

Michael Ashford

President of Toledo City Council

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There's no crying in politics ... Michael Ashford paid his political dues and he reaped the political rewards. That's the way politics work. - The Truth Editorial

This Strikes Us ...

A Sojourner's Truth Editorial

Did we miss something?

Was Rob Ludeman owed something? Was Ludeman promised an indefinite term as Toledo City Council president by some higher being who forgot to mention this to the mortals on City Council?

If Michael Ashford is ousted in a month or two or in January during reorganization, will there be as great an outpouring of grief and lamentation over his demise?

We have heard a lot of criticism of City Council over the decision of the Democratic majority—who after a meeting with the Ohio Democratic Party Chairman Chris Redfern and Lucas County Democratic Party Chairman Ron Rothenbuhler suddenly noticed that they did indeed have a majority—to replace a Republican with one of their own. This sense, however, that somehow the deposed Republican was entitled to stay on top baffles us greatly.

The fact is, Ludeman won his presidency not because of any outstanding political or leadership gifts he possessed but rather because the other party was so splintered. It was, as he himself said in defeat, a “miracle” that he won and that he remained in that office for so long.

But regardless of how well he conducted the business of the presidency, politics is politics. There's no crying in politics, folks. You move on. And to his credit, that's what Ludeman did. Although many others—such as the mayor, for example—could not bring themselves to match Ludeman's grace after defeat.

And speaking of crying ... and hubris, how does Councilwoman Betty Shultz, the self-admitted conduit for Tom Noe money to George Bush's pockets, feel comfortable in questioning any other elected official's ethics? Shultz, who was absent during the vote for president, is seeking legal opinion on whether discussions among the Democrats leading up to the vote violated the state's “sunshine” laws.

The fact is, it made sense for the Democrats to try to re-capture the presidency even though Ludeman would have had just a short four more months to serve before the post-election reorganization.

There is short term policy to be affected and there is long-term presidential politics that will come into play. It is possible that this victory could lead to a more united local party, especially if the mayor and lone holdout Democratic Councilman Mark Sobczak can get over their pique.

Almost as baffling is the analysis in some quarters that Ashford's ascendancy was due to racial politics. The theory, as put forth by Toledo's daily, is that Councilmen Wilma Brown and Phil Copeland would not have voted for a white person for president, so they were bound by race to vote for Ashford.

That is an assumption with no basis in fact.

The reality is Ashford always had three votes along with his own—Brown, Copeland and Mike Craig, who is white. Brown promised him her vote at least in part because she was grateful for his support in her two attempts to gain the presidency. Copeland gives Ashford credit for backing his bid several years ago to be appointed to council. Craig was elected to the District 3 post in no small part because of Ashford's assistance.

Additionally, and more importantly, Ashford has the political experience—eight years on council—that would make him well qualified to assume the presidency and make him an attractive candidate for his fellow councilmen.

Ashford paid his political dues and he reaped the political rewards. That's the way politics work.

There is absolutely no reason to put a racial spin on the events of last week. And there is no reason to question whether Ashford can look beyond the borders of his neighborhood for the greater good of the entire community, as the daily challenged him to do.

What is there is Ashford's resume that would suggest he can only concern himself only with matters of interest to District 4 residents? And how do the needs of District 4 residents differ from those in other districts? Ashford has spoken of quality of life, safety, managing costs so taxes will remain reasonable, health issues, repairing streets, curbs and lights, etc.

The question was raised that Ashford faces the challenge of reassuring middle-class Toledoans that he can represent their broader interests. We haven't yet looked but we wonder if a trip through the daily's archives would uncover a similar challenge 19 months ago for Ludeman.

Was he told that he had a duty to disabuse central city residents of Toledo of the notion that he had “a narrow agenda” that did not represent their interests?

We won't be surprised if such a warning to an incoming white council president was somehow overlooked.

The Sojourner's Truth

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Community Calendar

*August 30

Healthy Relationships: Tips for having a better connection with your partner; 4 pm; James C. Caldwell Community Center; Free/Snacks served: 419-729-4654 ext. 209

*August 31-September 2

Woodward High Scholl Class of 1982 Reunion: Friday night at The Distillery at 7 pm; Saturday – Dinner, dance and mock casino fun at Gladioux Meadows from 6 pm to midnight; Sunday – Breakfast at The Courtyard by Marriott on W. Dussel at 10 am; 419-537-8859

*September 1

2007 NorthSide Reunion: Erie Street Market; 6 pm to 1 am, Dinner at 7: 419-944-9546 or 419-810-3716 or 419-727-1658

*September 1-2

2007 Labor Day Weekend GM/UAW Family Rib Fest: UAW Local 14 and GM Powertrain Park; Noon to 4 pm; Live music, rib vendors, arts and crafts: 419-243-4600 ext 38

*September 2

First Missionary Baptist Church Pastor's Anniversary: Rev. Donald Murray's Second Anniversary; Guests – Rev. Willie Perryman and the Jerusalem MBC, Rev. John Williams and the Eastern Star MBC and Rev. John Roberts and Indiana Ave MBC; 4 pm

*September 6

United Way's Lunch with Leaders: Owens Corning; 11:45 am to 1 pm; Guest speaker Diana Patton of Equilibria by Diana: 419-254-4670

*September 7

ONYX 5th Annual GolfOuting: Ottawa Park; 11 am: 419-244-8666
Fish Fry: Amazon Lodge Hall; 11 am to 5 pm

*September 8

Episcopal Church Women of All Saints Church: Annual Luncheon and Style Show; Gladioux Meadows; 11:30 am – Social Hour, 11:45 am – Lunch, 12:45 pm – Style Show: 419-531-4196 or 419-243-9633

*September 9-11

“A Relevant Worship & Word Revival;” True Vine MBC; Guest revivalist Rev. Rudolph McKissick, Jr of Bethel Baptist church, Jacksonville, FL; 7 pm; At Mt. Pilgrim Baptist: 419-241-4717

*September 11

5th Annual Black College Tour Informational Meeting: Sponsored by Maumee Bay Club, NANBPWC; Kent Branch Library; 6 to 8 pm: 419-478-4268
Toledo Interfaith Mass Choir: Auditions for membership; St. Paul AME Zion; 7 pm: 419-241-7332 or 419-241-3330
Scott Alumni Association: General monthly meeting; Kent Branch Library; 6 pm

*September 14-15

5th Annual Imani Festival: Mt. Zion Baptist Church; “The Big Push ... Takin' My Life Back;” Friday 5 to 9 pm – JAZZ Under the Stars; Saturday – health and wellness, musical guests, praise & worship, Steppin' for Christ, amusement rides, 3-on-3 basketball tournament: 419-246-1850

*September 14-16

St. Catherine Festival 2007: St. Catherine of Siena; Fri – 6 pm to midnight; Sat – 2 pm to midnight; Sun – Noon to 8 pm; Rides, Texas Hold'em, bingo, chicken dinner

*September 21

Fish Fry: Amazon Lodge Hall; 11 am to 5 pm

The Sojourner's Truth

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The Thing Behind The Thing

The election of Michael Ashford as president of Toledo City Council underscored the relevant ancient wisdom that *it is good and marvelous for brothers (and sisters) to live together in unity*. Indeed a spirit of concord is a good thing, especially in a time when family and other traditional relationships and alliances are disintegrating. However, the greater challenge for the Democratic Party lies beyond an external spirit of oneness that does not permeate the collective whole.

