but I'm glad it brought me into podcasting. Me and Virgilio lost touch for a while and Joe... who is a genius by the way, Joe says 'hey man, we can do this' so we got into it.

Our first guest was a psychic named Pam Ryan.

Michael: Was it by design that you wanted the

show to feature taboo subjects, and be edgy?

Joe: It kinda just happened, but the news media doesn't always put things out there that are important to others. All of our shows are positive, but we're very blunt just being ourselves anyway.

Jerry: We met in Karate School and just look at our age difference (65 and 28), but we're on the same level. We just are who we are.

Michael: What type of individual do you want on your show?

Joe: We don't wanna get into 'he said, she said' - you can't just come and bad mouth someone, if you say something controversial it has to have a point.

Jerry: I set up the people, Joe sets up the schedule and I get a framework for our discussion, but I want to wait and let it all unfold live when we do the podcast.

Michael: What are the similarities between podcasting and other forms of media?

Jerry: Podcasting is like a radio broadcast on the internet that goes worldwide.

Back in the day Toledo couldn't even get WJLB.

Michael: Man, I grew up on WJLB. Okay, tell me how people can access your podcasts... like the one I did with you guys, how could someone just go and listen to that?

Joe: As soon as we record a show, it gets mixed and mastered and compressed to



The Minister with Joe Gozdowski and Jerry Hobbs

an mp3 format. Then it's uploaded to a server site that holds the files but if you wanna hear an On The Edge podcast you need to go to www.sicilystudios.com and listen to podcasts or you can subscribe to us through itunes.

Jerry: People are starting to listen, and we haven't done any promotion.

Joe: Yeah, it's been real underground but people are finding out.

Jerry: Yeah, my wife was stopped by someone who recognized her plates and asked if she was the Hobbs from the podcast... turns out college students in B.G. are listening to our show, On The Edge.

Joe: Not everyone has time to sit at the computer and listen to a show, so we're gonna make On The Edge available for purchase on CD.

Michael: It's 2007, you guys are coming up on your year anniversary as On The Edge podcasting, but Jerry this started with you and your history in radio broadcasting. Tell me about how it went down back then.

Jerry: Billy Joe Smith and I were working at Urban Renewal in 1969 and he decides that he wants to get back on the radio. He knew the guy who owned Channel 11 and Seaway Radio, Frasier Reams and he let Billy get back on the air on Saturdays.

Billy was already known as the Mad Hatter so when he got his show, I was just sitting there with my orange pop and bobbing my head to the music. One day, he was on the air playing music and he said 'Drummer! - Say Something!' So... and this is the honest to God truth... I put down my pop, walked around the console went up to the mic and I said "something."

That was my first word on radio. When he did his show that next Saturday, he had a mic for me at my end of the table and that's how we became The Mad Hatter and The Drummer show on the air.

Michael: So you had the show, was it talk radio or...

Jerry: Naw, it was music. We were like Tommy K's

(Continued on Page 16)

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RRT Images of Art Gallery Exhibit

Artist Dan Cahill grew up on the south side of Chicago where he honed his skills in custom metal work and car painting. This evolved into painting abstracts on large aluminum panels using acrylic enamels. He was fascinated with the transparency and the depth this medium provided. Soon he was experimenting with different mediums and tried his hand at canvas, trading my spray gun for brushes and enamels for acrylic. In order to work on the oversized canvas that he enjoyed so much, he had to start making his own frames and stretching his own canvas. He has always been inspired by Kandinsky and Picasso, and tried his hands at oils. "I love the variables that this paint allows".

Dan has exhibited his work in several juried shows such as (The Bucktown Arts Festival, The Beverly Art Museum, and The Union Street Gallery) in the Chicago area with tremendous response.

He currently resides in Swanton, Ohio and works in the Toledo area. His work is currently on exhibit at The RRT IMAGES of ART GALLERY located at 6423 Monroe Street, Sylvania, Ohio. The gallery hours are from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Monday - Friday. Also by appointment. (419-460-1343)

A reception is scheduled for Saturday, February 10, 2007, from 2pm-7pm.

Rehearsals

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The Lima Truth

Page 14

The Sojourner's Truth

January 31, 2007

Reflections of Martin Luther King Day Monday, January 15, 2007

By Sharon Guice
Special to The Truth

On this day I awoke early as I had to call my sister, Ethel, and let her know that I would be attending the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's 12th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Breakfast on that morning.

After I left the house, my mind wandered to Martin Luther King. I wondered if his purpose in life pushed him out of his home when he would rather have stayed home with his wife and children. I thought "is having a dream the same as knowing your purpose in life?"

I had thought about taking the day off and not attending any of the Martin Luther King functions going on in the city in order to work on unfinished projects around the house but the day before a friend of mine who is fighting the battle of cancer had told her sister "Martin Luther King fought for us to have the right to go to work and not for taking the day off." This made me think again about what the day was all about.

I said to myself it would be nice to stay home but you can't take the day off. You need to go to the breakfast and to the march. There is still much work for you to do.

When I arrived at the Veteran's Memorial Civic Center, I was thrilled as always to see our people turned out for an event. I looked around the room and wondered if this was what Martin Luther King dreamed of, whites and blacks working together for the same cause.

Over 600 people were in attendance at the breakfast. Some were all dressed up in their best and feeling pretty good about doing the right thing for the day. In attendance were the ladies of the Red Hat Society, such as Georgia Newsome, Elaine Chandler, Mary Davis, Judy Logan, Pat LaBauve, and others in the group. Emanuel Curtis, Jason Upthegrove, Charlotte Wagner, Nina Cunningham, Julisa Henry, Korriana Jones, Monia and Marissa Carter and Marvin Kelly to name a few of the adults and youth achievers from The Lima Family YMCA Black Achievers.

