



**Charles Cohen**

Toledo Minority Golf Association

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*“Prior to the mass introduction of Tiger Woods, this was one of the few places where young minority children in Toledo could see others like themselves playing golf.”*

## This Strikes Us ...

*A Sojourner's Truth Editorial*

Now comes one of those pivotal moments for the Toledo community. Toledo School Board President Deborah Barnett has tendered her resignation and a replacement must be found.

Various groups around the city will submit the names of interested individuals to the remaining four members of the school and those members will have a brief time frame in which to select a fifth member. If they cannot come to agreement, the choice will be made in the courts.

One of the elements that must factor into any decision the school board members make is the fact that Barnett's seat is up for grabs in November. So an interim member must be selected while the voters are considering someone for a four-year term.

We hope that the school board's appointment for the interim term will not be someone who is considering a run for that four-year term.

These are not easy times for the school district. The news this week that nine percent of TPS' senior students did not pass the Ohio Graduation Test (OGT) and will not be able to graduate with their classmates does not make the district's plight seem any better.

We don't even know what to yet make of these numbers in fact.

The OGT was designed to present more of a challenge to high school students and it appears the test has certainly accomplished that. But given the fact that this is the first year that we have felt the impact of the test and the fact that we have no, as of yet, real comparisons for this district's seniors, it is not easy to make any sort of pronouncements about what the failure of 147 seniors to graduate means. We have no doubt that such premature pronouncements will ring out loudly from numerous quarters however.

But as we look at recent developments in the district – the debacle over the hiring of a superintendent, the fractious board, the financial deficit – the naming of Barnett's replacement can be critical for the short and long term benefit of this area.

The board needs to appoint someone of stature, someone with a variety of experience, someone who will work the other four members to ease the discord. Above all, the board needs someone whose attention span will not be abbreviated by the duties of a campaign for elective office.

And here is a point for those who would seek that elective office and would also throw their names into the ring for consideration for the appointment.

You gotta be nuts.

There is nothing to be gained politically from being embroiled – short term – in the mess that is the school board.

And for the school board members, they would do well to consider that someone of stature who can speak up without fear of what might happen to his or her political future may go a long way to bringing some semblance of order to the proceedings.

\* \* \* \* \*

And speaking of appointments, Governor Ted Strickland missed the boat last week when he appointed Connie Zimmelman to fill the vacancy on the Lucas County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division.

There is nothing at all wrong with Zimmelman, by the way. She is well qualified for the post, you won't hear a bad word about her in this town, and we are not going to sully that untainted record.

There were, however, numerous people on the list of 14 applicants who were well qualified. Three of the 14 were African-American and they were all well qualified as well.

The sad, deplorable fact is that about 60 percent of the kids who appear in Juvenile Court are African-American and there has never been an African-American elected to the bench in that court. Indeed, there are only two African-American judges currently serving in Lucas County.

Strickland had an opportunity to both reverse that trend – the appointee must run for election in 2008 in order to gain a full term – and at the same time, present to the young offenders an opportunity to see that someone who looks like they do and someone who faced the same sort of obstacles they have can make something special of their lives.

We thought Ian English, an assistant prosecutor in the Lucas County Prosecutor's office, would have made the best choice. English is himself a product of Toledo and the first member of his family to attend college. He knows what it is like to run for office – his wife is Toledo Municipal Clerk of Court Vallie Bowman-English; he is young enough to be able to hold the seat – had he been appointed – for many years.

We cannot argue with the judicial appointments Strickland has made to date around the State of Ohio. He has already named three black judges. But his call here in Lucas County was a great disappointment.



*Lucille Boyd*

(MOMMA)

*A MOTHER ... A GRAND & GREAT  
GRANDMOTHER  
A DAUGHTER ... A SISTER ... AN AUNT*

*& A MATE*

*A CAREGIVER TO ALL ...  
WHO PASSES THE TEST ...*

*IT'S OFFICIAL – TO ME*

*MOMMA, YOU'RE THE BEST!!*

*I LOVE YOU DEARLY ... PAM*

## Community Calendar

\*May 4-25

Bagley Housing Art Gallery: Bandits & Heroes, Poets & Saints – Expressions of Faith in the Popular Art of the Northeast of Brazil: 313-964-5942

\*May 23

“Where Great Lessons Begin:” An educational and public literacy symposium; Presented by Beta Gamma Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa Sorority; 3:30 to 6:30 pm; Clarion Westgate: 419-382-2421

\*May 24

Spirit of Faith Adoptions: Information meetings for domestic and international adoptions; 7 pm; 3315 Centennial Rd., Ste A-2, Sylvania: 419-843-5355

\*May 23-25

First MBC of Swanton Revival: 7 pm nightly; Guest Supt. Johnny Hobbs of Greater St. John COGIC: 419-865-8216

\*May 25

The Remix 2007: “Is There not a Cause!” Holy hip-hop concert; 13 national recording artists; Addressing the importance of education; Stickney Entertainment Center; 6 pm: 419-377-3392

\*May 26

Crusaders for Christ Church: Youth Luncheon; 1 to 4 pm; Anderson Activity Center: 419-691-6090  
Teen Talent Show: Kent Branch Library; 1 pm; Youth in grades 6-12: 419-259-5283

\*June 1

Fish Fry: Amazon Lodge No. 4; 11 am to 5 pm: 419-531-7079

\*June 3

Clarence Smith Community Chorus: Close out of 31<sup>st</sup> season; Musical written by John Scott – “Cuttin’ Up and Pressin’ On;” Park Inn Hotel; Featuring guest performers Vicky Simpson Brooks and Leon Washington; 7 pm: 419-534-3370

St. Paul AME Zion Church: First Year Appreciation for Pastor Cordell Jenkins; 4 pm; Guest Preacher Bishop Duane Tisdale: 419-243-1065

Adopt America Network: Open house to increase awareness for children available for adoption; 1 to 4 pm: 1-866-246-1731

Charity Missionary Baptist church: Celebrating 26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Pastor Bobby Welborn and First Lady Vickie Wellborn; “Pastor and Teacher: A Gift for the Perfecting of the Saints;” Celebration continues on June 10, 24 and July 1

\*June 9

Home School Information Session: Main Library – McMaster Center; 9:30 am: 419-259-5388

Spring Blessings: Women's fashion show luncheon; Sponsored by Women Blessing Women; Lourdes College Gym; 11 am to 1 pm: 419-241-9789

\*June 15

Fish Fry: Amazon Lodge No. 4; 11 am to 5 pm: 419-531-7079

\*June 16

Coalition for Youth Enrichment: 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Fun Day; Noon to 3:30 pm; Toledo/Lucas County Main Branch Library: 419-866-3611

Fashion show on Monroe: 7 to 9 pm; Featuring Ebony's Angels; In front of the Pecos Cafe

## The Sojourner's Truth

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## My View

By Jack Ford  
The Truth's Political  
Columnist

There is so much going on with the Toledo Public Schools that I feel like the mosquito at the nudist convention - I don't know where to start.

First, the candidate list grows daily. Bob Vasquez, a two-time City Council candidate, is now expressing interest in the school board races. Vasquez works with kids and is very capable in other skill areas. His wife Kathy is a senior governmental planner for The University of Toledo and there may be a connection there ... maybe not.

Vasquez has spent about \$90,000 on his first two campaigns so he obviously has the "political" bug. Can Toledo elect two Hispanics to the school board? I can see Vasquez slide by Richard Brown and Toledo Police Department Detective Harold Mosley, who may declare this week, if they split the black vote.

Can Vasquez get past Republican Chris Myers? Maybe so, if the Myers' affiliation with School Board members Darlene Fisher and Robert Torres becomes an albatross.

And what will Mayor Carty Finkbeiner do now that The Blade has given him a green light to intervene in school board matters? Make that a directive rather than just a green light.

Point Place activist Lisa Sobocki is in a great position.

She is a smart, Democratic white female with the Party's endorsement (the Dem's have endorsed both Sobocki and Brown) who lives in a part of town that always has a heavy voting turnout.

The mayor has called for civic leaders, who are "big picture" guys, to come forward to take on the challenge of TPS. He then publicly recommended one Jack Ford.

Deborah Barnett is soon to go. She is a heck of a leader, nothing but pure class. The Toledo Chamber of Commerce will rue the day that they turned their backs on her and supported the "reform" candidates, Torres and Fisher. Barnett has been a great club woman, sorority leader and community activist for 20 years. Her strength and leadership will be greatly missed. We all wish her well in her newly expanded role with Sky-Huntington.

Did you read the Charlene M. Czerniak opinion piece on May 19 in The Blade? You must read this. It says it all as to where we need to go in the area of math and science for Toledo's future.

She ought to be hired as a deputy superintendent for curriculum development.

As a side note, Iran's announcement that they want to be like China is pretty scary. We should worry about that, not about the bomb. The last thing American industry needs is an increasing num-



Jack Ford

ber of global competitors who have or are figuring out that getting their children ready in math and science is the way to go. China, India, Japan, Ireland ... who's next?