Another piece of wisdom states "The presenting issue is always heavily influenced by some other issue that is a little bit more inconspicuous ... discreet, dormant, latent." So when analyzing what is really going on you must look for the deeper issue and not the presenting issue because *it is never the thing...it is always the thing behind the thing*.

Underneath the Demo-

crats' unification lies the ultimate goal of political parties which is to get people elected and it is no secret that northwest Ohio is once again a critical area in a critical State in a critical 2008 Presidential election.

However, I am hopeful that the African-American community, although not monolithic, will finally come to the place where it does not allow itself to be co-opted politically. Whether in local, state or federal elections it is time to stop allowing the black vote to be a rocket booster for the Democratic Party whereby we boost them to election and then they jettison us off after their objectives have been secured. It is time to stop being seduced by the symbolic politics of showing up in our churches and community events but then enacting anti-black policies and bailing out on promises.

More than external congeniality, a bigger concern is whether we will go forward NOW - or will we maintain

the painful, powerless status quo of racist resistance and opposition where it concerns people of color and other minorities. And can we trust white or black politicians, men or women, friend or foe to represent OUR interests and not lose them in the so-called "broader" interests which are more often than not tied solely to the sources of large financial contributors.

Beyond unity, the lesson to the Democratic Party is: Take our vote seriously! We will not support those who do not support us regardless of your race, class, gender, or whether we see your face in the community. African-American support is no longer a given but will have to be earned by trust which comes from the keeping of promises and enacting policies and practices of substance.

Marvin Milsap
mmilsap@gmail.com

Northside Reunion

Growing up on the Northside left us all with great memories. Memories which include first and most important, love. A kind of love that not many experience. Neighbors who took care of one another, respected each other and built a community that became one large family.

Our parents instilled in us a sense of direction and we never had a need for additional role models because our community was filled with them, teaching, providing and caring for us.

The community had everything we needed. The businesses in our neighborhood, such as the grocers and cleaners, not only provided a needed service but were there for us when we were economically challenged.

We were privileged to have as our neighbors people who were pioneers, fighting to provide better housing, recreation and businesses and we inherited their fight for life.

We remember and honor them all as we celebrate our Northside history together at the 2007 Northside Reunion at the Erie Street Market on Saturday September 1, 2007.

Tyrone Watkins

Lucas County Democrats Embrace Unity

By Sojourner's Truth Staff



In a display of unity not seen in years, well over 50 members of the Lucas County Democratic Party gathered on Monday outside of the party's headquarters on Madison Avenue to rally behind the recently elected

party chairman, Ron Rothenbuhler, and to declare that the era of two separate wings of the party is dead.

"This is a renewed effort of the Lucas County Democratic Party to move forward," said Rothenbuhler at the onset of the news conference. "Through cooperation, coordination and communication we're going to renew this effort."

Those present included members of the so-called A

(Continued on Page 14)



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Michael Ashford Assumes the Presidency of City Council

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

Toledo City Councilman Michael Ashford assumed the presidency of Toledo city Council last Tuesday by a seven-to-four margin in a vote that, with one exception, fell along party lines. Only Democrat Mark Sobczak declined to heed a call for party unity from state and local party leaders.

And while many Democrats played a part in finally placing one of their own at the head of a legislative body that has been an embarrassment to the state Democratic Party for these last 18 months, a large measure of credit was due to recently-elected Lucas County Democratic Party Chairman Ron Rothenbuhler and his counterpart on the state level, Representative Chris Redfern of Catawba Island.

On Tuesday morning at 8 a.m., hours before the City Council vote, Rothenbuhler and Redfern called together the eight Democratic councilmen and urged them to renew their efforts to unify the local party. Just the fact that Rothenbuhler and Redfern were united in that mission surprised and impressed several at the gathering.

But just a few weeks before the vote that elevated him to the top council post, Ashford had predicted that no Democrat would become president in the foreseeable future. So Tuesday's outcome was as much of a surprise to him as it was to anyone who had observed city council over the past 18 months.

But Ashford's ascendancy, while surprising, did not occur without a lot of spade work on the part of the District 4 councilman. Going back to early 2006, as the Democrats were preparing to retake the governor's office after 16 years of exile, Ashford made a crucial decision and cast his lot with Congressman Ted Strickland.

Ashford's decision came well before a number of big city mayors such as Michael Coleman of Columbus, Frank Jackson of Cleveland or Don Plusquellic of Akron had announced whom they would support.

Ashford invited Strickland to a grassroots organization meeting here in Toledo in early March 2006 to meet some of the volunteers whom he had enlisted to help in the gubernatorial campaign. Unlike many of the gatherings around the state that Strickland had attended up to that point, the Mott Branch Library that evening was packed with well over 100 people. An assortment of volunteers were on hand to

greet the next governor along with an impressive list of Democratic elected officials. Among the missing – the Lucas County Democratic Party officials.

Returning to the present, Rothenbuhler assumed the chairmanship of the local party just weeks ago in the aftermath of former Chairman John Irish's resignation over party function gone awry and Rothenbuhler has repeatedly insisted ever since that his mission is to help unify the party.

He got his first chance this week.

During the early morning meeting, Redfern and Rothenbuhler urged the council members to avoid public acrimony amongst themselves and with other Party members. They spoke of the upcoming 2008 presidential election and the need for a unified front. And while the council presidency was not discussed during the meeting, Redfern did make mention of how grateful the governor was for Ashford's help early on in his campaign and that Strickland would support Ashford's re-election effort.

After that meeting, the Democrats tried once again to pull themselves together to unseat Ludeman.