Ann Wilson, Pat Butler and Linda Ousley were there with this year Debs and Gents for Christ Cotillion 2007 court which includes Michelle Hurlley and LaMar Pughley. Also represented was Deborah McCurdy,

Ph.D., and Rhodes State College, John Upshaw and The Ohio State University, Pastor B. LaMont Monford Sr. and Philipian Missionary Baptist Church, Pastor Earnest Stephens, Jr. and Fourth Street Baptist Church, Pastor Fayne Wise and Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, Pastor Melvin Woodard, Pastor Dunlap of Friendship Baptist Church, and Pastor Robert Toney, Eleventh Street Missionary Baptist Church, John Doxie of Huntington Bank, Lima City School board members, Ann Miles and Saul Allen, Tyrone Campbell of Finesse Fashion, Coleman Clark of Jones Clark Funeral Home, Malcolm McCoy and Oscar Marshall, the first black principals in Lima City Schools, City Councilmen Potts, Pitts, Nixon, Glenn and Magnus, Alberta Shurelds of Allen County Minority Caucus, Ruth Glover of Good Morning Gospel, Adriane Bradshaw of Ohio Northern, Dr. Marcus Cox and retired Dr. Robert A. Watts, Michelle Slash of Diva Style Hair Salon, Major Amerson, photographer, Jana and Rufus Williamson of Global Travel, Leslie Long past president of the Southside Neighborhood Association, Ethel Payne, Jackie Robinson, Beatrice Johnson, Mattie Jones, Martin Stevens, Alice Jackson, Alberta Peterson, Luella Doxie, Grace Breaston, Paul Hubbard, the owner of the new Church's Chicken, and so many, many more of the community.

On the dais was Mayor David Berger, Lori Frazier, Rev. Samuel Payne of New Creation Lutheran Church, Cleo Stephen, Constance Young and Marshall Rose of Bowling Green State University as guest speaker. We were spiritually enlightened with gospel music by Lewis Jones, II, Mia Jones, Brian Jones and Jessica Bradley.

The hosts of the breakfast the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority wore black suits and beautiful monogram scarves with the AKA colors - salmon pink and apple green. Lima chapter members include Patekka Bannister, Sandra Bentley, Eva Carter, Sylvia Clark, Brenda Ellis, Glenda Ford, Brenda Frazier, Lori Frazier, Joyce Garrett, Theresa Henry, Amy Jackson, Norma Johnson, Jan Jones, Andrea King, Myrtle Lighton, Beverly McCoy, Julia Nunez, Santwinna

Nunez, Bertha Perry, Lori Perry, Shirley Perry, Pauline Pope, Linda Pugh, Leah Richardson, Tina Saunders, Cleo Stephens, Evelyn Smith, Sandra Tate, Brenda Thomas, Arvis Watts, Georgia Williams, Paula Wise and Constance Young.

We did our usual-greeted people we hadn't seen in a while as well as those we just saw the day before, enjoyed the food and entertainment, listened to the speaker, clapped our hands, sang the National Black Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," said our good byes of see you next year and went about our way.

As I was walking to my car in the parking garage, I could see I was going to be stuck in traffic. After getting in the car, I spotted some friends that I have known for a very long time. I motioned to them to let me out and thought they understood what I said to them; but after they apparently had not noticed

As I sat there, I looked two more people in the face as if to say, "let me out" but neither saw my pleading expression. I said to my sister, "maybe we will have to sit here awhile before someone will allow us to get out." The next car to pull up was a blue truck. I looked at him and he motioned to me that he would allow me to get out. I nodded thank you very much to him. Now this man I did not know at all but thought that was very kind of him.

As I backed my SUV up to get in the line of traffic, I noticed Karel Oxley, assistant superintendent Lima City Schools, wanting to get out too. I beeped my horn to alert her that I would let her in line trying to extend courtesy to a person in authority. I said to Ethel that I am extending courtesy to her due to the fact that Pastor Roberts is always teaching us that when we extend courtesy to those in authority that God will bless us.

As we were waiting in line to exit the parking garage, traffic was again held up and I'm thinking "would Martin Luther King be happy about what has just taken place between two races of people who do not know each other?" I thought Martin would be happy to know this is happening. When it was my turn to pay the attendant he told me the car in front of me had paid my parking fee.

I said to Ethel see I told

you God would bless you if respect others and we both smiled at seeing it in action. I proceeded to pull away when I thought you should do the same thing for the person who was kind to you so I stopped the car and informed the attendant that I wanted to pay the person's fee behind me because of his kindness. The attendant jumped out of the booth to take my money. I gave him \$3 and he said no it's only \$2. I was feeling pretty good about the simple transactions that had just taken place between two races of people that didn't know each other vs. those who had known me and didn't extend the courtesy that I was expecting from them.

I proceeded to drive my sister home and informed her that I'm not going to start the march at Vine and Main Streets instead I'll start at Elm and Main Streets so that I can take people back to their cars when the march is over. I went back to my house and worked on a couple of those projects that needed to be done while I waited on the time for the march to start.

As I worked around the house, I was thinking that maybe since we would be marching downtown as part of the third annual Iota Phi Theta "I Have a Dream" March we would have a bigger crowd than in the past years when we marched down Reese Street and 8th Street to Martin Luther King Park.

The march was to start at 3 p.m. so I got in my car and left for the march about 2:45 so that I could be in place before the march started. As I sat in my car I started to get excited in anticipation of



joining the march soon to be coming up Main Street. The excitement of the march overwhelmed me thinking that this is how Martin Luther King did it in the '60s.

I could wait no longer and left my car to start walking down Main Street towards the marchers thinking I would see a large crowd moving up the street. After all over 600 people had been at the breakfast and surely over half of those people would come and march in remembrance of Martin and how he rallied the people together for change.

Something else I noticed when I pulled up to park my car was that the streets were not blocked off. I felt concerned about who would block the traffic for the people. About 10 minutes later the React Team members showed up and started to direct the traffic and my fears went away. I thought "OK, they must not think that many people will turn out to march therefore there is no reason to block the streets ahead of time." Again a pain

of regret surfaced in my mind and I thought one day when we get it together the crowd will be much bigger. After all it was a dreary, rainy day and who would want to march in the cold and rain for a cause that is only the struggle of a few people not well liked in the city or this nation. Hmmm, what would Martin think if he was here today?