Memo to the aforementioned Harold Mosley. If you are going to run, please consider the following steps first.

Have a campaign manager who is talented, a treasurer who will fill out your forms properly, a finance chairman who knows how to ask for money, a scheduler who knows your hours and can direct you, a volunteer coordinator who can recruit people to help you and, then, have your paperwork for your committee completed. Do all of this before you announce.

Contact Jack Ford at [jack@thetruthtoledo.com](mailto:jack@thetruthtoledo.com)

## Cutting Up The Victim Card

By Jan Scotland  
Guest Columnist

We all go through life with excuses for failure. They evolve into crutches that keep us from our goals. They act like credit cards to ease our realities. When we don't want to pay the price we whip them out and present them to all who will listen to the woe we want to sing.

Victim cards I call them. They come in many forms: gold, platinum, plus and super plus. We wave them with pride and dare anyone deny our right to use them.

You may be wondering what in the heck I am talking about. Well, let's look at a few of these cards: "they are looking down on me because I'm short;" "they think I'm too ugly for this part;" "they think my good looks are overbearing;" "they are against me cause of my accent;" "my nose wasn't so big I would get more respect;" "if my parents spoke English I would fit in better;" "they think I'm a loser because I only have a high school degree."

We love our victim cards. They give us comfort in bad times. They make others the reason for our failures and they let us stay unchanged in the face of the necessity to evolve.

The biggest victim card in our community is the black victim card. We use this card more than our circumstances justify. We give this card to our kids to use and we let it overwhelm our lives. We have heard parents say their kids can't take standardized tests because they are culturally biased. We have seen teachers send the message to students that it's not their fault they can't learn, it is the families they grew up in. We have neighborhoods that say they can't get programs or jobs. And we have businessmen who say they can't get the support of their own people.

I am always amazed at how conditioned our youth are to point out discrimination as a reason they can't get jobs. When I was growing up, the fast food chains were the jobs

for the summer. We lined up to put in 20 applications for one job. Today our kids think McDonalds and Wendy's are so un-hip that they will walk the streets all summer before working there. Others think that a work schedule has to match their sleeping habits. Many will go to interviews with sagging jeans or their hats cocked to the side, lean back in their seats during an interview or give one-word answers to questions. Naturally they wonder what prejudiced employer would deny them a job on their terms. When the job is denied, they find comfort from peers who supply victim accolades that assure them it was because they are black.

I am not saying that there aren't times when decisions will be made against us just because we are black. But we are who we are and life is not always fair. Just as someone might discriminate against you because you are black there are others who will deny another because they are French or Jewish, or Italian etc... My favorite line from *Lord of the Rings* is true. "We can't choose the times or circumstances we are born into. We can only choose what we do with it".

Families who tell their kids that there is no excuse for failing any test and make sure they get the support to do better, will find that cultural bias is a myth. Our history is filled with ancestors who faced much more devastating obstacles and came out with grades that rivaled those of any nationality. Foreigners, just learning English, will come to this country and outperform Americans on these tests

Communities that demand that schools teach their kids and stop making excuses for them will find there are programs that get the most out of their kids no matter the circumstance. Many examples of such schools exist in impoverished neighborhoods in New York and Chicago.

Neighborhoods that want

programs and jobs will support legitimate black businesses when they open their doors and vote for effective black candidates when they run.

Discrimination is not the barrier it was in the 50's and 60's yet we still refer to it like Jim Crow and segregation are here today. It's like the circus elephant that is reared tied to a strong post that he can not move. As he gets older, he is tied to a flimsy post and he doesn't realize how easy he can free himself.

The victim card is our flimsy post. We let it keep us tied with no effort. We invest in it till it becomes a giant illusion that buries us in our safe haven of fear and complacency.

This is graduation time again. Many of our youth are going on to college or starting their careers. They are the lions of our future with the ability to conquer many myths that hold us back. I am proud of my son Alexander who will graduate with honors and is going on to college. Let's do them all a favor this year. While we are throwing away their credit card offers for fear that it will put them in debt, let's also destroy the victim cards they picked up or we unwillingly supplied them. Let's make sure that their credit as well as their determination is free.



Jan Scotland

Contact Jan Scotland at [jan@thetruthtoledo.com](mailto:jan@thetruthtoledo.com)

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## More on Ed and Avie Dixon

Mr. Dixon was my band teacher at Robinson Junior High during the 1971-1973 school years. I am sure that I speak for all of his former and present students when I say that not only was he a wonderful band teacher, but also a great father-figure to many of us. He showed by example the stellar virtues of patience, kindness, encouragement, and yes, when necessary, discipline. I remember telling Mr. Dixon that I wanted to learn to play the trumpet well enough to play for Gus Walker at Scott High upon graduating from Robinson. I couldn't play a note when I arrived but by the time I graduated I was in summer band camp at Scott High. Mr. Dixon will be sorely missed, I am sure. It's really too bad that we can't clone him and send him out to be a blessing to every urban school district in America.

Kindly,

Annette M. Crosby Wright  
Southfield, MI

## Jimmy Jackson Steams Ahead on Development Plans for Downtown Residences

By Fletcher Word  
Sojourner's Truth Editor

"This is a difficult deal, if it weren't, it would have been done years ago," said Jimmy Jackson recently as he sat down with The Truth to discuss the status of the Toledo Steam Plant. Jackson and his partner, developer David Ball, are converting the aged structure into upscale riverfront housing.

They are converting the building, that is, if the City of Toledo doesn't place too many obstacles in the way. In April, Mayor Carty Finkbeiner and the city law department filed suit demanding that Water Street Station Development LLC—Jackson and Ball's company—begin work immediately or return the deed to the city.

"If that's what [the mayor] wants to do, we'll let the courts decide," said Jackson making no attempt to mask his frustration and disappointment over what he perceives to be a lack of cooperation, and more importantly, a lack of understanding on the



Jimmy Jackson

part of the city administration of the magnitude and complexities of this project.

"He always has Toledo in mind, the welfare of the city," said Jackson. "But he has a lack of information on what we have done here."

And what the developers have done, said Jackson is to reach into their own pockets for about \$300,000 of the initial expense and have made a decision to forego the usual developer's fee. "We are in this for the long run," he said. "We will get our payback five or six years down the road."

Both partners, as Jackson explained, had been envisioning a project involving the steam plant for years. Jackson recalled sitting at the Docks Restaurant in the late 1990's staring across the river at the building and doodling design concepts. Ball, he noted, had been inspired even earlier to try to get something going in the building.

Jackson and Ball inked the deal to work on the 1895 steam plant building in May 2005 during Mayor Jack Ford's term in office. Their plans call for the completion of 71 apartments in the existing structure and 32 townhouse-styled condominiums in an adjacent new addition.

The partners applied for and received federal historical tax credits for the project and work began. But by December of last year, they discovered that the back wall of the 100-year-old steam plant could not support the type of apartments they had envisioned—balconies would be

a problem as would certain window fixtures. The additional cost of the project would be \$1 million in strengthening the wall to maintain the integrity of the original design. That would mean increasing the cost of the units to an estimated \$10,000—more than the market could bear.

The good news is that Ohio has implemented a new historic tax credit that would enable the developers to save 25 percent on the construction costs of such a project. Only 100 projects around the state will be approved for the credit and developers cannot apply until July. Jackson and Ball are optimistic that they can get approval because they have already been through the process successfully with the federal government and because their architect, Jonathan Sandvick, helped to write the state legislation.

Jackson estimates the construction costs as coming in

at just over \$22 million meaning a savings of as much as \$5 million on the project—keeping the price of the completed units reasonable for this marketplace.

In fact, the historic tax credits will apply if construction costs—such as steel prices—rise during construction.

"We could have said let's not put in balconies," said Jackson. "But we wanted to take our time and do it right. Why have another product in this market that is not selling, that has high vacancies? We have a better product now than we would have had we rushed through."

Jackson feels that the project has improved over time because of the potential value of the tax credits and the ability of the developers to maintain and enhance the quality of the original plans.

But the attempt by the city to take civil action and put the brakes on the Ball/Jackson efforts to help resuscitate the downtown area has

certainly dampened Jackson's enthusiasm. He cannot understand the mayor's headlong dash to put an end to a project that so many other developers have turned their backs because of the complex nature of the job.

In addition, it is the developers' contention that if the city is successful in its suit to reclaim the deed, they will have to reimburse the company for its expenses.

"This is one of the most influential projects of the past 20 or 30 years," Jackson said. "This is the piece that will spur development all along the river on the west side. But David and I—we can do projects anywhere and get accepted with open arms. We chose to do it here. It is disappointing, more than anything else, to have to fight with the city."

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# Charles Cohen: Using Golf to Open a New Way of Thinking

By Fletcher Word  
Sojourner's Truth Editor

"I don't want to hit a little white ball and follow it and hit it again," said Charles Cohen back in 1960 when he was first asked by good friends George Smith, Clark Contrell and Frank Goodlie to join them on a long walk.