Sobczak was approached but he declined to assist in the maneuverings against the council president. He told his fellow Democrats that he



would continue to support Mayor Carty Finkbeiner's pro-business approach and that the only Democrat Mark

McNamara spent part of the remaining day exploring his own chances of obtaining the top post. His inquiries

Ashford and Ludeman exchanged seats, name plates were switched and the business of City Council proceeded almost before anyone understood what had happened.

Sobczak would support for the post was ... Mark Sobczak.

Without Sobczak, the key now would be Joe McNamara who had previously declined to participate in bringing about regime change. If McNamara were inclined to support anyone, other than himself, it would be Ellen Grachek who is not running for re-election.

did not bear fruit, he could not manufacture a majority. But in the end, as the 4:00 p.m. meeting time approached, few of the Democrats knew in

advance what McNamara would do. The results of the vote were still a mystery to all involved.

In the event, the vote proved to be an anticlimax to the preceding 18 months of infighting, back biting and jockeying for individual honors.

A motion to bring the matter to a vote was introduced by Szollosi and seven Democrats voted for that measure and then for Ashford for president – Ashford, Wilma Brown, Phil Copeland, Mike Craig, Grachek, McNamara, Szollosi. Sobczak and Republicans Joe Birmingham, Ludeman and George Sarantou voted for Ludeman. Republican Betty Shultz was absent.

Ashford and Ludeman exchanged seats, name plates were switched and the business of City Council proceeded almost before anyone understood what had happened.

And yet, in spite of that triumph, Lucas County Democratic Party unity was on display just briefly on Tuesday. Finkbeiner immediately issued a statement decrying the results and refraining from extending any sort of con-

gratulatory message towards Ashford.

"I am saddened by the partisanship that Toledo City Council displayed today. Councilman Rob Ludeman served as Council President honorably and treated all councilmembers with respect. To replace him for no reason whatsoever, with but four months left in his term, underscores the pettiness, bitter partisanship, and ongoing political gamesmanship of this council," said the mayor.

Ashford, for his part, ignored the mayor's sniping and promised to work with the chief executive. He has sought a meeting with Finkbeiner but his overtures have so far been rebuffed.

The new burden of leadership was summed up by Szollosi the next morning.

"We have a greater collective responsibility," said Szollosi.

It remains to be seen whether the Democratic leadership – the new council president, council members, party leaders and, above all, the mayor – will answer that call to work collectively.

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EOE

Phil Copeland Wins Laborers Local 500 Top Post in a Landslide

Sojourner's Truth Staff



In one of the largest voting turnouts in union history, Phil Copeland, secretary-treasurer of Laborers' Local 500, won election to the top post of business manager last weekend with a landslide victory over his challenger Jarrod Mitchell.

Copeland garnered 214 out of the total of 322 cast over the two-day voting period on August 17 and 18.

Copeland will be sworn in

as business manager on September 5, but he has already assumed the duties of the position that opened when his predecessor Steven Thomas was ousted earlier in the year by the Laborers International of North America.

Copeland, who has been secretary-treasurer – the number-two leadership spot – for more than 20 years, spoke of his excitement over the victory. "This election meant

more to me than any before," he said. "This meant that the membership still trusts and believes in me."

Laborers' Local 500 has been embroiled in an ongoing scandal involving the use of union funds for personal entertainment on the part some leaders although Copeland himself has never been implicated in any wrongdoing. In addition, the union has been experiencing dwindling membership in recent years.

Also moving up in leadership posts were Kenneth Ragland, former president who won election as secretary/treasurer; Tony Coleman who moved from vice president to president and Bob Savage, the newly-elected vice president.

"I would like to move the local forward and bring a vision of where we should be," said Copeland after the vote. "We have had two years of publicity that the members did not deserve and I want to restore the union's reputation in the eyes of the public."

Saturday Adoption Classes Begin September 8 Lucas County Children Services Seeking Foster and Adoptive Families

Special to The Truth

Lucas County Children Services (LCCS) encourages adults interested in becoming foster or adoptive parents to attend a series of free training classes.

A new fall session of classes, which are required for foster or adoptive licensing, begins Saturday, September 8, 2007. The classes run from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., allowing participants to complete the entire curriculum in just five Saturday sessions. Registration for the classes is available by calling 419-213-3336.

While LCCS strives to help children remain with their families by working with their parents to build a safe, nurturing environment, it's not always possible. As a result, the agency needs foster and adoptive parents for children of all ages, but particularly families who can provide loving and stable homes for teenagers and groups of brothers and sisters. The agency is also seeking parents to join its therapeutic foster care program, providing care to children with behavioral, developmental or physical challenges.

Qualifying to be a foster or adoptive parent is easier than you think. You...

- * Must be at least 18 years of age to adopt; 21 to become a foster parent
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- * Need a safety inspection for your home
- * Agree to a background check
- * Receive free training
- * Receive financial support, based on your child's needs

About Lucas County Children Services

The mission of Lucas County Children Services is to lead the community in the protection of children at risk of abuse and neglect. This is accomplished by working with families, service providers and community members to assess risk and coordinate community-based services resulting in safe, stable and permanent families for children.

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The AKA Showcase of the Arts

By Artisha Lawson
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., partnered again with The Art Tatum African American Resource Center for its fourth annual Showcase of the Arts. Over 350 participants and supporters filled the Kent Branch Library on Collingwood Blvd. on Saturday, August 25 to see visual artists, poets, actors, vocalists, instrumentalists, dancers and mimes.

The purpose behind Showcase of the Arts is to promote the quality of life in our communities, to stimulate the appreciation of the beauty and structure of the arts and to acknowledge the increasing importance of art in bridging diversity in civic life.

"Since the inception of this program it has always been tremendous, because of all of you here with your God-given talents and community support," stated Zeta Alpha Omega President Julia Holt during her welcoming remarks to guests.

The event was hosted by Channel 24 anchor Shenikwa Stratford, and Channel 13 anchors Kristian Brown and Efreem Graham. "Last year we had so much fun and we are glad we can help showcase these talents," Brown said in her opening words to the audience.

One of several additions to this year's showcase was

folks in the audience. Then followed pastor, Christian educator and poet Michael Peterson whose presentation combined religion, scientific facts, myths and drums to speak to the crowd. "In Jesus Christ we are the holy people," he stated during his showcase.

Audiences laughed during Clifford A. Wright's drama-based skit that talked about relationships and gave a standing ovation to mimes Jeffrey Less and Juan Boyd from Church of God.