I heard the crowd faintly chanting before I saw them. My heart was excited thinking I would see a large crowd of people. I was very disappointed at how small the crowd was. I stuffed my thoughts back deep in mind and joined in the march trying to get in the flow of the chant and the steps of the people marching up Main Street. I thought "we are few but strong and mighty." I was happy to see Leslie Long carrying her sign and keeping step with the youngsters with no problems. Chief Garlock led the march with Derry and Judith Glenn, Larry Seay, Mr. and Mrs.

(Continued on Page 15)

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Issues in Minority Health: A Look at AIDS/HIV in Lima

By Alberta Shurelds
Special to The Truth

When Dr. Anthony Atkins accepted the position of being the first doctor for Allen County Health Partner's Lima Community Health Center, he did so without knowing the impact that his service could have on his patients.

It wasn't long before he detected a serious problem. Young women were coming into his office with multiple STD's and pregnancies. He was taken aback by an 18-year old who came into his office with HIV, herpes, trichomoniasis, gonorrhea and chlamydia. What made matters worse; this was not an isolated incident.

It's been documented that Lima ranks fourth in the state in gonorrhea cases and has long been known as a high-risk area for teen pregnancy. Statistics from the Allen County Health Department cites 306 cases of chlamydia; 159 cases of gonorrhea were reported in a six-month period - January to June. Young adults and teens are having unprotected sex and spreading these diseases at an incredible rate. According to officials at the Centers for Disease Control, anything above a rate of three percent is significant. Of those tested in Allen County, 17.4 percent tested positive for chlamydia. With percentages four times the "acceptable" rates, Dr. Atkins has declared this area in a state of emergency.

It doesn't end there. As we focus on saving the fu-

ture of Lima and Allen County, new figures are being entered into the medical record books that are just as alarming among older women - more specifically among women of color. Divorcees, widows, even elderly women, sometimes, but not always victims of infidelity. Making good choices about the men and women in your life is becoming a life and death decision.

Dr. Atkins decided this was a mission for which he had been chosen. He has great passion for the youth of Allen County, so much so he gives a no-holds barred lecture to every patient about the price of making the wrong choice.

He looks them straight in the eye, and smacks down the cold hard facts about STD's and the effect it can have on their futures. And they listen. They listen because they know he's telling them the truth. And they know he understands what challenges are facing them every day.

Dr. Atkins learned hard lessons from the streets of Detroit. It took the violent deaths of several of his best friends to bring him to the realization that there had to be a better way to live. He found his path in the armed services. Ironic but true. The discipline he learned allowed him to see a possible positive future for himself.

He tries to guide his patients along their positive life path by pointing out



Dr. Anthony Atkins

possible pitfalls and errors in judgment; errors that may seem obvious to some, but for those without a frame of reference that reflects the family life portrayed on television sitcoms, the consequences come out of "nowhere."

Dr. Atkins has decided the best way to reach his target audience is to take the message "where they live" inside the beats of hip-hop. Enlisting the help of local talents and his friends from Detroit and Chicago, he has recently released his *State of Emergency* CD. Cloaked within the confines of lyrics put into rhythms they understand, the youth can get the information they need to

survive.

Dr. Atkins is concerned the community is not taking the plight seriously. He believes the people that have to power to exact change do not feel the urgency involved in this situation. This makes him very anxious. He also is very concerned about the ramifications of the lack of swift and organized efforts toward gaining control

of the downward plunge toward total chaos in this community.

There are organizations that have stepped up to the plate, providing vital information and access to advice, or at the very least, a listening ear, to those who seek help. Many churches have begun support groups and efforts to offer their youth groups opportunities to face these challenges - but this is one of those "It takes a Village to Raise a Child" things. According to Dr. Atkins, we all must pull together in the same direction in order to turn the ship around.

Ultimately, though, it is the decision of each individual that will make the most difference. In the moment, the choices we make can and, too often, do have an undeniable effect on our future.

And what of the new concern for women of color in adulthood - and the concerns the medical community now voices concerning their vulnerability? It has become such a concern the CDC has designated February 7 as National Black HIV/AIDS awareness day. This effort is a community mobi-

lization initiative leading to increase awareness, participation, and support for HIV prevention among African-Americans.

The goal of NBHAAD is to motivate black Americans at risk for HIV to get educated and tested, and to get HIV/AIDS stakeholders involved in prevention education programs, HIV testing, press conferences, community forums and other activities to raise awareness, participation and support for HIV prevention among black Americans.

Since 2001, federal, state, and local governmental agencies, community-based organizations, AIDS service organizations; public and private partners in prevention, treatment and care, as well as partners in the business, entertainment, and faith communities have all joined together in support of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

With all the things in our lives that demand our attention, it's easy to neglect your health. We can no longer afford this fact of life. Each one of us must vow to take an active, aggressive role in preserving our community.

Reflections of Martin Luther King Day

(Continued from Page 14)

Casey, Dale Estelle and youth from Cheryl Allen Center. Brenda Johnson led the group in chants as we stepped with a swift pace towards the public square.

In the center of downtown Lima we gathered around those who wanted to speak, Councilman Derry Glenn and Tommy Pitts, Brenda Johnson, Bryan Miller and Mr. Russell's young daughter reading facts about Martin Luther King Jr. Posters held high with pictures of Martin Luther King Jr. and signs reading "non-violence and peace," "no justice, no peace," and "no racial profiling." Bryan carried a t-shirt with pictures of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr.

We were all very excited and nervous at the same time. Black folks marching up Main Street not sure if anyone was going to be there to hurl insults at us or not. We knew we were involved in something bigger than us, but very proud to have an opportunity to express how we feel. In America marching and moving for change, the fight goes on.