Eventually Cohen gave in, of course, and as he recalls of his first few rounds of golf—"I had some success." And more than just experiencing some success, Cohen was bitten by the bug. His long walks were not spoiled.

That success, and love of the game, led Cohen, in the early 1960's, to join the Midwestern Golf Club on Nebraska Avenue which was affiliated with the United Golf Association (UGA). The UGA was a black national golf organization which sponsored tournaments around the country. This was the tour—a "chitlin'" tour—that Charles Sifford, the first African-American golfer to play on the Professionals Golf Association (PGA), joined during his early years of playing professionally.

In those days, following World War II and through



the 1960's, the UGA had 33 clubs in seven states recalls Cohen. Now the organization, due to integration and the ability of black golfers to gain access to virtually any public course and many private ones as well, has dwindled to virtually nothing.

For Cohen, however, those early days led to so much more. In 1975 he was caddy for his daughter in a junior golf tournament and realized she was the only minority golfer on the course. Then and there he decided

"to establish a golf program to make the game accessible to minority youth."

Cohen fulfilled that commitment in 1992 when he formed the Toledo Minority Golf Association (TMGA) in order "to support the growth and development of minority youth in all aspects of their lives and their struggle to survive and succeed."

Along with 20 other adults, Cohen formed a non-profit group to coach and guide minority youth from the ages of 10 to 17 primarily from

working class and lower-middle class backgrounds.

"I recruit kids from all over," says Cohen of the process which starts every year in January. "We will choose 16 to 20 and go strong through the winter months. I tell them 'here is a game you can play on your own; here is a game I want you to try; we will provide everything you need—clubs, shoes and so forth.'"

Cohen and his coaches use the basement of Braden United Methodist Church during the winter months to start on the fundamentals of the game. Stringing up nets, they teach the youngsters how to swing clubs and steadily refine their techniques over the months until it's time to start the long walks. Then they hit the courses, Delviter for example, after school is out, playing generally twice a week.

Last year, seven of Cohen's protégées were on area high school golf teams, a number he anticipates will grow steadily.

Why should a kid become involved in golf? That's a question Cohen has heard

frequently over the years since the formation of TMGA. He has a ready answer, of course. Actually, he has a number of answers. First, "it's a really good sport."

But he also stresses the possible benefits of kids having another athletic avenue to help defray the costs of a college education. It's not unusual at the moment, for example, for historically black colleges and universities that have golf teams to have to field teams that are mostly comprised of white students.

And, there are the life-long benefits of acquiring golfing skills and a love of the game—a person can play it forever and there is the "value of socializing in corporate America," says Cohen.

Shortly after the TMGA was formed, Cohen and his team started the Annual TMGA Junior Invitational Golf Tournament which was first held in 1992. The 36-hole event is currently held at Ottawa Park Golf Course during the first weekend in August and 60 advanced junior golfers from around the nation

are invited to compete—boys and girls. "Prior to the mass introduction of Tiger Woods," says Cohen, "this was one of the few places where young minority children in Toledo could see others like themselves playing golf."

As was noted earlier, Cohen was certainly not to the manner born. A native of Mound City in southern Illinois, he heard scarcely a word about golf during his youth. He left Mound City in 1948 for Toledo in order to obtain a job at Willis Motors. After about 12 years at Willis, which became Kaiser Jeep, he took the examination for and joined the U.S. Postal Service which he retired from after 30 years.

Married to Jean, who serves as TMGA's secretary, for 57 years, Cohen and his wife have three children: Charlene, who owns a group home in Toledo, Charles, Jr., who recently retired from Toledo Public Schools and Cathy, who is a professor at the University of Chicago.

## Girls Booked on Beauty Salons

Special to The Truth

A group of Toledo-area girls, ages six to 12, attended a Read-In at the Navaeh Salon and Spa on May 14 organized by the Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. Toledo Chapter, Ruth Court #6. The group and the salon joined in a community partnership to promote the importance of literacy and a love of reading in a creative way.

The original concept was introduced by Lady Peggy LeCompte, the national president of Top Ladies. The Toledo Chapter spearheaded the efforts to bring about this

month's program and was able to implement it with the assistance of community partners.

The girls in attendance were allowed to browse the many books available for their selection and choose the ones they liked. They were encouraged to sit and read with the adults present from Top Ladies. At the end of the afternoon's event, the girls were able to take several books home for their reading enjoyment along with a copy of a parent's guide sheet "Helping Your Child to

Read."

In addition to the books donated by Top Ladies and Friends of the Toledo Lucas County Library, the girls were treated to pizza provided by Navaeh's.

Clara Brank is president of Top Ladies. Barbara Tucker is chairman of the Community Partnerships Committee. Members of the committee are: Charlesena Smith, Edith Gholston, Denise Black-Poon, Gwendolyn Brown, Delores Bates, Muriel E. Webb Williams, Wanda Terrell and Barbie Harrison.

## Welcome Home LCPL Boles!

Kenneth Boles Jr. was born on November 8, 1986 to Jackie Reed and Kenneth Boles, Sr. in Toledo. At the age of 15, his family moved to Battle Creek, MI where he graduated from Battle Creek Central High School. Boles enlisted in the United States Marine Corps immediately upon graduation.

Boles did his training in San Diego, CA. He remembered the words his mother instilled in him: "always put God first in everything you do." That's what Boles did as he graduated from boot camp with honors, says his mother.



out of 365 men in his platoon to get a perfect PFT score. Needless to say, his parents are very proud of him. He was assigned to Iraq and had been on duty there for eight months.

returned home on April 29 at 7 p.m. at the Deltaplex Center in Grand Rapids, MI. It was so exciting for the family because he was now aware that they would be going there to meet him. When they rolled out the red carpet for the Alpha Company, the first person his family saw was LCPL Boles carrying the Marine Corps flag and leading his company in.

His family wants him to know that Toledo, OH thanks him for his service to the country. They celebrated his homecoming with him this past weekend at 2125 Parkwood in the community room.

Boles was the only one

The Alpha Company 1/24



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## Chuck Cohen Has a Passion for Golf, But a Greater Passion for Kids

By Warren Woodberry  
Special to The Truth



It is in the dead of winter on a Saturday morning. All of the playgrounds are empty and not one basketball is bouncing on the asphalt. Most of the churches are also empty with the exception of janitors preparing pews and pulpits for Sunday service.

But yet I remember trekking through the snow all winter, at 9 a.m. on Saturday morning, with 20 or 30 other parents carrying golf bags, and with my nieces and granddaughter in tow.

And while the city slept

and cartoons were watched from the comfort of a warm bed for most children, drill sergeant and golf teacher Chuck Cohen holds court every Saturday morning in the basement gym of the Braden United Methodist Church.

Cohen was inspired to start working with kids when he was toting the bag for his daughter Cathy at a junior Tournament in 1975. At the time he was also an active member of the Midwestern Golf Club, where, years before, Joe Louis, world heavyweight champion of the world at the time, met his match in golf, right here in Toledo from our local world-class African-American golfers. Over the years Cohen has provided instructions in golf to minority youth through his church, Braden United Methodist.

In January 1992 The (TMGA) was established. when many youngsters, in particular minority youth,

found their very existence and development threatened by increasing rates of homicide, influx of drugs into neighborhoods and schools, continuing patterns of teenage pregnancy and lack of educational and employment opportunities.

To address these issues, The TMGA began a free golf instruction and child development program that today is a winner. With a five-day clinic, weekly instructions and a skill and learning development program which includes school progress and social encounters, these kids are in good hands in a city that often accuses the powers-that-be of ignoring the African-American youth programs.

Although lacking the support of most of the golf courses and agencies here in Toledo, the support from the management and staff from Detwiler, Collins Park and Ottawa Park golf courses has allowed the students to have

places to hone their craft.

According to The Blade in 2006, "the Jamie Farr Owens Corning Classic, presented by Kroger, passed two milestones as it dispersed \$525,000 in profits from the 2006 PGA tournament to local charities and the Toledo Minority Golf Association received \$25,000.

"We are proud that we can give back to the community we call home by helping to raise more than \$500,000 this year to sustain deserving charities in northwest Ohio," said Dave Brown, president and CEO of Owens Corning."

I am hoping that soon an opportunity to include driving ranges for much needed practice will produce a sponsor that can provide this service to the TMGA.

Chuck is ably assisted by a dedicated staff such as Mark Smith, VP TMGA; Valerie Smith, educational development coord-

inator TMGA. During the winter months that I trekked through the snow, the students also had the hands-on experience of being coached by one of Toledo's "A" team golfers, Wesley Jones.



Charles Cohen

After buying clubs for younger members of my family, I realized that they needed much more than I could give and so they were handed over to Chuck. As of today, my niece Debralyn Woodberry-Shaw is in her third year on the Central Catholic golf team and has been joined by my other niece Emerald Woodberry. For my part I hope that I have given them a sport for a lifetime.