Along with the physical art forms, several visual artists were showcased in both rooms of the resource center. Among the featured artists was three-time participant R. Wade Harrison, who describes his style as "loose and free-style." "This is something to do to promote

Ophelia J. Thompson, DreDay Knighten, Ruby Radford, Kashawna, Willie Garrett, and Serena Mathis; actors Imelda Hunt, Jennifer Meyers, and Naomi Brown;



vocalists Lisa A. Johnson, Curtis Cotton, Dorothy Gray, Rio Green, Tai-Isha Sparks, Denise Holman, Sonya Hodge, and Marcia Stanton; instrumentalists Katrina

of Perry Burroughs, Trevor Black of Maumee Bay Chapter of Negro Business and Professional Women Club, Walter Johnson and Jamay Edwards of Fifth Third Field,



The purpose behind Showcase of the Arts is to promote the quality of life in our communities, to stimulate the appreciation of the beauty and structure of the arts and to acknowledge the increasing importance of art in bridging diversity in civic life.

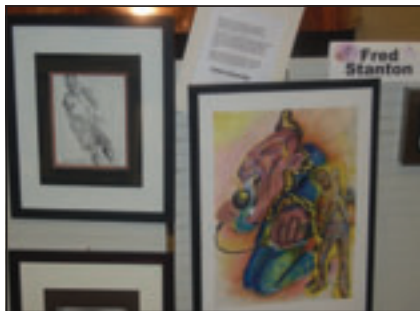
black art and be a part of something for the community," he said.

Besides those participants, this year's showcase included visual artists Lydia Karen Allen, Willie Nell Shahraki, Navarro Gibson, Aaron Bivins, Gina Morton,

Barnhill, Cethus Manning, Isis Darts, Jessie Coleman & Affinity Band, and Bobby Lucas; dancers Ke'Lela Reditt, Shelia Gibson, Giselle Hunt, Tyree Bell, Tammy Lawrence, Brandi Preston, In To To, Positive Force, and Ashley Duke; and mime Ashley Besteder.

Showcase of the Arts was organized by sorority members Denise Black-Poon, Joyce Brown, Frances Collins, Ed.D, Lisa Dubose, Dr. Debra Fulton, Karen L. Glover, Joan Harris, Julia Holt, Jacquelyn Houston, Rosie Payne, Clara Petty, Edna Robertson and Muriel Williams; and library specialist of The Art Tatum African American Resource Center Melissa Jeter.

Committee members send special thanks to Cecelia Adams and Denise Onya of Toledo Public Schools, Clara Brank, Barbie Harrison of Big Brothers & Big Sisters, Toledo City Councilman Wilma D. Brown, Cynthia Williams of Jack & Jill, Yvonne Harper



an opening presentation by sorority committee members, made up of Zeta Alpha Omega chapter, Iota Iota chapter and Alpha Lambda chapter. That presentation was soon followed by showcase participants.

"This year over 350 community members and participants showed up to support this worthy cause. Art is a form of language, that can sometimes tell a story," explained Denise Black-Poon, event co-chairman.

The showcase portion of the event began with army fatigue dresses dancers from First Church of God ministry and vocalist Vicki Simpson-Brooks who dedicated her presentation to all the young



Golden Wedding Anniversary
Cleveland and Zonia Sherman celebrated
50 years of marriage with family and friends
on Saturday, August 25, 2007 at Mt. Pilgrim
Baptist Church.



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*Deborah (Hilton) Hunter,
Karen (Edward) Sorina and
Granddaughter Stephanie Hunter*

The Third Annual African American Student Enrichment Institute

Sojourner's Truth Staff

During the closing ceremony of the Third Annual African American Enrichment Institute at The University of Toledo, David Young, interim director of the University's Office of EXCELlence and TOLEDO EXCEL recalled for his audience his undergraduate days at UT.

Black students, he told the 189 incoming freshmen, hung out in groups and when they dropped out as they did in droves, the whole group would drop out.

And, of course, that is the primary reason for the two-day Student Enrichment Initiative—to get a handle on the problem that plagues African-American college students—the drop-out rate.

The August 13 and 14 session was sponsored by the

African American Student Enrichment Initiatives Office and its director, Martino Harmon. The opening session on Monday afternoon featured speakers Kaye Patten Wallace, Ph.D., vice president for Student Affairs, Rosemary Hagggett, Ph.D.,

provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs and Kieron Richardson, UT student and Black Student Union president.

After that opening event, students and their parents attended breakout sessions—for the parents it was "the role of family in fostering success" and for the students an examination of college life.

Parents left after that and a student mixer followed. The evening ended with meetings in residence halls.

On Tuesday, the students

heard from Morris Jenkins, Ph.D., associate professor of Criminal Justice before breakout sessions on—making positive choices, experiencing life as a UT resident, using financial aid properly and enhancing time management skills.

The afternoon began with "The Academic Success Challenge" and then the men and women separated for their own sessions. The final breakout sessions included the topics using academic advisors and understanding

the difference between high school and college classroom settings.

The closing ceremony's keynote speaker was the aforementioned Young who asked the students to recognize the difference between those among them who are "story enhancers" and those who are "story enders."

"Don't allow anyone to send you home because they are story enders," said Young.



David Young addresses incoming freshmen

Savage Park Basketball League Concludes Third Successful Season

Sojourner's Truth Staff

"We're trying to get a flavor like Rucker, trying to make it a tradition," said Carleton Mathis of the Savage Park Basketball League he founded three years ago with George Mitchell. Mathis was referring to the famed Rucker Park League in Harlem that attracts top-notch players—many NBA stars stop by Rucker periodically to take on the chal-

lence of street ball.

The nine-week, 10 team Savage Park league is open to anyone over 18. Mathis estimates that the average age of the competitors is 25. He also said that there were about seven or eight players who are still in college playing ball and about 10 or so who had played on the

varsity level in the past. Why did Mathis decide to bring the league to life? "I coached at Libbey for nine seasons," he replied. "I have a love for the game and a love for the kids. There's not a lot to do in the neighborhood. You have got to get your African-American males to know that they can succeed and we use basketball as a tool for other things in life such as teaching responsibility."

Championship week, which pitted Top Notch against South Side, concluded on August 12 as over 35 trophies were handed out along with countless t-shirts. And judging by the increased audience attendance this summer, the season was a huge success. Approximately 1,000 people visited weekly, said Mathis.



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The Harris Silver Anniversary Celebration



Maggie and Greg Harris



New Sister Cities Agreement Forged During Recent Visit

As a part of the Sister Cities relationship between the Glass Cities of Toledo, Ohio and Qinhuangdao, China which dates back to 1985, the deputy director of the Qinhuangdao Broadcasting and Television Bureau, Ruihua Gao and Hongbo Song, director of the Cultural Industry Department of QHD TV visited Toledo in August.