The excitement and anticipation of wanting more change was heard in the people voices as we chanted, "United we stand, divided we fall" and "no more racial profiling, justice for all." We were again encouraged to keep the dream alive and do something that many of our fore fathers and mothers died for. VOTE and continue to educate our children.

The youth were chided

about their dress and to remember the sacrifices others had made for their benefit. To act like young adults are suppose to act. After all the speeches were done, we departed left to pursue our own dreams.

Later Monday night, I again reflected on the day's activities and was thinking what my dreams are? Do I know what it is to have a dream? Is having a dream the same as knowing your purpose in life?

I decided to conduct a survey to investigate the matter. I got up out of the bed and went to my computer and sent out an email to 25 people in my address book to answer the question. "I have a dream." Next time I will share with you the results of the survey.

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Interview with Toledo Radio Legend Jerry Hobbs a/k/a *The Drummer* Co-host of On The Edge Talk Show

(Continued from Page 13)

competition once a week. But I have to give credit to Barbara Hill for talking to me and Billy about going into marketing. And me and Billy would always go up to Detroit to hang with the black radio personalities up there. One day Dr. Cox up in Detroit told us we should sell people a package deal.

The idea of doing commercials just came together.

We came back and started doing commercials, our first account was Capital Tire which is now Tom's Tire... our slogan was

"Put A Mag Wheel On Your Mo-Bile" and we put it on WKLR and a lot of white folks heard us for the first time and that's how we flipped our show into doing commercials. We became like sales reps for WKLR promoting to the African-American market here in Toledo.

They already had Leon Watson, Brother Ted Wright and Jim Billups who were among the luminaries on the station at that time.

Michael: That's wild, it's amazing you were able to accomplish all that back then.

Jerry: But I have to also say that there would've been no Madd Hatter and The Drummer show if not for Charlie Chuck.

Once he became station manager, he really

allowed us to use the studio to do our thing.

Michael: You had the advertising business going for a while, but how did the radio show come to an end?

Jerry: There was a guy named Gary Miller who came in one evening to tell us that we had to go. I'll never forget it, he said "You guys are 20 years ahead of your time, you need to be in a Detroit or a Chicago or a New York". See, what was happening is that the white listeners in suburban areas were starting to call in to the station to be put on the dedication list for our show. And we were only on Saturdays.

Some of the white jocks got jealous and Gary told us we had to go.

But in 1971, a radio station in Berkeley, Ohio called WGLN and we got on

Saturday nights there and once again in direct competition with Tommy K.

When they started WIOT, they kicked us out. After that we just focused on doing our radio ads so we had a 20 year history doing commercials.

Michael: Why do you think your commercials had such a far-reaching response?

Jerry: We did our commercials different. Back in those days, things were wild.

We even got to hang out with James Brown. We would be with him from the time he touched down at the airport to when he got onstage at the Sports Arena. He had a lot of influence on us.

We couldn't swear when

we did our commercials, but they were wild.

See, we used to do it all. Comedy and even a lot of rhymes.

Had we bridged the gap another seven or eight years we would've been at the beginning of hip-hop. Not just rhyming, even with scratching records.

Michael: With you having a history in radio and, Joe, you run a studio and work as producer/engineer - how do you view the dedication for independent media?

Joe: Everything is so slanted these days. Negative. You turn on the news and all you hear is bad, bad, bad. We're firm believers that whatever you think about is what will happen the most, that's why we just let guests on our show just tell their story. There's no spin. No editing.

Jerry: I even learn from Oprah. I watch how she'll bring on an expert, but then when they start talking she's answering her own questions like she's the expert. We don't do that, we just sit back and let it go.

Michael: Completely unscripted?

Jerry and Joe: C o m - pletely un-scripted.

Michael: What are some of the controversial topics you've had?

Joe: We're open minded, so we'll talk to anyone.

We had the owner of Cupid's Closet on here. She has these sex toy parties around town, and she came on and told stories about what goes on at some

of these sex toy parties.

Dick Epstein from the Better Business Bureau and we did a show called "Consumers Beware" which was one of our most-listened to shows.

People that practice Wicca, conspiracy theorists, magicians and even an internist. A physician who wrote

Dying Was The Best Thing That Ever Happened To Me.

Jerry: You know me and my wife are partners with Tahitian Noni, and we even had two of the big money guys from Detroit come down and get on the show and tell their story. Also, we had John Livingston - a black motivational speaker.

Michael: People feel like Toledo is a boring place or is un-interesting place, but you guys have found a way to showcase how unique our city is and that's why it's called On The Edge. Guys I wanna thank you for your time.

Anyone who would like to hear or even be invited to appear as a guest, go to www.sicilystudios.com and you can get down with On The Edge.

Truth readers, thank you all for rocking with me yet another week.

I'm sure this isn't the last time you'll see me mention Sicily Studios or Jerry Hobbs in my articles, so stay tuned.

Questions/comments - glasscitytruth@yahoo.com

UT to Honor Black History Month by Uncovering 'Hidden Histories: Untold Stories of a Journey'

(Continued from Page 11)

noon at the Office of Multicultural Student Services Gallery (Student Union Room 2500). 12:30-2 p.m. at the Legacy Center. Bus provided to Legacy Center.

• Recreation Night with UT NAACP & BSU - 10:30 p.m.-2 a.m. Student Recreation Center. Free to students with ID.

Saturday, Feb. 17

• Bus Trip to National Underground Railroad Freedom Center - 8 a.m. departure. 8 p.m. return. \$7 per person. Register in the African-American Student Enrichment Initiatives Office, Student Union Room 1531.

Monday, Feb. 19

• Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Benefit Dinner - Speaker Dr. Alvin Poussaint, director of the Media Center of the Judge Baker Children's Center in Boston and professor of psychiatry and faculty associate dean for student affairs at Harvard Medical School. 7-10 p.m. Student Union Auditorium. \$30 for students and \$60 for all other attendees.