Cohen was recently awarded a Newsmaker Impact Award from the Northwest Ohio Black Journalist Association.

Toledo African-American golfers are made up of every level of society: lawyers, doctors, business people, politicians, teachers, laborers, rich and poor, young and not so young. And in the mean time, if I could just convince Chuck Cohen to take me to church, I believe that I could make the Super Senior Tour one day.

## Senior Recognition Program Hosted by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Special to The Truth

The Toledo Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc held its 21st Annual Senior Recognition program on Sunday, April 22, 2007 at all Saints Episcopal Church at 3:00 p.m. The goal of the program was to honor African-American high school females for academic excellence and being young women of good character. There were a total of 19 young ladies in attendance from high schools in Toledo, Perrysburg and Springfield.

The program began with an icebreaker called "Catch and Answer" where a ball with numbers was tossed around the room and the person who caught the ball had to respond to the question that corresponded to a number on the ball. This icebreaker was designed to encourage the young ladies to never judge a book by its cover and to help them understand that you never know what a person is like until you take the initiative to engage in a conversation with them.

The young ladies and their parents also participated in four breakout sessions. The breakout sessions focused on Resumes and Interviews, Scholarships, Sis-



Toledo Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority

terhood/Self Esteem, and Getting Your Kids Through School. The breakout sessions were designed to help the young ladies ask questions as well as get helpful hints and tips on how to be successful in college.

Our main speakers for the program were Iesha Cody and Jeannine Tyree. Cody is the Youth Services Coordinator at Planned Parenthood of Northwest Ohio and is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Cody spoke with the young ladies on how to conduct themselves on campus. She spoke about the importance of safe sex practices and encouraged abstinence.

Tyree is an employee at the Lucas County Board of Mental Retardation and is also an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority

Inc., and serves as the first vice president of the Toledo Alumnae Chapter. Tyree spoke with the young ladies about the importance of sisterhood.

At the end of the program the young ladies were presented with framed certificates and received a gift bag, which contained items they could use for college. The program was closed by Bettina Shuford, Ph.D., who is the current president of the Toledo Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. Refreshments were served following the program.

The Senior Recognition Program Committee consisted of Yalonda Hawkins, Jennifer Key, Tiffany Pasker, Ivy Pinkins, Tiffany C. Triplett (chairman) and Phyllis Wadley.

## Models Wanted!!!!

Saturday, May 26, 2007

Time: 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

2101 Monroe Street, Suite B  
(Upstairs from Styles Unlimited)

Attend the Model Casting to be a part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Hair and Fashion Show presented by Motivations Salon of Beauty which will take place on July 29, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

Models interested in participating must be at the Model Casting to be selected and considered for the show!

The Productions/Choreography Team Managers assisting you will be: Moira Evans, Nola Clarke, Taylor Whisenhut, Janea Evans, and Ashley Cook. The rest of the Selection Committee will also be present.

**Ladies must bring heels.**

Ages 14 and up.  
Portfolio helpful, but not necessary.

Any questions please call Moira at 419.215.9249

## Is Myspace Ruining Your Relationship?

By Michael Hayes  
Minister of Culture

Might seem ludicrous to think that a lil' ol' internet activity might be putting some people's happy homes in grave danger, but it's true.

It's 2007 and everybody in my generation is addicted to club life.

But outside of the club, the main place that people interact right now is in cyberspace.

I guess in my parents' days they would see a group of people hanging out at libraries or what not, but right now if you wanna get in touch with some of ya closest peeps – you probably need to email them or just leave them a comment on myspace.

In my college days it was all about Blackplanet.com.

Back in 2002 you couldn't set foot on a college campus without recognizing someone you just saw on Blackplanet the other day. Even when I used to chill with the D.J.'s on WXUT, during the hip-hop show, the internet would be poppin' and no one's profile was safe. But even though freaky pictures and crazy topics in user created chat rooms may have been enough to get someone in trouble with their significant other, Blackplanet just didn't have an easy way to re-trace someone's steps through the site.

It was still, in some ways, clandestine.

If you are in a live-in relationship or you share a computer with your loved one these days ... myspace has made it damn near impossible to move about in anonymity.

I've heard stories of some girlfriends/boyfriends piecing together all types of cyber-clues as they stack

more and more evidence to prove that their lover has been doing some type of myspace creeping.

I've been waiting to address this for sometime, but I've held off.

But 2007 has just been a crazy ass year.

It's only May, and already I know of five different relationships that have been in some way strained by what someone said/did on myspace.

I've tried to compile some of the basic parts of each situation, and the drama usually goes down as follows:

Situation #1.

Your significant other is not really used to myspace, but while visiting your page he or she notices you seem to get a lot of attention from the opposite sex.

First what happens is peeps who aren't hip don't understand two major things:

The Top Friends and The Comment Wall.

So even though you may have your cousins or whoever as your top friends, if they are of the opposite sex you still might have some explaining to do.

See, when ya guy/girl who's still new to myspace first comes to ya page all they see is a bunch of pictures of girls/guys they don't know.

Then to make matters worse, you're really have a situation on your hands if your comment is filled with all those HTML "hey baby"/"just dropped by to say hi" type of messages. And the freaky ones are the worst. I know ya'll have probably seen that "hump day" picture all ya friends seem to post on ya

wall every Wednesday – LOL.... quite risqué!!

With me, myspace was about music first – so having our production company/label on myspace was simple promotion. But at one point we used a somewhat provocative image just to bring peeps to our page and I know for a fact it got some folks in trouble – LOL.

SOLUTION:

Show ya boo how to navigate myspace. Don't keep them dumb, that will only build suspicion. Show them that you have nothing to hide.

Explain how the Friend's list works, explain how the comment wall works.

Let them know the myspace community is the only place in modern society where people still say "hi" just to say "hi" and that if a girl/guy comes by your page to say what's up – it doesn't mean that they are trying to holla.

And if a bunch of ya friends just happen to have some butt-booty-half-naked pics, make sure your significant other knows that you can't control what other folks do with their profile. Not fail-safe, but explaining things should at least cause suspicion to subside.

Situation #2

You and your significant other are both experienced myspace users.

Somehow, they gain access to your account and begin reading and responding to correspondence between you and other myspace users of the opposite sex.

Yeah, I guess in the old days this would be like taking



ya girlfriend/boyfriend's pager and calling back all the unfamiliar numbers. But on myspace, you can see pictures and every word that's been written between two people. This usually happens when you and ya s/o (s/o= significant other) live together and someone forgets to log off their account.

I've seen it quite a few times. Committed relationship, but somewhere there's a little uncertainty about the amount of activity goin' on in cyberspace.

Curiosity gets the best of someone and they go rummaging through their s/o's email with a fierce attention to detail looking for any incriminating evidence they can find.

#1. If you are a performer or #2. If your myspace account is older than your relationship – it might not be unusual for someone to have a few old emails that contain a little flirting. But if your current mate finds it, he or she may not care about how long ago it was.

In extreme cases, I've even seen men and women go through their s/o's myspace account cussing out any person who's ever come in contact with their s/o.

Deleting comments & emails, removing friends – there's no telling what kind of havoc a jealous lover can cause if he gains access to your myspace account.

SOLUTION:

You're mad, and you probably have every right to be.

But first – ask yourself "have I given my boyfriend/girlfriend any reason to doubt me?"

If that answer is yes, try

to get to the bottom of it.

Let them know you don't approve of their methods, but if they have this much uncertainty about your loyalty than ya'll probably need to have a long talk.

If that answer is no, and you haven't done anything to make your guy/girl worry then you need to express to them how uncomfortable you are with them invading your account and pissing off people by sending vicious emails that had no warrant.

Ask them how they would feel if the tables were turned.

But DO NOT change ya password. That will just build suspicion.

Talk it out and trust that exposing everything to each other will be enough to squash any doubt.

Situation #3

Everyone knows that you are in a good relationship, then all of a sudden you get a message from someone saying they have proof that your guy/girl is cheating on you.

Could be true. Could be false.

It's a tricky situation.

I've seen instances where the person alerting someone about how their s/o is cheating had no proof and just wanted to cause trouble.

I've seen instances where the person doing the alerting is the same person involved in the cheating.

Sounds mad juvenile, right?

But teens and adults all play games like this. It's definitely a sign that you have some haters or there's way too many people in ya biz.

Whether the accusation is true or false, no one wants

to have some stranger come at them like this.

SOLUTION:

First consider the source. Do they have something to gain by fooling you?

Then think about ya s/o. Has she ever been un-faithful?

You can handle this a number of ways. Ignore it. Address the messenger or whatever.

But I don't recommend coming at ya s/o all crazy on the strength of what you heard on myspace. Evaluate ya situation before you go yelling at the wrong person.

But, if you find it to be true... you might wanna lay off of myspace for a while.

No telling who all knows.

I hope this helps a few of ya'll out there.