They led a group of nine high school students who participated in the International Youth Academy of TSCI.

During their visit, the Toledo-Qinhuangdao Sister Cities Committee of TSCI assisted in making a link between QHD TV and WGTE. The president and CEO of WGTE,

Marlon P. Kiser, and Gao signed what may be the first



Amy Chen, Toledo-Qinhuangdao Sister Cities Committee
Linda Mansour, Toledo-Qinhuangdao Sister Cities Committee
Ardelia Jones Terry, Toledo-Qinhuangdao Sister Cities Committee
Leslie Henriquez, Toledo-Qinhuangdao Sister Cities Committee
Gao Ruihua, Deputy Director, Qinhuangdao Broadcasting and TV
John Henry Fullen, Toledo-Qinhuangdao Sister Cities Committee
Qing Wang, of Qinhuangdao Fletcher Word of The Sojourner's Truth
Litza Lee, Toledo-Qinhuangdao Sister Cities Committee
Hong Bo Song, Qinhuangdao TV
Jiquan Chen, President, Chinese Association of Greater Toledo

Qinhuangdao or assisting the Committee, please contact the QHD Committee Chairman, John Henry Fullen at (419)242-4244, or

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Gao Ruihua, vice director of Qinhuangdao Broadcasting and TV Bureau, opens gift from Toledo hosts

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Friends and Family Bid Farewell to Newly-Minted Boilermaker

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Clyde Hughes, long-time Blade reporter and president of the Northwest Ohio Black Media Association (NOBMA), actually started his job at Purdue University almost two months ago but it took his friends, family and colleagues some time to fit a proper farewell into his busy schedule.

His daughter Ashley Futrell flew in from Washington, City Council President Michael Ashford presented a resolution thanking Hughes for his contributions to the community and Councilman George Sarantou brought a gift of a glass goblet from the City of Toledo. And the tributes flowed.

Hughes, who worked at The Blade for over 17 years, is now in the public relations department at Purdue where he will also pursue a master's degree.

About 50 former colleagues, friends and family members were on hand for the celebration at Jackson's

Lounge but as NOBMA member Doug Allen noted during his tribute, most of those present were really looking forward to that time in the not-too-distant future when they can gather again to welcome Clyde Hughes back to Toledo.



Rhonda Sewell and Warren Woodberry



Laneta Goings and Sena Mourad



Clyde Hughes and Donna Hughes with Ashley Futrell (L.)



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Doug Allen, Rhonda Sewell, Alexis Means and Hughes



Hughes and Council President Michael Ashford

In Memory of Gloria Denise Cunningham

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

One of my best friends since I was 12 years old, Stephen Corey Cunningham (along with his sister Tanesha and brother Andre), lost a wonderful mother two weeks ago.

The service brought together a slew of relatives and friends of the family I hadn't seen in ages. So many people who knew and loved Gloria Denise Cunningham or her children were in attendance. And we all knew of the health complications she had been fighting for over a decade. That's a long time for one person to fight, and knowing Corey for so long I've watched him tirelessly and heroically fight that fight along with his mom as she tried to stabilize her health. Everyone was thankful that she was no longer in pain, but of course, it was still hard to let her go.

As I offered my support, I just looked around

me and I was reminded of how we understand this concept of family.

So many will tell you that your family are those you share a bloodline with.

Others may tell you that your family is whoever has taken care of you your whole life.

Actually, neither of those is true in my opinion.

Family are those who *care about you*.

Taking care OF someone is merely custodial, an obligation that even some family avoid.

But when you care *about* someone, you care about their thoughts and feelings.

You care about their peace of mind.

You love them and allow them to be who they are.

Family is so precious and hard to come by these days.

People have hidden agendas.

People have vested interests.

People have jealous spir-its.

But when you click with folks, you don't need to be

connected through blood.

I didn't have brothers growing up, but when I met Corey Cunningham and Rick Easler in the sixth grade - I immediately knew that families can grow to include those not related to you.

And all of those early memories of Corey's mom just flooded back sitting there in that pew. Thinking how she never bit her tongue, and she would give you the business with no hesitation - LOL. But it's that care for others that made her so loved.

That whole family (Frasiers/Cunningham etc.) respected her for being upfront with folks and having unwavering convictions.

Proof of that is the fact that Corey was in the Young Scholars Program.

That's how we all met when we were 12.

So she must've of being doing something right to have her youngest child on the way to a college scholarship.

And it was that program that really changed all of our lives and families.

1990 - we were in the sixth grade and all three of us were outcasts in one way or another.

Corey and I - coming from inner-city Toledo - we knew first hand how difficult it can be going to a rough school but still trying to be one of the smart kids.

Not always a good LOL.

Not having many family members to ever attend college was another thing Corey and I shared. We didn't know how, but we just knew we wanted more out of life than we had been shown. Corey's mom was always there to remind us that it was possible.

Just like Rick's mom was always there with a bible verse or some words of wisdom.

And my mom was usually there with a plate of food.

Growing up in the 90's - people may forget, but it was NOT pretty.

This gang stuff going on now is child's play, we were all ducking real-life bullets to and from school and at damn near every party. And that's for years!

We may have even done a few things we weren't so proud of but we had each other.

And it was our families who made a way for us to be close and become the family we created through our friendship. Our mothers aided us in our bond.

I remember being on punishment at times and not allowed to talk to *anyone*, unless it was Rick or Corey.

Throughout those early teen years our circle grew to include Marcus Harrison (did a story on him last October for anyone who remembers) - another brother from another.

Also Machon, Lavon, Elgin, Kathryn, Crystal and a few other branches extending from our bond.

And things happened over the years that changed the course of the future.

It's safe to say that all dynasties have their blemishes.

But when it comes to anyone in a person's life who can be considered family, all you need to do is think of who has been there when it mattered most.

Think of who has always had your best interest at heart.

Think of who has always allowed you to be yourself and speak your mind even when they disagree with your actions.

I think of those people as family, even though they aren't related to me.

I love them and will do all I can to keep us close in some way.

Corey, you honor her with all you've achieved... we are all proud of you.

Peace and blessings to us all.

Dear Ryan,

I am starting a workout program and I'm not sure how much weight I should be using. I don't want to get big and bulky. I just want to tone up and look good for summer. How much weight would be good for me to start with and how long before I see results?