• Dining Services Black History Month Soul Food - 4-8 p.m. Parks Tower Skyrise Café. Free for students on meal plans, \$6.50 for faculty and staff and a \$.50 discount with faculty or staff ID.

Tuesday, Feb. 20

• Brown-Bag Talk, "Black Fathers" - Speaker Dr. Janice Carson, UT assistant professor of social work. Noon-1:30 p.m. Health and Human Services Building Room 1711.

• Dr. Lancelot Thompson Achievement Program - 6:30 p.m. Student Union Auditorium.

Wednesday, Feb. 21

• R.A.A.P. Session, "The Color Complex Brown-Bag Test" - 12:30-2 p.m. Student Union Room 2582.

• Black Student Union Meeting "Tribute to Black Music" - 7:30 p.m. Student Union Room 2592.

Thursday, Feb. 22

• Brown-Bag Lecture, "Harriet Tubman: A Life of Courage and Determination; A Portrayal" - Speaker Joyce Brown of the Toledo branch of the American Association of University Women. 12:30-1:30 p.m. in Tucker Hall Room 180.

Friday, Feb. 23

• Multicultural Jeopardy on Black History - Noon-1 p.m. Student Union South Lounge.

• "Blues All Around Me" - 2-10 p.m. photography show. 3-4 p.m. lecture. 7-9 p.m. performance by David "Honeyboy" Edwards. Center for Performing Arts Recital Hall.

Monday, Feb. 26

• Dining Services Black History Month Soul Food - 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Student Union South Dining Hall. Free for students on meal plans, \$6.50 for faculty and staff and a \$.50 discount with faculty or staff ID.

• Dining Services Black History Month Soul Food - 4-8 p.m. The Ottawa House Dining Hall. Free for students on meal plans, \$6.50 for faculty and staff and a \$.50 discount with faculty or staff ID.

• "History Is a People's Memory" - Speaker Kevin Powell, author of *Who's Gonna Take The Weight? Manhood, Race and Power in America*. 7 p.m. Student Union Auditorium.

Wednesday, Feb. 28


• R.A.A.P. Session, "My Story" with UT administrators - 12:30-2 p.m. Student Union Room 2582.

• Black Student Union Soul Food Lunch - Noon-2 p.m. Student Union South Lounge.

• Black Student Union Meeting, "History of Black Leaders at UT" - 7:30 p.m. Student Union Room 2592.

For more information, call the UT Office of Multicultural Student Services at 419.530.2261.


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Toledo Named One of 100 Best Communities for Young People

Special to The Truth

United Way of Greater Toledo along with the City of Toledo announced last week that Toledo has been named one of 100 Best Communities for Young People.

The awards, given annually by America's Promise - The Alliance For Youth, recognize communities for their commitment to provide healthy, safe, and caring environments for young people. This is the second year for this

national competition for which more than 750 applications were submitted.

Many factors contributed to Toledo's success, according to information provided by United Way of Greater Toledo. A few of the highlights include:

- a 12 percent increase in graduation rates in Toledo over the past five years;
- the number of students reporting alcohol, tobacco and

marijuana use has fallen to below 10 percent; and

- more than 17 thousand Toledo youth volunteered approximately 686,000 hours in 2005; and
- almost 95 percent of Toledo youth are covered by health insurance.

The work of Deacon Dzierzawski and the Community Partnership, the City of Toledo Youth Commission, the Coalition for Youth Enrichment, the Data Evaluation Network, and United Way Family Resource Centers were also among the examples of individuals and organizations serving Toledo's youth cited in the application.

The application, nominating Toledo for this prestigious award was submitted by United Way of Greater Toledo. "This is a tremendous honor for our community," stated Bill Kitson, president and CEO of United Way.

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Call for Appointment 2777 W. Central
No Wait Toledo, Ohio 43606

1918 Peacock Lane
4 bd, step down living rm w/vaulted ceiling and skylight, first floor laundry, master suite with cathedral ceiling, walk in closet
Call Bessie Humphrey
Office 419.874.1188 - Cell 419.260.0215

rrt images
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419.460.1343
Digital Art Photography, Posters, Business Cards
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2105 W. Alexis Road (between Jackman & Douglas)
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Eloise A Norwood, R.PH
Black Owned and Operated
Serving Toledo & Surrounding Communities Since 1989
Free Delivery!

1127 Waite Great Investment Property
Two Units, Separate Utilities, Large Rooms, Three Bedrooms Each, Good Condition
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The Master's Touch "Anointed Hands of God"
Sherry McLain
Haircuts, Quickweaves, Braids, Sew Ins, Loes
2565 W. Bancroft - Phone 419.534.6070
Website: www.hairballers.com

This Home Is Waiting For You!
4330 Truxton Place Drive * \$110,000
Tri-level, 3 bd, 2 baths, Family Rm, Laundry Rm, Storage Area and Enclosed Sunroom
Alma Dortch-Gilbert * Whittington Group Realty
Office 419.297.2301

3652 Maxwell Road * Reduced \$128,000
3 BD, 1 and 1/2 Bath, Move-in Condition and Beautifully Landscaped, Roof 2004
Call Bessie Humphrey
Office 419.874.1188 - Cell 419.260.0215

GREAT BUY!
2403 River Road
Brick Ranch, 3 Bedrooms, Central Air, Full Basement
Centruy 21 Kasten Realty
Dee Bates - Cell 419.367.7771

For Sale - Beauty Salon
2916 Stickney - \$89,900
Upscale beauty salon with 6 booths. Additional separate area for another business venture for extra income. New furnace & C/A,
WHITTINGTON GROUP REALTY
Call Nettie Jackson - 419-250-1895

THE C. BROWN FUNERAL HOME, INC.
1629 NEBRASKA AVENUE 43607
419.255.7682
"WHEN TRUTH IN PRICING AND QUALITY MATTERS" IN OR OUT OF TOWN

Clinical Therapists

Dynamic outpatient facility committed to providing extraordinary care to children and families is seeking dedicated team players to provide clinical services. Masters degree in mental health field with Ohio license (LSW, LISW, PC, PCC); plus one year experience working with troubled children and families required. Must be computer literate and have word processing skills. Duties include providing diagnostic assessments, formulating client treatment plans and providing ongoing individual, family, and group therapy. Excellent organizational, communication, and documentation skills are essential. Commitment to excellent customer service a must. Submit cover letter with salary expectations and resume by 2/7/07, to

Harbor Behavioral Healthcare,
Attn: Human Resources (22),
4334 Secor Road,
Toledo, OH 43623-4234
or fax to 419-720-6103
or e-mail to harborhr@harbor.org.