Truth be told, people in loving relationships don't need to be all up on myspace like that anyway unless you're an artist. In that case, everyone needs to understand that some of the interaction on myspace is just like what happens at shows... people like the music, girls/guys flirt, but it shouldn't be a big deal.

No doubt tho, there are more than a few myspace hoers out there.

Remember – HOE is universal – man or woman.

I really wouldn't trust any person that was willing to have sex just off some silly ass myspace interaction. So remember, that's at ya own risk.

MINORS..... I strongly suggest you DO NOT meet up with anyone in real life that you met off of the Internet. In the rare event you think it might be worth it, please keep your parents involved.

Sadly, some folks in their 40's have kids who are on myspace and they have no clue what it's all about. You prolly need to "get ya clarity"

Until next week, ya'll...

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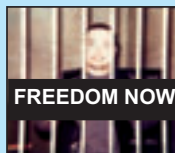
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## Alice Grace Artworks Grace RRT



Toledo artist Alice Grace and her wide variety of art took center stage on Saturday May 12 at RRT Images, 6423 Monroe Street. Grace brought along her paintings, pottery and sculptures and spent the afternoon greeting the guests who flowed into Ramon Tiggs' studio/gallery in Sylvania. Grace, who is headquartered in the Collingwood Arts Center, is involved in just about every fine arts creative venture. For more information on her show at RRT, call 419-460-1343.

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## Gotta Dance: The Ballet Tapestry of American Music

By Linda King  
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

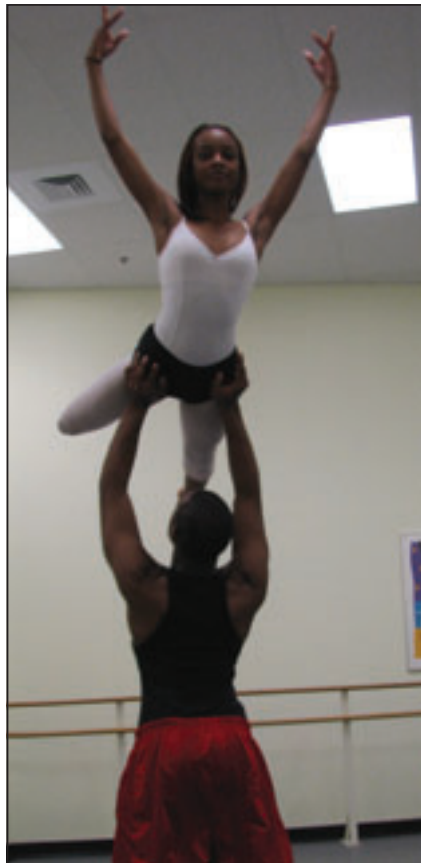
The Toledo Ballet Association, located at 5001 Monroe St., may be a challenge to find, tucked into the upper level of the lot adjacent to the Franklin Park Mall, but once inside, one soon forgets the frustration.

The festive atmosphere and organized frenzy as dancers of all ages scurry to their classes, congregate in the hallway or munch on one of the nutritious snacks from the entryway table between practice sessions, transports the visitor into the dancer's world.

The upcoming event that the association is currently preparing for is the *Ballet Tapestry of American Music*. The program, scheduled for May 30 & 31, will highlight "the cultural impact of ballet," says artistic director Michael Lang.

According to Lang, "the performance will feature the music of American composers from Gershwin to Ellington, and will explore the musical fabrics within the American landscape." An example of that fabric can be seen in the diversity of three of the dancers who will perform in the program.

Ashley Duke, Brandon Wright, and Loganne Bond, taking a break between practice, acknowledge long rehearsal hours and the toll that dancing takes on the body,



but are proud to be a part of this production and don't seem to mind the cost of temporary. "I like that type of dance because you have more free-



dom, and less structure," she says. Bond says that her most memorable dance experience happened during a competition in Washington D.C. "There was such a large representation of African-American dancers, it was great."

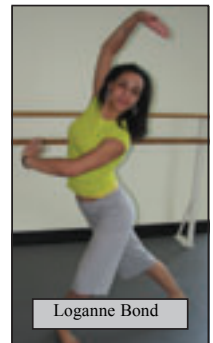
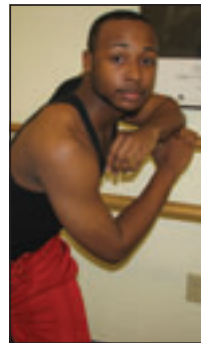
Bond credits her dance teachers at Toledo School of the Arts for "teaching me to love dance." This is her first major performance with the Toledo Ballet Association.

According to their website, the goals of the Toledo Ballet Association, a pre-professional dance studio, are to enhance the Toledo community through the celebration of dance, and to promote interest in the art of dance. The association believes that through dance, self confidence, self esteem, discipline and perseverance can be achieved.

For more information about the *Ballet Tapestry of American Music* performance, and other upcoming events, or the Toledo Ballet Association, contact them at (419) 471-0049, or log on to their website at [www.toledoballet.net](http://www.toledoballet.net).



Artistic Director Michael Lang rehearses Ashley Duke and Brandon Wright



Loganne Bond

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# Giving Our Youth Hope Through Music NOBMA Bestows Media Achievement, Newsmaker Awards at 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Event

By Bishop Stephen Ward  
Special to TheTruth

Toledo, we have a problem. This problem is widespread and goes beyond the city limits, beyond the state line, it is a national epidemic. Disease has occurred amongst our young people, an infection of lust, abuse, molestation, rape, violence, pornography and suicide.

Suicide is the third leading cause of death among young people ages 15-24. Of the total number of suicides, 86 percent are male and 14 percent are female. Over the last decade, the percentage of teens having sex has increased. About 34 percent of young women become pregnant at least once before they reach the age of 20 – about 820,000 a year, and approximately four million teens contract a sexually transmitted disease (STD) each year.

Thirty-three percent of sexually active teens, ages 15-17, reported "being in a relationship where they felt things were moving too fast sexually," and 24 percent had "done something sexually they didn't really want to do."

In case you don't know...this is a tragedy! Our youth want to fit in, be heard, be accepted and be loved! Many youth feel there is nothing offered to them except vanity and hopelessness. Many youth feel they will live without reason and die without a cause. Music ... what is played over the airwaves and seen on BET and MTV may have a direct influence on the statistics listed.

Music is a very powerful form of propaganda as well as artistic expression. Music is an art of sound in time that expresses ideas and emotions in significant forms through the elements of rhythm, melody, harmony, and color. What better way to ensure that a message travels far and wide and is heard by an incredibly large audience – regardless of whether or not they intended to absorb that message?

Music is extremely portable, especially in this day and age. Think about all the things you do in a day – would

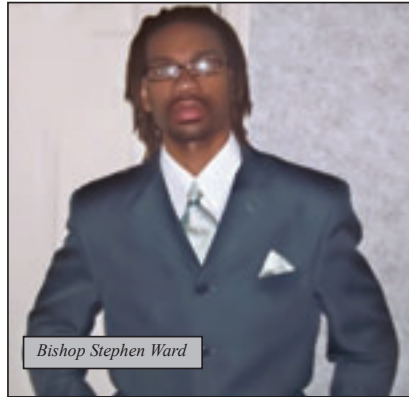
music prevent you from doing any of them? I believe that if an artist wanted to express something, it would travel much faster as music than say, that same 'message' on billboard display.

There are many genres of music: rock, heavy metal, jazz, rap and the list goes on and on. Over the last 20 years, hip-hop culture and its ensuing musical backdrop have gained prominence within the mainstream community, becoming one of the world's most dominant musical entities. From LL Cool J and Will Smith to Kanye West and Nas, hip-hop has transcended racial and economic lines to impact every demographic at some level.

With this level of influence, there is an ever-growing concern about the state of the genre. The musical art form has transformed from a medium that has addressed the ills of society and its need for social and economic change to a money-generating machine, trading social consciousness for a quick dollar. The genre has undergone great scrutiny for its lyrical content, which primarily promotes images of money, power, and sex, all the while experiencing chart-breaking record sales and lucrative business deals, seemingly solidifying this prevailing image.

In the wake of Don Imus' derogatory and racially charged comments, many have wondered why hip-hop artists, radio stations and record labels have not been as examined as Don Imus. Although many may agree with the Imus outcome, there is outrage among some that the Hip-hop industry has reliably promoted lyrics that are heavily laced with disrespectful, misogynistic and degrading comments about women.

For years there has been a call to action for more positive music with a positive message; an alternative. At a time when hip-hop is being painted with a single broad brush stroke of immorality,



Bishop Stephen Ward

standing to answer the call is "Tha Remix." At "Tha Remix" we are seeking ways to positively impact the communities we serve. "Tha Remix" event on May 25 will have a positive impact on our young people through the message being conveyed by the artists and through the initiative to educate our community about issues that directly have an impact on our youth on a daily basis.