Ms. Toning Up and Looking Good

Dear Looking Good,

Congratulations to you for starting your new program. First I would like to rid you of the myth that you will get big and bulky if you weight train.

You are not a man nor are you built like one. You will get more muscle tone, burn more calories, have a ton of energy, feel better about yourself plus develop you new body. So, bulking up will not happen for you. You would have to increase calories and lift heavy for a few years to get large muscles. Now you don't have an excuse not to train hard.

Use a weight that you are comfortable with and can get a hard 12 repetitions. I take my clients through a one-rep max test to determine how much weight they can comfortably use for the workouts that we start with. I take 50 percent of their max weight and do two sets of 12-15 reps per body part.

Here is how to find you one rep max. If you are using a selectorized stack machine use a light weight to warm the muscle. After 12-15 reps increase the weight by one plate and do only one repetition. Continue this process until you can not lift the weights for one complete rep.

Let's say the last rep you fully completed was 100 pounds. You would take 50 percent of the weight and begin your workouts with that poundage. You may have to change the percents depending on the strengths of each muscle group. This will work the muscle and bring results.

If you do your weight training three times a week and follow a good eating regimen you will see results in a few short weeks. Remember that losing more than two to three lbs a week will result in losing muscle tissue and not body fat. Set realistic goals and stick to it. Good luck achieving your Dream Bodies and keep up the good work.



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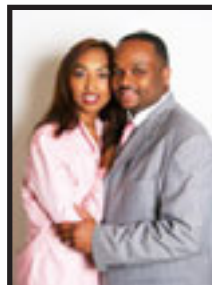


Dorothy E. Day and Yolanda King as she autographed her first book *Open My Eyes, Open My Soul*

YES, it is true, the eldest daughter of Martin Luther King, Jr. passed away on May 15, 2007 in Santa Monica, CA from heart failure as she arrived at the home of her youngest brother, Dexter. She was an actor and writer among her many avocations. Memorial services were held at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, GA. Our sympathies are extended to the entire family.

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Two Friends Retire Following 35 years at The University of Toledo

By Artisha S. Lawson
The Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Family members, friends and co-workers gathered to celebrate the retirement of Cora Allen and Henrietta Minister after 35 years of service at The University of Toledo.

St. Clement's Hall turned into a welcoming reunion for long-time friends on Saturday, August 18, 2007, as the two close friends and co-workers hosted a joint retirement party to commemorate a combined 70 years of employment together.

At the center of the celebration was a display board which showcased Minister's section included family vacations and children's graduations, while Allen's section included a portrait of her at six months of age and family photos.

Guests stopped by frequently and talked about the memories that were captured in a photo. Allen's friend Maxine Adams recalls the days before the employment at The University of Toledo began.

"Cora and I was in a two-year degree program where we worked for four hours



Honorees Cora Allen and Henrietta Minister celebrate with family and friends.

each day and then had classes for four hours each day. Cora, her husband, my husband and I all took vacations together, we are good friends," said Adams.

Allen recalled her first impression of Minister shortly after her employment began on the same floor. "I remember she was this little girl with big hair when she

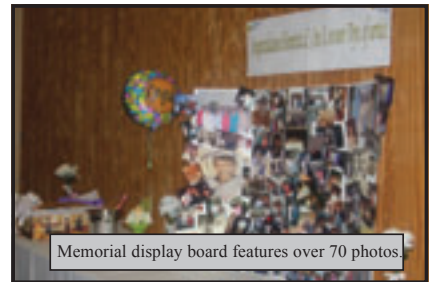
moved down to my department. People think we are mother and daughter, she's like my fifth daughter."

The mutual feeling of friendship was confirmed by Minister. "We've been joined at the hip ever since we started. God willing, we always planned to retire together."

Since announcing their

joint retirement, Minister has worked as secretary to interim dean of university college and office manager to student services for UT. However, she will miss the student workers and plans to enjoy retirement. "I've had over 100 student workers, but now I have the chance to travel to Hawaii and other places."

Allen says she will also miss the student workers that she has encountered through her titles as student service counselor for student development division, assistant to Professor Russo and counseling department of placement testing. "I'll miss try-



ing to help students achieve and keep their focus. Some students have said that I sound like their mother."

Guests dined on a buffet-style meal with hand-carved turkey and fresh fruits and

vegetables. A co-worker formed band, The Dan Seemann Quintet, serenaded the audience with several jazz standard selections. The former university faculty club was formed in 1979, has grown into The Dan Seemann Quintet. A majority of the band members are still university faculty.

"We know Henrietta and Cora, plus they've heard us play before. We are glad for them," stated band leader Dan Seemann.

Guests celebrate into the night with dancing and gifts to honor the achievements of Cora Allen and Henrietta Minister.



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The Right To Choose Lima City Council's Power of Choice

By Vickie Shurelds
Truth Reporter

Why is everybody so mad? Council members are tossing out accusations, attacking the tactics of the mayor's staff, invoking religious beliefs. To make matters worse, neighboring townships and counties are outraged at not having a seat at the discussion table. What's caused the hub-bub?

You. That's right. You and more specifically, your rights. August 6, 13 and 20 were set aside as readings of a proposal to allow the voters in the City of Lima the opportunity to say whether or not they want a destination casino/resort as an entity placed on the ballot for the November 6 election.

It's not a decision on whether you want the entertainment complex/casino but only if you want the opportunity to vote on whether there is a complex built.

That's the issue. There are a lot of other matters being tossed on the table:

- 1) The Eastern Shawnee Tribe wants to return to their homeland and bring prosperity with them in the mode of a gaming facility;
- 2) The desire for the return was first presented as a law suit against Shawnee Township;
- 3) Gambling is illegal in Ohio (except, of course for the Ohio Lottery);
- 4) Ohioans can't really be trusted to have gaming nearby because of their propensity toward excessive gambling, drinking, drug use, abusive behavior and murderous tendencies;
- 5) Allowing gaming in Ohio will create more divorces, increase spousal abuse, and increase incidents of bankruptcies;
- 6) A treaty signed in 1830 states the Tribe can NEVER ask to have the land returned

On the first reading, 15 citizens scheduled themselves on the agenda - 13 of them appeared and exercised their right to address the City Council for five minutes. One resident chose simply to read the treaty itself, the whole of which can be viewed at <http://digital.library.okstate.edu/kapp1er/Vo12/treaties/sha0331.htm#mn3>. Two ar-

ticles from that document contain the bulk of the argument against 'allowing' the Shawnee to return to Ohio:

ARTICLE 1.
The tribe or band of Shawnee Indians residing at Wapaghkonnetta and on Hog Creek in the State of Ohio, in consideration of the stipulations herein made, on the part of the United States, do for ever cede, release and quit claim to the United States the lands granted to them by patent in fee simple by the sixth section of the treaty made at the foot of the Rapids of the Miami river of Lake Erie on the 29th day of September in the year of our Lord 1817

The second article demonstrates the fairness of the government during the removal of the Indians to Oklahoma. To some, this is solid proof that any inconvenience of their removal was softened by the generous gestures of the president. It should be noted the Indians walked from Ohio to Oklahoma and there were only 400 Shawnee left to be held under the articles of the Treaty.