EOE.

**Social Work
CASE MANAGER**

Unison is seeking Case Managers to provide community support services to adults with serious mental illness. Responsibilities will include providing assistance with the social, vocational, economic, and environmental needs of assigned clients and assisting in their ability to live in the community. Valid driver's license required. Ohio counselor or social worker license and experience preferred. Consideration will be given to candidates with four-year degrees in fields related to social work. Excellent salary and benefits package. Send or fax resume with cover letter to:



Human Resources - CSP
1425 Starr Avenue
Toledo, OH 43605
Fax 419.936.7574
Email: HR@UNISONBH.GR.G

EOE

Job Developer

Seeking an energetic, team player to call on area companies to develop job opportunities for our clients. Requires Bachelor's degree in business, plus 1 year experience in sales/marketing; or Associate's degree and 1 year vocational rehabilitation experience; or 3 years sales, marketing, or job recruitment experience. Duties include marketing program and resources to area employers, actively developing job opportunities for clients, and providing job seeking skills training. Must be proficient and accurate in computer use and have a commitment to providing excellent customer service. Valid driver's license and good driving record required. Commitment to excellent customer service a must. Send resume, with cover letter and salary expectations, by 2/7/07 to

Harbor Behavioral Healthcare,
Attn: Human Resources (T-FT),
4334 Secor Road,
Toledo, OH 43623-4234
or fax to 419-720-6103
or e-mail to harborhr@harbor.org.

EOE.

**TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY
11013 AIRPORT HIGHWAY
SWANTON, OH 43558****NOTICE TO PROPOSERS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Board of Directors that proposals will be received by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority for:

**Dedicated Airline Ticket Booking Engine for
Website and Airport Loyalty Program
for
Toledo Express Airport**

The Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority is requesting proposals for a firm to provide a Dedicated Airline Ticket Booking Engine for Website and Airport Loyalty Program in connection with the Toledo Express Airport website. The purpose of the Dedicated Airline Ticket Booking Engine is to provide the general public with a convenient method to shop comparatively and purchase airline tickets from the Airport's website and to promote the usage of Toledo Express Airport with an Airport Loyalty Program.

Firms interested in providing a Dedicated Airline Ticket Booking Engine and Airport Loyalty Program should submit two (2) printed copies and one (1) electronic version (PDF) before 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) on February 12, 2007. Proposals should be clearly marked Proposals for Dedicated Airline Ticket Booking Engine for Website and Airport Loyalty Program on the outside of the sealed envelope and addressed to Eric Frankl, Airports Director, 11013 Airport Highway, Box 11, Swanton, Ohio 43558 and submitted electronically to efrankl@toledoportauthority.org.

Proposals should include:

1. A statement of qualifications and competence of the firm. Provide a statement outlining the firm's background, experience, and skills in providing a Dedicated Airline Ticket Booking Engine and an Airport Loyalty Program.
2. A statement of references (name, address, telephone number, e-mail address) and a description of the project and/or services performed for each reference.
3. Compliance with the Specifications of Proposal.
4. Outline of all fees and costs associated in implementing this project.

Notice to Proposers, Instructions to Proposers, Forms of Proposal, General Conditions, and Technical Specifications may be obtained at the administrative offices of the Port Authority at Toledo Express Airport and on its website, www.toledoexpress.com, under Public Notices.

Following submission, the proposals will be reviewed by a selection committee and evaluated based on the above criteria. No one criterion or combination of criteria will be controlling in the selection of the best-qualified proposer. Firms may be invited for interviews and presentations prior to selection.

Questions regarding the Request for Proposals should be directed to Kris Nichter, Director of Air Service Development & Marketing, via e-mail at knichter@toledoportauthority.org or by fax, number (419) 867-8245 prior to 5:00 p.m. on February 9, 2007. Please provide a fax number along with your question. All interested parties will receive a copy of the question and answer by fax.

Any proposal may be withdrawn prior to the scheduled closing time for receipt of proposals.

The Port Authority reserves the right to reject in whole or in part any or all proposals, to waive any technicalities, to advertise for new proposals, or proceed with the work otherwise as it may deem to be in the best interest of the Port Authority.

TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY
James H. Hartung, President

**Behavior Assistant**

Seeking a dedicated professional to work in a partial-hospitalization setting with youth experiencing severe behavioral problems. Must have Bachelor's degree in psychology, social work or related field; licensure preferred. Position requires valid driver's license and good driving record, ability to perform therapeutic holds, and desire to work in a team setting. Experience working with troubled youth preferred. Duties include providing support to students, managing behaviors in the classroom, and implementing group and individual activities. Assists with transportation duties as needed. Must possess assessment and treatment skills and be proficient in computer use. Submit cover letter with salary expectations and resume by 2/7/07, to

Harbor Behavioral Healthcare (BA),
4334 Secor Road,
Toledo, OH 43623-4234
or fax to 419-720-6103
or e-mail to harborhr@harbor.org.

EOE.