Regardless of your position on hip-hop, secular music and urban gospel, there are several truths that can't be denied and deserve to be investigated. We must remember that the validity and power of music is found in its lyrics. Though instrumental presentations can evoke emotions, it is the lyrical content of the offering that contains true power. "The Star Spangled Banner" will forever be America's national anthem, whether supported by a classical orchestral background, a syncopated jazz beat. Or a booming bass line with synthesized horns.

The same is true for the gospel, for it is the lyrical content of the music that makes a song a "gospel song." As God is unlimited, so is the ability to musically present the Gospel. There must be a clear line between spiritual validity and personal preference. Because one prefers apple pie instead

of chocolate cake doesn't mean that all cake is bad and has no redeeming worth or value. The fact of the matter is that the Gospel can be presented in several avenues.

Whether it comes across the pulpit on a Sunday morning, a theatrical presentation on Broadway, or a cinematic presentation, if God is being lifted up, and if He is being presented consistent with Who scripture says that He is and what He has done, then this is a presentation of the Gospel.

"Tha Remix" is set to change the statistics, and impact our youth changing their lives through unconditional love and service to them. In order to do this, "Tha Remix" realizes the influence that hip-hop has and will utilize "gospel hip-hop" to reach Toledo's youth and impact their lives with a positive message of hope. There will be 13 national gospel hip-hop recording artists performing at "Tha Remix" in an effort to reach our youth and let them know that there is a purpose for their lives.

The event will be held May 25 at the Stickney Entertainment Center located at 3247 Stickney Avenue. Doors will open at 6 PM admission is only \$10. For more info, please call 419-377-3392.

By Geneva J. Chapman,  
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Toledoans are well acquainted with the Clarion Hotel's stately ballroom, since many events are scheduled there and most of us have had occasion to enjoy its ambience. However, you probably never knew it some-



Honorees Robert Smith and Edna Brown

times doubles as a jazz club.

Well, it did Friday, May 11, 2007, in honor of The Northwest Ohio black Media Association's (NOBMA's) 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Impact Newsmaker Awards.

Sounds of smooth jazz greeted guests who expected to see a live combo when they entered the space that looked ample with its expanse of white linen-draped tables. Bright blue napkins fan tailing from glass goblets added a splash of color along with the burgundy dining chairs.

The ballroom's trademark pendulum chandeliers provided ambient light and contemporary, understated beauty that matched the el-

gance of the attire of the guests dressed for the cocktail hour.

Although there was no "happy hour," friendly chit-chat and small bursts of laughter filled the air as jazz continued to play in the background from a sound system as sophisticated as the chic patrons of the truly cosmopolitan affair.

Prior to the program portion of the evening, several students who garnered gold medals in the 2007 NAACP ACT-SO competition shared their formidable talents. First, Victoria Phifer, winner of the oratory competition, graced the audience with a perfectly enunciated speech.

Tatiana Owens, winner of the vocal contemporary competition, then gave both Jennifer Holiday and Jennifer Hudson a run for their money, singing "I Am Changing" from "DreamGirls."

The program began with a multi-media presentation backgrounded with "DreamGirls" biggest hit, "I'm Telling You I'm Not Going."

The always-debonair Larry Whitley and the enchantingly beautiful Mika Highsmith from WTOL-TV News emceed the event.

(Continued on Page 12)

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## Ohio Legislative Black Caucus Appoints Jeff Johnson Executive Director

*Special to The Truth*

Representative Tyrone K. Yates (D-33), president of the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus, today announced the appointment of Jeffrey D. Johnson as executive director. Johnson, a former State Senator from Cleveland and past OLBC President, will be responsible for overseeing the day-to-day activities of the organization. He will coordinate the organization's legislative, civic and political initiatives. He will also act as the organization's liaison with state and local officials, business and civic representatives, and the general public.

The Ohio Legislative Black Caucus, said Representative Yates, "is very pleased to welcome Jeff as our new Executive Director", "he brings great skill and ability to his new duties on behalf of our 17 members."

Prior to joining OLBC, Johnson was president and sole proprietor of The Prime Strategy Group, a political consulting company. He was the state field director for the Barbara Sykes for State Auditor campaign in 2006. Johnson also previously served in the cabinet of former Cleveland Mayor Jane L. Campbell, as the director of the Department of Community Relations. He was a member of Cleveland City Council beginning in 1984, and later elected to the Ohio Senate in 1990. He holds a bachelor's degree in Telecommunications from Kent State University, and a master's degree in Political Science and law degree from Case Western Reserve University.

The Ohio Legislative Black Caucus, an organization of the 17 African-American members of the Ohio General Assembly, seeks to recognize and address the hopes, aspirations and needs of African Americans in Ohio. It aims to promote, foster, and sponsor the education of African Americans and others on the importance of involvement in party politics in order to secure a fair share of government services for their communities.

OLBC, formally known as the Black Elected Officials of Ohio (BEDO) was founded in 1967 by African-American state legislators under the leadership of State Representative C.J. McLin of Dayton Ohio.

Johnson will begin his duties full-time on June 1.

## United Way Women's Initiative Implements Social and Emotional Learning into Public Education

*Special to The Truth*

As the school year winds down, United Way of Greater Toledo's *Women's Initiative*, Toledo Public Schools (TPS), Toledo Federation of Teachers, and Toledo Association of Administrative Personnel reflect on the successes of East Side Central Elementary School.

East Side Central is the first Toledo area school to implement social and emotional learning. Social and emotional learning is an approach that, when applied in a school setting, equips children with the skills needed to increase self confidence, empathize with others, make responsible decisions, cope with emotions, and manage relationships.

Funded by United Way *Women's Initiative* and modeled after similar programs in other communities, *Successful Children, Successful Schools: Social and Emotional Learning in Toledo* was implemented in the beginning of the 2006/2007 school year and has obtained long term commitments from all of the partners.

The school-wide change initiative was designed to boost academic success. Over the past year, the school received professional



Laura Draheim, committee volunteer and Larry Sykes, school board member

development and strategies for strengthening relationships between students, teachers, and parents. Two new staff positions, a coach and a family support coordinator, were created. Lori Hunter was selected in the coach position at East Side Central and works with teachers and students in the classroom in order to create a caring environment conducive to learning. Once hired, a family support coordinator will work with parents and students outside the school.

Speaking about the results at East Side Central, Elizabeth Ruppert, Ph.D., project chairman, said: "You can see it in Morning Meeting — the way each class begins; in a circle, children and teachers

talking about current events or what's going on at school that day. It's visible in the hallways as students walk quietly and respectfully in single-file lines. Even parent involvement has increased."

The first year results were reported as a part of the *Women's Initiative's* annual luncheon at the Toledo Riverfront Hotel on May 17, 2007. In addition to examining the year's results, *Women's Initiative* members elected a new 2007/2008 chairman. Incoming chairman and Perrysburg resident Sara Jane DeHoff will replace Ottawa Hills resident Cindy Dana. Dana has served as chairman of *Women's Initiative* for the previous two years.

(Continued on Page 13)

## Commentary Shared Responsibility The Plight of Young African-American Males

By Vickie Shurelds  
Special to the Truth

Governor Ted Strickland is on it. He has made a commitment to "turn around Ohio and create more living-wage jobs" He also states "we need to address this crisis. Ohio's African-American male low graduation rate is unacceptable. I ask all Ohioans to join me in developing real solutions." And just to be sure it all goes correctly, he put former State Senator CJ Prentiss at the helm.

If you don't already know, CJ Prentiss was the driving force behind the Third Grade Guarantee. She believed, along with most educators, that if we could focus on student learning in the first through third grade, specifically on reading and comprehension skills, that would guarantee success throughout the rest of their learning experiences.

This proposal was pulled, twisted, bent, morphed before it landed in our laps as the proficiency testing that missed the mark by testing kids and declaring them "non-learners" after we had already failed to make sure they were equipped with the tools for which we were testing.

The great pressure the student's experienced as teachers and administrators pushed new learning strategies, teaching techniques, and their own frustrations in their faces resulted in panic-like symptoms that too often ended with African-American students throwing up their hands and saying "I have no idea what they want from me, the stress is too great, and I'm never going to get a decent job anyway, so why go through all this?"

We've learned a lot in the past few years – the OGT testing is a kinder/gentler prodding to assess learning. For all of those who didn't graduate because the system was not in tuned to your way of learning – I guess all you'll get is apologetic looks, we failed you as educators, and we're sorry.

Governor Strickland seems determined to close the achievement gap between African-American students and their counterparts. On May 30, 2007 at the Columbus Convention Center, CJ Prentiss will moderate The Governor's Conference on Increasing the High School Graduation Rate for African American Male Students.

Not a very catchy title, definitely not one geared for a T-Shirt – but it is destined to be workshops created to develop a strategy for Shared Responsibility. Teachers, parents and the community will come together to hash out issues like cultural competency, tough love, keeping the faith, mentors, policy makers, institutes of higher learning and government. Conference topics also go straight to the source: student responsibilities of raising their own expectations, changing attitudes and overcoming the seduction of gang life.