ARTICLE 9.
In consideration of the good conduct and friendly dispositions of the said band of Shawnees towards the American Government, and as an earnest of the kind feelings and good wishes of the people of the United States, for the future welfare and happiness of the said Shawnees, it is agreed that the United States, will give them, as presents, the following articles, to be fairly divided by the chiefs, among their people, according to their several necessities, to wit: two hundred blankets, forty ploughs, forty sets of horse gears, one hundred and fifty hoes, fifty axes, and Russia sheeting sufficient for fifty tents:—the whole to be delivered to them, as soon as practicable, after their arrival at their new residence, except the blankets and Russia sheeting, which shall be given previously to their removal.

After the reading of the Treaty, the presenter simply said, "I rest my case."

What exactly is being proposed by the Eastern Shawnee? They've dropped the lawsuit against Shawnee Township and have taken a different direction for returning - an innovative develop-

ment that includes shopping, entertainment, restaurants and gaming. A male resident pointed out he had heard that at a gaming site run by the Indians, a prime rib dinner could cost as little as \$5.00. "How can our local restaurants compete with that? They'll all be closed within a year - everyone's gonna want a \$5.00 prime rib dinner!"

A newly transplanted resident from Oklahoma stated her town did not benefit from the Indian casino. There were no jobs that came in, the Indians didn't pay taxes and they didn't keep their promise of prosperity. She felt Lima would lose its morals and values if it allows the casino to be built.

Most of the presenters concentrated on the moral issues and the destruction of the family and community.

The Lima/Allen County Visitors and Convention Center expressed an interest in the project for economic development. They listed the possibilities for visitors bringing money into the community, event and convention planners being able to designate Lima as a site for their clients.

One well-traveled Lima resident brought with him a flyer offering a bus trip to a Michigan resort and pointed out that every week, there are bus loads of Lima/Allen County residents taking their Ohio-earned cash to resorts over the state lines.

Eastern Shawnee Tribe representative Terry Casey suggests each individual resident do his own research on Destination Resorts. Make sure the information is current, conducted by a reliable source and contains information from all sides of the issue. He also pointed out the Intergovernmental Agreement will contain bargaining points from everyone at the table. It's up to your government officials to put in the line items that will most benefit your community.

If the Shawnee return, what impact will it have on your life. Is that a decision you are prepared to make? Is their philosophy so different from that of any other American?

"So live your life that the fear of death can never enter your heart. Trouble no one about their religion; respect others in their view, and demand that they respect yours. Love your life, perfect your life, beautify all things in your life. Seek to make your life long and its purpose in the service of your people. Prepare a noble death song for the day when you go over the great divide. Always give a word or a sign of salute when meeting or passing a friend, even a stranger, when in a lonely place. Show respect to all people and grovel to none. When you arise in the morning give thanks for the food and for the joy of living. If you see no reason for giving thanks, the fault lies only in yourself. Abuse no one and no thing, for abuse turns the wise ones to fools and robs the spirit of its vision. When it comes your time to die, be not like those whose hearts are filled with the fear of death, so that when their time comes they weep and pray for a little more time to live their lives over again in a different way. Sing your death song and die like a hero going home."

Chief Tecumseh,
Shawnee Nation
Contact Vickie Shurelds at vickie@sojournerstruth.com

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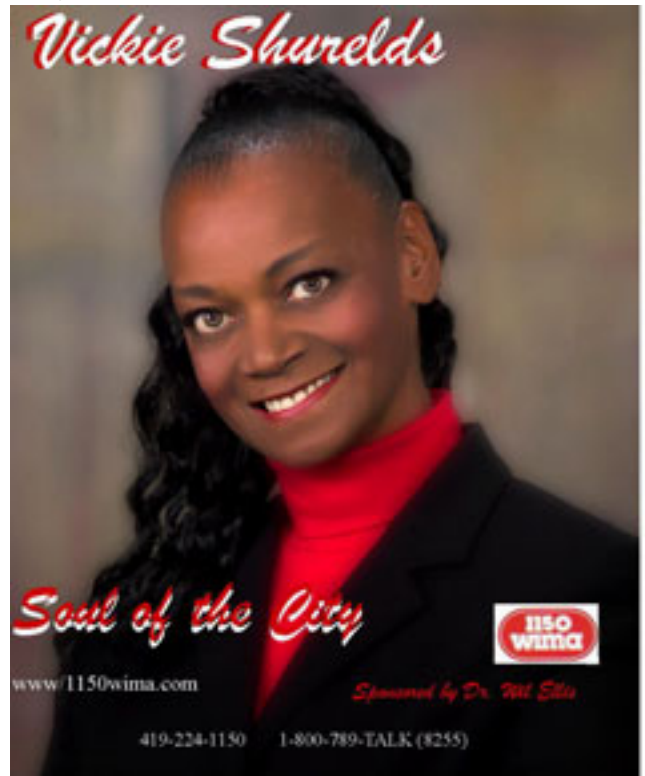
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1100 Defiance Street
Wapakoneta, Ohio (1pm-5pm)

Friday, September 21, 2007
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803 West Market
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Saturday, September 22, 2007
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The Lima Truth

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The Sojourner's Truth

August 29, 2007

Jones-Green Reunion Celebrates 30 +1 Years

By Sharon Guice
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The Jones-Green reunion began 31 years ago after the death of a significant family member, Ethel Lee Rounds Jones, a/k/a Johnnie Bee.

Jones died on an early Friday morning around 1:30 AM on July 3, 1975. But before her death, she bore 14 living children, seven boys and seven girls. Because of her own experiences while growing up she taught that family should always gather and be close to each other. Therefore, she regularly pulled all of her children together and invited other family and friends to come together just to eat good food and do fun activities together.

Because Ethel had so many children, she had to learn to cook, which she did well. She also learned to make a meal out of whatever was on hand. The children's friends would love to eat at the Jones' house as they knew whatever they had they would share and it would be good.