Medical Assistant

Seeking dedicated professional to provide medical assistant and front desk services at our hospital-affiliated outpatient office, Children's Safe Harbor. Duties include greeting clients, answering phones, scheduling appointments, and taking blood pressure and other vitals. Requires current medical assistant certificate plus two years recent office experience. Must be proficient and accurate in data entry, have Microsoft word processing experience, ability to work routine office machines, and be able to communicate clearly with a variety of people. Commitment to providing excellent customer service a must. Submit cover letter with salary expectations and resume by 2/7/07, to

Harbor Behavioral Healthcare (MA),
4334 Secor Road,
Toledo, OH 43623-4234
or fax to 419-720-6103
or e-mail to harborhr@harbor.org.

EOE.

FREE TOWING

Attention Landlords or Property Owners, if
you have abandoned cars (in any condition)
Bad Boyz Towing will remove it for FREE.

Call 419-810-5879

Remodeled Homes for Sale

298 W. Park – 3 Bdrm - \$54,900
 234 Kevin Place – 3 Bdrm - \$54,900
 1521 Norwood – 4 Bdrm - \$44,900

(419) 243-6246

2324 Putnam

1 Bedroom Apartment - \$400
 2 Bedroom Apartment - \$525
 Light, gas and cable included

(419) 243-6246

FOR RENT

Single Family Home
3 Beds, 1 bath, full basement
1535 Buckingham, 43607
For Rent
phone 248-250-0179

DIRECTOR – AMERICORPS HOUSING PROGRAM

Make a Change for the Better

Legal Aid of Western Ohio (LAWO), a non-profit law firm that provides free legal assistance to low-income persons, seeks a dynamic attorney committed to providing legal services to the poor to serve as Director of its Homelessness Prevention and Housing Opportunity Program. LAWO's 10 member AmeriCorps Program provides newer attorneys an opportunity to use their legal skills to serve low-income individuals and groups by working to prevent homelessness and expanding the supply of safe, affordable housing. The Director works in conjunction with other staff to oversee and implement the Program's legal work. The position will be located in either Toledo or Dayton. Membership in Ohio Bar or ability to be admitted by motion or temporary certification required. Experience in legal services, working with community groups, and housing preferred. Excellent legal and communication skills; strong organizational and interpersonal relationship skills; computer proficiency; and commitment to legal services to the poor required. Salary depends on experience. Excellent fringe benefits. Send resume ASAP, electronically preferred in Microsoft Word format, to:

E-mail: jobs@lawolaw.org
 Subject: AmeriCorps Director Position
 or
 AmeriCorps Director Position
 c/o Recruitment Coordinator
 LAWO
 520 Madison Ave. Ste. 640
 Toledo, OH 43604



Those applicants requiring accommodation to the interview/application process should contact the Office Manager at the address listed above. Equal

Place your classified ad in *The Sojourner's Truth* Call Aida at 419-243-0007

Classifieds are also posted online at www.thetruthtoledo.com

Director of Advocacy

Make a Positive Difference in the Lives of Others

Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE), a Toledo based non-profit law firm that provides high quality legal assistance in civil matters to low-income individuals and groups, seeks a creative, energetic and outstanding lawyer to serve as Director of Advocacy. The Director of Advocacy oversees the advocacy and legal work of 30 advocates and works in collaboration with advocates throughout a 32 county service area on a variety of cases, matters, and projects addressing the legal problems of low-income people. Special emphasis will be placed on identifying and resolving legal issues that have a significant impact on the rights of our clients. This is a leadership position with major responsibility within the program, working with individuals and groups interested in or related to the provision of legal assistance to the poor. The Director of Advocacy also is responsible for staff training and development, various administrative tasks, and coordination of services with ABLE's affiliate, Legal Aid of Western Ohio, Inc. (LAWO). The position is housed in ABLE's Toledo office. Travel required. Membership in Ohio Bar or ability to be admitted upon motion or temporary certification. At least five (5) years of litigation and trial experience, excellent legal, administrative, and communications skills, and a commitment to legal services required. Experience in legal services, federal litigation, and working with community groups highly preferred. Salary depends on experience. Excellent benefits. Send cover letter and resume as soon as possible to Attention: Director of Advocacy, electronically preferred in Microsoft Word format, to:

jobs@ablelaw.org or
 Director of Advocacy Position
 c/o ABLE Recruitment Coordinator
 520 Madison Ave. Ste. 740
 Toledo, OH 43604



Equal access to ABLE offices is available. Those applicants requiring accommodation in the interview/application process should contact the Recruitment Coordinator, at the address listed above. EOE

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority is seeking qualified contractors to furnish all labor, materials, and equipment for the following projects:

JOB NO.	Job #27008
PROJECT	Harry Hansen Repaving Project
WALK-THRU DATE	February 6 @ 10:00am
BID OPENING DATE	February 20 @ 11:00am

JOB NO.	Job #26084
PROJECT	Renovation of 3308/10 N. Erie (fire unit)
WALK-THRU DATE	February 8 @ 10:00am
BID OPENING DATE	February 20 @ 11:15am

JOB NO.	Job #27012
PROJECT	Renovation of 6056 Douglas Rd.
WALK-THRU DATE	February 7 @ 10:00am
BID OPENING DATE	February 20 @ 11:30am

Contract Documents and Technical Specifications will be available on **Monday, January 29, 2007**, at 201 Belmont Street, in the Modernization Department (419- 259-9462), and will be provided upon request. A **non-refundable** fee of **\$20.00** will be charged for each set of plans provided. All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud in the 2nd Floor conference room on the dates shown above, in the Modernization Department.

Each bid will require a bid guarantee as described in the contract documents.

The prevailing wages for this locality, as established by the Department of Labor as Wage Determination OH20030028, as modified, must be paid all persons employed for this work.

All bidders shall be required to meet the Affirmative Action requirements and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. Each bidder must insure that all employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, handicap, age, or ancestry.