It challenges business leaders to connect teens to future jobs, and even touches on the responsibility of the juvenile justice system in preparing incarcerated youth for academic success.

Those interested – and that should be all of us – can visit the website to find out more, and to register for the conference: <http://www.ohioclosethegap.org/conference.html>. will get you there.

Knowing only how to conduct herself on the highest possible level – CJ Prentiss has gathered together an impressive group of presenters and speakers for the conference:

Mychal Wynn, author/consultant as keynote speaker; John W. Garland, Esq., president of Central State University; Dr. Alvin Jackson, director of the Ohio Department of Health; Maurice Sykes, Early Childhood Leadership Institute and Floyd Weatherspoon, professor at Capital University School of Law. These are among many others who will be accessible during the conference.

Of course the original thought still remains – so there is a workshop on "Investing in the 'front side' of life – putting our pre-schoolers on the right path."

Obviously, Strickland realizes we are in a state of emergency, and his determination to right this issue is, at the very least encouraging. Certainly it is unnecessary to quote the "it takes a village" adage at this point. If you still have questions on if the conference will be beneficial to you, you may contact Lois Jones at 614-466-0685, or at [lois.jones@ode.state.oh.us](mailto:lois.jones@ode.state.oh.us).

It's easy to point fingers at who dropped the ball on African-American youth in Ohio – but honestly – there are several weak links in this chain, and we are losing time as we lose ground. Prisons continue to house black males at an astounding rate. And with the increase in time associated with child support, it becomes even more apparent that we are losing the battle. Men who owe child support can't find jobs, can't drive, can't make payments, can't afford to care for themselves let alone children they create along the way as bad deci-

sions create bad situations and the circle doesn't end.

The government finally has a plan with the woman in charge that can make it happen. Closing the achievement gap between African-American males is a daunting task, because at this point, they are their own worse enemies. Faced with limited options, low self esteem and even lower self-confidence – too many don't believe they are worth the struggle, or that they can do, or deserve to have **BETTER**.

That's our responsibility. The challenge to save Ohio's strongest asset: the African-American Male. Get on board. Train leaves at 8 a.m., May 30 in Columbus.

## NOBMA

(Continued from Page 10)

"The NNPA was at the forefront of the Don Imus controversy," said Whatley. "NNPA is dedicated to hiring, promoting and portraying accurate images of African-Americans in the media."

Associate NOBMA member Marlene Harris-Taylor from Owens-Corning welcomed guests and local journalists who are out in the community working and observing who is actively involved in serving our community.

"It's those journalists who are members of NOBMA who nominate and elect the

newsmakers," said Harris-Taylor. "We are here to honor them, but what this event is really about is the future." She said the future for young black journalists is a promising one.

Following an invocation by Rev. Cedric Brock, pastor of Mt. Nebo Baptist Church, guests dined on a delectable meal of eggplant lasagna and crisp steamed vegetables.

More enlightened entertainment was provided by the ACT-SO winners. Mario Harris, winner of the essay competition, read an excerpt from his winning essay about

(Continued on Page 16)

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## United Way Women's Initiative

(Continued from Page 11)

The keynote address at the luncheon was presented by Roger Weissberg, Ph.D., president of the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning at University of Illinois in Chicago. Weissberg effectively explained the benefits of embedding social and emotional learning into elementary education.

United Way Women's Initiative also held two symposiums on May 17. The symposiums provided an opportunity to discuss best practices and implementation strategies with community leaders such as Mary Lou Rush from the Ohio Department of Education and Bonnie Hedrick, Ph.D., from the Ohio Resource Network at College of Education at University of Cincinnati. Also a topic

of discussion was what the development of social and emotional learning will look like over the next five years.

United Way President & CEO Bill Kitson stated: "Strong schools lead to strong cities. United Way and United Way Women's Initiative are proud to be leading the collaborative effort that has brought this recognized national approach to Toledo. We are confident social and emotional learning will change lives."

Social and emotional learning has been adopted by the State of Illinois, is under consideration in New York State, and has made New Haven, Connecticut and its school system a desired system for parents, educators, and students.



### Managing Attorney

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Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE), a non-profit law firm that provides free, high quality legal assistance to eligible low-income residents of western Ohio, seeks **Managing Attorney** to oversee its national model intake and brief service system Legal Aid Line located in its **Toledo office**. This position is of major responsibility and provides excellent leadership opportunities. Individual will manage a group of attorneys and intake specialists, review and oversee the day-to-day operation of Legal Aid Line. Legal Aid Line receives over 30,000 requests for people seeking legal aid services each year. Candidate must have at least 3 years relevant legal experience. Spanish speaking ability is highly preferred. Membership in Ohio Bar or ability to be admitted by motion or temporary certification required. Candidate needs to be highly organized, computer proficient, and have excellent managerial and administrative skills. Ability to work well with low-income persons who may be undergoing stress is a must. Compensation is commensurate with experience. Send resume electronically in Microsoft Word format only, as soon as possible, to:

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 c/o ABLE Recruitment Coord.  
 520 Madison Ave. Ste. 740  
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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.	PROJECT	WALK-THRU
DATE BIDS DUE ON OR BEFORE		
#27026	Renovation of Flory Gardens Apartments	May 29, 2007 at 10:00am
	June 26, 2007 @ 11:00am	

Contract Documents and Technical Specifications will be available on **Monday, May 21, 2007**, at 201 Belmont Street, in the Modernization Department (419-259-9462), and will be provided upon request. A **non-refundable** fee of **\$50.00** will be charged for each set of plans provided. All bids will be due and opened per the "Invitation for Bid" in the contract documents.

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 OH20070028, 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.

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Please respond by 6/1/07 with resume and salary requirements to:

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**16810 Fulton County Road 2**  
**Metamora, OH 43540**  
**Attn: HR Elements**

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### ATTENTION ALL VENDORS

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual African American Festival will be held at Nelson Grace Park on Friday, July 13, Saturday, July 14 and Sunday, July 15.

As space is limited to 50 entries, please contact Terri at the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union at 419/255-8876 for your application. Reservations will be given on a first come, first serve basis.

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### Program Analyst

Harbor Behavioral Healthcare, a progressive outpatient mental health agency, is seeking a competent professional to assist the Vice President of Quality Improvement. Bachelor's degree in mental health or business related field with an emphasis on data analysis required. Experience in accreditation and certification processes helpful. Knowledge and ability to lead and evaluate Continuous Quality Improvement processes highly preferred. Duties include implementing and evaluating the agency Utilization Management activities and investigating patient complaints and grievances.

Submit cover letter with salary expectations and resume by 5/30/07, to  
 Harbor Behavioral Healthcare,  
 Attn: Human Resources (PA),  
 4334 Secor Road, Toledo, OH 43623-4234  
 or fax to 419-724-9425  
 or e-mail to harborhr@harbor.org.

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### Software Applications Trainer

Energetic, dependable professional needed to deliver training to staff on agency software applications. Requires Associate's degree in computer science or information systems, plus experience leading training sessions. Must have excellent written and oral communication skills, plus the ability to design, develop and deliver software training programs and individual classes. Assists in planning, design and development of new applications and enhancements, and collaborates with department heads to assess staff training needs. Must be committed to delivering excellent customer service. Send resume, with cover letter and salary expectations by 5/30/07, to

Harbor Behavioral Healthcare,  
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### Clinical Therapists


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Harbor Behavioral Healthcare,  
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**Assistant Clinical Manager**

Youth Homebased Services Seeking a currently competent professional who oversees all clinical and administrative aspects of the SED Community Support Program. Candidates must have a master's degree in a mental health field from an accredited college or university and be licensed to practice in Ohio (PCC, LISW). Familiarity with and desire to work with the SED population is required; clinical and management experience is preferred. Duties include managing, coordinating, evaluating and supervising operations for assigned clinical staff, providing personnel management functions, and assisting in innovation, development and implementation of programs and services. Must be able to use computer and software to manage and monitor program and to communicate with staff. Submit cover letter with salary expectations and resume by 5/30/07, to Harbor Behavioral Healthcare (ACM-22), 4334 Secor Road, Toledo, OH 43623-4234 or fax to 419-724-9425 or e-mail to harborhr@harbor.org.

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**ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES OFFICER 2 ( FINANCE/ACCOUNTS) CHIEF ACCOUNTANT DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE**

The City of Toledo is currently accepting applications for the position of Administrative Services Officer 2 (Finance/Accounts). This position is responsible for providing professional assistance and guidance to accounting staff involved in the areas of financial reporting and financial management. Minimum requirements: Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and five (5) years of professional accounting experience. A Master's Degree in Business Administration and two (2) years of professional accounting experience may be accepted in lieu of five (5) years of professional accounting experience. Certification as a Public Accountant is preferred. Salary: \$47,080 to \$62,772 annually plus excellent fringe benefits. Interested candidates should submit a completed application form along with a copy of their college transcript to the

Department of Human Resources, One Government Center, Suite 1920, Toledo, Ohio 43604.