LUCAS METROPOLITAN HOUSING AUTHORITY
 MODERNIZATION DIVISION



INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority is seeking qualified contractors to furnish all labor, materials, and equipment for the following projects:

JOB NO.	Job #27009
PROJECT	Elevator Upgrade at Dorrell Manor
WALK-THRU DATE	February 7 @ 10:00am
BID OPENING DATE	March 6 @ 11:00am

Contract Documents and Technical Specifications will be available on **Monday, January 29, 2007**, at 201 Belmont Street, in the Modernization Department (419- 259-9462), and will be provided upon request. A **non-refundable** fee of **\$20.00** will be charged for each set of plans provided. All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud in the 2nd Floor conference room on the dates shown above, in the Modernization Department.

Each bid will require a bid guarantee as described in the contract documents.

The prevailing wages for this locality, as established by the Department of Labor as Wage Determination OH20030028, as modified, must be paid all persons employed for this work.

All bidders shall be required to meet the Affirmative Action requirements and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. Each bidder must insure that all employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, handicap, age, or ancestry.

LUCAS METROPOLITAN HOUSING AUTHORITY
 MODERNIZATION DIVISION



What Have You Done Today? The New Robinson Middle School Opens Its Doors

"The new Wild Cats have some shoes to fill," said Toledo Board of Education President Deborah Barnett during the ribbon-cutting dedication ceremony for the new Robinson Middle School on Thursday, January 25.

"So while you are here, get everything you can from it, so you can be the best you can be," Barnett told the students of Robinson, the second middle school to be completed in the Toledo Public Schools Building for Success program.



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

The original Robinson, part of the Scott High School feeder pattern, was opened

77 years ago and named for Jefferson D. Robinson, the president of Libbey Glass Manufacturing at the time.

The dedication ceremony was held in the school's Cafetorium that serves as both an auditorium and a cafeteria. Other features of the new school include state-of-the-art technology in every classroom, a media center, a large gymnasium and an advanced security system.

"This is our legacy to you," said Board Member Steve Steel, Ph.D. "This is what we leave for you, this is what we bequeath to you."



Church's Chicken Super Bowl Special!!!

100 pieces (dark) --- \$55
50 pieces (dark) --- \$30
100 pieces (mixed) --- \$70
50 pieces (mixed) --- \$40

Offer good for Churches Chicken locations at
2124 Franklin Avenue, Toledo & 629 S. Main Street, Lima

Spicy OR Original

3 PC \$2.49

<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">2 PC 99¢</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">2 Leg & Thigh</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Add Reg. Washed Potatoes & Sauce for 1¢ More</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">3 Crunchy \$1.99</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Tenders & Biscuit</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Add Reg. Fries & Reg. Drink for 1¢ More</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">5 PC \$2.99</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Legs & Thighs</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Add Reg. Washed Potatoes & Reg. Sauce for 1¢ More</p>
<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">6 PC \$5.99</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">MIXED</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Add Reg. Washed Potatoes & Reg. Sauce for 1¢ More</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">FREE</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Apple Pie</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">With Purchase of Chicken Sandwich Combo</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">20 PC \$12.99</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Legs & Thighs & 8 Biscuits</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Make it Mixed for 1¢ More</p>

Ohio Legislative Black Caucus Elects Executive Committee Officers

Officers will provide leadership during the 127th General Assembly

The Ohio Legislative Black Caucus (OLBC) has elected its 2007 to 2008 Executive Committee officers. The Executive Committee is comprised of the seventeen African Americans who serve in the Ohio General Assembly. 2007 marks the 40th anniversary of the Caucus.

Representative Tyrone K. Yates (D-Cincinnati) was elected to the position of President where he will serve as OLBC's Chief Executive Officer by overseeing all organizational activity. "I am honored that OLBC members have given me the opportunity to provide leadership for the Caucus," said Representative Yates. "We look forward to working with our fellow governing elected leaders of Ohio to address critical issues such as work and employment, public education, criminal justice and community reentry. During the 127th General Assembly OLBC will continue to push forward our mission to secure a fair share of government services for the many communities that we represent."

Representatives Shirley A. Smith (D-Cleveland), Edna Brown (D-Toledo) and

DeBose (D-Cleveland) and House Minority Leader Joyce Beatty (D-Columbus) respectively. Senator Ray Miller (D-Columbus) was appointed Dean of the Caucus. As the



House Min. Leader Joyce Beatty



Rep. Michael DeBose

In addition to electing Executive Committee officers, Caucus members elected Board of Trustees officers for the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus Foundation, a separate non-partisan and non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that was created to improve the quality of life of African American residents of the State of Ohio through activities designed to eliminate prejudice and discrimination. The 2007-2008 officers are Representative Tyrone K. Yates, Chair; House Minority Leader Joyce Beatty, President; Representative Clayton Luckie, Treasurer; and Senator Tom Roberts (D-Dayton) Secretary. Members of the Foundation's Board of



Rep. Edna Brown

Clayton Luckie (D-Dayton) were elected to the positions of First, Second and Third Vice President respectively. The vice president positions provide leadership by assisting the president in his duties and helping to coordinate public policy initiatives and the development of OLBC chapters across the state.

Senator Eric H. Kearney (D-Cincinnati) and Representative Tracy Heard (D-Columbus) were elected Treasurer and Secretary respectively. The Sergeant-At-Arms and Chaplain and Parliamentarian posts went to Representatives Michael



Rep. Clayton Luckie

Trustees are the elected members of the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus.

The Caucus is working to develop state budget and other legislative priorities for the 127th General Assembly. Previous priorities have focused on the re-entry of offenders into communities across the state, Medicare and Medicaid issues, and job-readiness training. The Caucus has consistently championed issues such as primary and secondary education, minority health disparities, and minority business development.



Rep. Dale Mallory

The Ohio Legislative Black Caucus was created in 1967 to promote, foster, and sponsor the education of African Americans and other minorities on the importance of involvement in party politics in order to secure a fair share of government services for their communities. The organization continues to ensure equality for all citizens by encouraging, nurturing and developing civic and political initiatives. OLBC also provides direction and encouragement to groups seeking legislation on all governmental levels.