*The City of Toledo is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Minorities, females and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.*

**BUDGET/ FISCAL COORDINATOR**

The Lucas County Workforce Development Agency has an opening for the above-referenced position. For information about duties, minimum qualifications, and application procedures, please see [www.co.lucas.us/hr](http://www.co.lucas.us/hr). Applications accepted until May 30, 2007

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**RENTAL ASSISTANCE**

This Public Notice is to inform all interested persons that the waiting list for rental assistance through the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program will open for one day only. To submit your pre-application for housing assistance you must call 1-419-259-9411 on Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007 between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M.

For individuals requiring speech and hearing assistance please call 419-259-9529.

Someone other than yourself can call for you, however, **only one call per household will be accepted.**

A list of pre-applications will be maintained by the Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority. When Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers become available names will be selected from the pre-application list according to: the date and time of the phone call and the preference claimed. Preference will be given to families not currently receiving rental assistance and to singles that are elderly, handicapped or disabled. Names will be drawn from the list as needed to fill existing vouchers and instructions to apply will be sent to those names once drawn.

**Equal Housing Opportunity**

The L.M.H.A. does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, familial status, ancestry, disability, handicap or national origin in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its federally assisted programs or activities.

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

**SEASONAL MAINTENANCE EMPLOYMENT**

Metroparks of Toledo is looking for women and men to perform building and grounds maintenance at Providence, Farnsworth, Blue Creek, Pearson, and other Metroparks. If you like working outdoors, learning basic mechanical and 'handyman' skills, and doing a wide variety of activities in a relaxing environment, you'll love working for Metroparks. Ending dates flexible through December. \$7.92 per hour, up to 40 hours per week. Some weekend and early evenings required. Must have HS diploma or equivalent, be able to learn to use power tools and equipment. Walk-in application and interview process will be conducted at

Wildwood Preserve, Metroparks Hall, 5100 W. Central Ave., Toledo, OH on Friday May 25 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Sat. May 26 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Visit [www.metroparkstoledo.com](http://www.metroparkstoledo.com) to review the position description.

EOE/AA

**CSP/DUAL DIAGNOSIS**

Unison is seeking a case manager to work on the Dual Diagnosis team providing chemical dependency treatment and case management to adults with mental illness and chemical dependency. Must possess a Bachelor's degree in social work, psychology or a related field and previous mental health experience. Individual with CDCA or LCDCI is strongly preferred but will consider unlicensed individual willing to complete requirements to secure. LSW or PC is preferred.



Human Resources - DUALCSP  
1425 Starr Avenue  
Toledo, OH 43605  
Fax 419.936.7574  
Email: [HR@UNISONBHG.ORG](mailto:HR@UNISONBHG.ORG)

**CSP/PACT TEAM**

CSP position available on PACT Team for experienced individual to work with clients who are in need of a high level of service and/or are involved in the forensic system. Qualified candidates will have two or more years of experience, a Bachelor's degree in a related field and licensure as a social worker or counselor. Must be willing and able to work weekends and holidays as needed.



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**PROGRAM MANAGER, CSP**

Unison Behavioral Health Group is seeking a Program Manager to provide clinical and administrative supervision to a CSP team. Qualified candidates must have leadership ability and creative problem solving skills. LPCC, LISW, or MSN is required, along with previous experience with adults with serious mental illness. Prior case management and supervisory experience is preferred.



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## NOBMA

(Continued from Page 12)

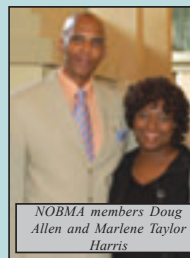
leadership. An eloquent speaker, as well as an excellent writer, young Mario gave a brief synopsis of his piece before reading from it.

Melvin Claybrooks, winner of the poetry competition, read his poem, "So Confused," vividly depicting adolescent angst.

"For over a decade NOBMA has given scholarships to students," said Highsmith as diners enjoyed dessert and the program resumed. "Keeping alive the legacies of three African-American journalists."

The winner of the William A. Brower Scholarship for 2007 was Bowling Green State University student Ashlee Austin; the Art J. Edgerton Scholarship was awarded to Lasharra Morris, a junior at The University of Toledo, and the Al Smith Scholarship recipient was BGSU's Richard Autry.

"It doesn't take journalists long to find out who the real players in the community are," said Highsmith, introducing two local news personalities to present the awards for 2007. Efreem Graham and Kristian Brown from WTVG-TV News presented the Impact Newsmaker Awards and Media Achievement Awards respectively. This year the Impact Newsmaker Award winners included: Tyrone Bledsoe, Ph.D., Charles Cohen, Representative Edna Brown and posthumous winner Edrene Cole. Bledsoe founded the Student African-American Brotherhood Organization



(SAAB) on the campus of Georgia Southwestern State University in 1990. He is a recognized authority in leadership and motivation and targets the areas of leadership, diversity.

"This is a movement to save the lives and salvage the dreams of African-American men and boys," said Bledsoe, who joked about bringing his "posse" with him to the event. The impressive half dozen young Afri-

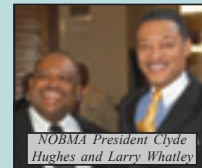
founder of the Toledo Minority Golf Association and has spread his love for the game to youth across the country for nearly forty years.

"In 1973, while caddying for my daughter, Cathy Cohen, in a junior golf tournament, I realized she was the only minority junior on the golf course," said Cohen. "That day I made a commitment. If given the opportunity, I would establish a program to make the game of golf accessible to minority youth."

However, Cohen emphasized education as a must for all African-American youth as he accepted his award. "Only when they get the education they need will they be able to defend themselves against the David Dukes, the Rush Limbaughs and the Don Imuses of the world."

Coming up to the stage earlier, he announced "Tiger did make the cut!" eliciting laughter from the audience.

"No one would know what any of us do," said Edna



Brown, lauding black journalists. "How would the people in the district know what I'm doing to help the community if it wasn't for the northwest Ohio black media?"

Eddie Cole accepted the award given posthumously to his recently deceased wife, Edrene, a retired Toledo public school educator and administrator. Cole was renowned for helping to preserve local African-American history and providing more higher education opportunities for minorities.

Last year, she and Lillian Ashcraft-Eason, director of Africana Studies at BGSU, finished Toledo Oral History Project II, a multimedia documentation of local African-American history, involving dozens of interviews, written essays and photos.

"I'm accepting this award on behalf of a community that understood and appreciated the importance of preserving its history," said Robert Smith, accepting an award for the African-American Legacy Project. Smith thanked NOBMA founder/president Clyde Hughes, urban affairs reporter for the Toledo Blade



can-American men participated in a brief call and response.

"I am my brother's keeper," said Bledsoe. "Together we will rise," they answered. Charles Cohen is the

and ST editor/publisher Fletcher Word for "driving him."

The Toledo Museum of Art also received an award for its Juneteenth celebration that has been held annually

since 2005. Ann Loshaw, head of Museum Education Programs, accepted the award on behalf of TMA, exuberantly expressing her appreciation to the community for its support of the Juneteenth celebration, which she said gets better and bigger each year.

Media Achievement Awards this year went to a trio of African-American broadcasters, NOBMA's own "dream girls." "Last year Shenikwa Stratford etched her name in Toledo history when she took the chair to anchor the evening news at WNWO," said presenter Brown. "Now married with a future journalist still in the editing bay, we know the best of Shenikwa is yet to come."

A radiant Stratford accepted her award graciously, thanking "baby Kennedy for not sending me into labor." However, along with her joy in being a "first," Stratford shared that she also experienced some sadness.

"It is an honor to be the first black woman to be an anchor in Toledo," she said. "But it's also a little sad. It's 2007. But if I'm the first one, that's fine."

Limping a little after wearing some fierce stilettos to cover a Michigan fire the day before the awards banquet, WTVG-TV News reporter Alexis Means didn't mind taking off her shoes and showing everyone the source of her impediment. Ever humble, the veteran broadcaster had all the African-American journalists in the audience stand to be recognized for their hard work.

"I am a charter member of NOBMA," said Rhonda Sewell, giving recognition to Clyde Hughes for his dedication to the organization. "He is so passionate, so dedicated." Sewell's twin daughters attended the event with her. "Having your children witness you being honored by your peers, that's amazing," said Sewell.

Two days before Mother's Day, Sewell, who is media relations coordinator for the Toledo Public Library, also acknowledged her mother, Billie Johnson, executive director of the Area Office on Aging. "She is the one who imparts so much wisdom to me," said Sewell.

In closing, NOBMA member Laneta Goings from The Toledo Blade talked about the difficulty in selecting winners from the flood of nominations that pour in each year and spoke endearingly of one particular awardee.

"Edrene Cole was one of our village elders who had a way with words and a keen sense of humor," said Goings. She also thanked sponsors for the event.

Rev. Whatley gave benediction over an event that honored worthy newsmakers and newscasters who affect our community profoundly with deeds, words and images.