That was one of Ethel's commandments; treat others as you would like to be treated.

To honor their mother's request to stick together and keep the gathering going, the seven girls – Berta, Lula, Ethel (Mimi) named after her mother, Beatrice (Dene), Lynn, Trebie, and Doris – thought it would be great to have a family reunion and extend the invitation to all family members to come to the first gathering to honor the memory of their mother.

Now Ethel Jones was a Green by blood and had many relatives. She only had one sister, Fannie, and one brother, Danny, but there

were many other relatives on her mother's side of the family.

Her mother, Alberta Savannah, had many sisters and brothers, and Fannie her sister bore 10 children also. With all the nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins it would make for a very big reunion.

The Jones children's father, Booker T., on the other hand, at the time of their mother's death only had a few family members left living so it was decided to join both families together into one reunion.

Booker T. had one sister, two nephews and some cousins in Chicago, Illinois and Belzoni, Mississippi, where both families originated. Therefore, the name of the reunion became The Jones-Green Reunion.

The first reunion was held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on July 29, 1977 at the request of Ethel's mother, Alberta, whose own mother, Elizabeth Green, over 80 years old and the oldest living family member at the time, the family wanted to honor on her birthday. Also, because of her age and health problems she could not travel very far.

Each year the family reunion would travel to a different city, such as Columbus, Ohio, Lima, Flint and Detroit, Michigan. The reunion has traveled as far as Houston, Texas in 1989.

This year's reunion was held in Lima and began with meet and greet night, Friday, on Holmes Avenue at Randy and Nikita Luckadoo's home. The city streets were blocked off to allow free movement of the family without traffic moving down the street. This allowed the little

ones free access to run to and fro laughing and yelling with glee from one relative to the other.

Fish could be smelled cooking from blocks around bringing the curiosity of neighbors as to why the celebration going on. Spade games, basketball and board games were there for the kids and music played so that those who wanted to could lean back and get their groove on to hip-hop. The older folks could get a tune or two in also.

Saturday night's banquet-style event was held at the Cheryl Allen Center with over 100 family members in attendance. The family gathered to reflect on this year's theme. "Recapturing the Moments – Pressing Towards the Future. Uniting the Spirit, Soul, and Body of our Family into Complete and Total Harmony!" Family members who wanted to participate could sing, dance, do stand up comedy, or whatever else that would make the family remember some time in space from the previous 30 years.

Coretta Upshaw was the mistress of ceremonies for the event and she portrayed Thelma from the TV sitcom, "Good Times." After the formalities of the welcome by Mimi, scripture by Dale Estelle and prayer by Gale Jones, the program turned to Greg Jones reflecting on deceased loved ones as he and his wife, Vickie, lost their oldest daughter in a fatal car accident returning from a family reunion 20 years ago. Greg read a list of family members gone on and encouraged the others to continue to work to ensure that the family gathering would become stronger each year.

In the program was a letter written as if it came from Johnnie Bee. Lynn Guice read the letter to the family. Marquita Estelle came to the stage next portraying Sugg Avery from the movie "The Color Purple". She entered in a fur coat with her hat and gloves on with fan in hand swaying back and forth singing "Sista." She flirted with the audience as she strolled about to the laughter.

Then the seven sisters teased the family members about their parts in the Saturday event giving just enough information to pique curiosity. Their act was called Sister Act + 1. The seven sisters and niece, Stephanie Dukes, portrayed a gospel group from the 70's. Lula and Stephanie sported Afro wigs and Lynn sported her own natural. Mimi tied a scarf around her head as worn in the 70's and Berta, Dene, Doris, and Trebie wore dresses either of 70's or today's fashion.

Emmanuel Anderson came to the stage singing and old Temptations' favorite, "My Girl."

The Kingdom Kids entered the stage with their voices raised shouting "God is not dead, he's alive." They were dressed in sporty orange shorts or skirts and black t-shirt with the word "cool" written in English and sign language. The kids – TaGwen, Kendraysa, DraLynn, Dravion and John – were then led in song by team member Lynn to sing "Yes, Jesus Loves Me."

The night ended with the family reciting the words from the song "We Are Family" with closing prayer and benediction by Adam Jones, Sr.

On Sunday it was off to church as the family attended services at Phillipian Missionary Baptist Church. The family was dressed in beautiful orange t-shirts with the family logo and 2007 theme to show unity.

After services the gathering continued at MLK Park for more good food and fun. Miss Happiest, the clown, made her yearly appearance to entertain the children and welcome other family guests. At the gatherings a circle is always made with everyone joining hands passing on any information needed and blessing the family and food as another year comes to a close.

Hugs and kisses were shared all around as goodbyes were said and "see you next time's" were

shouted as the Jones-Green reunion ended once again.

Contact Sharon Guice at
Sharon@sojournerstruth.com



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Democrats

(Continued from Page 3)



Ron Rothenbuhler

and B teams of the party and, for some A teamers, it was the first time they had been at Democratic headquarters in years. Every speaker attributed the turnout and the attempt at reconciliation to the work of Rothenbuhler, who took over the post of chairman in the wake of a golf-outing scandal that ultimately resulted in his predecessor's ouster.

"Ron Rothenbuhler is a good man, with a good soul, who has worked with many of us for many years," said State Representative Peter Ujvagi of the new party chief. "I pledge to work with all

Democrats of City Council and the Lucas County Commissioners," said Toledo City Council President Michael Ashford of his commitment to the new spirit of collegiality that all of Monday's speakers touted.

Noticeably absent during the event was Toledo Mayor Carty Finkbeiner who, it was reported, had scheduling conflicts. Finkbeiner, however, had also expressed his displeasure at the previous week's takeover of the City Council presidency and has, as yet, declined to meet with the new president, Ashford. That takeover came about,

at least in part, as a result of Rothenbuhler's and Ohio Democratic Party Chairman Chris Redfern's exhortations to the Council Democrats to get their house in order.

"It's great to be back as one family," said Ohio Senator Teresa Fedor.


Present at the event, along with various party members from the controlling committees were various elected officials including five councilmen (Ashford, Wilma Brown, Mike Craig, Mark Sobczak, Frank Szollosi), the three county commissioners (Pete Gerken, Ben Konop, Tina Skeldon Wozniak),

State Representatives Edna Brown, Matt Szollosi and Ujvagi, Maumee Mayor Tim Waggoner, Oregon Mayor Marge Brown, County Treasurer Wade Kapszkiewicz, Auditor Anita Lopez, County Clerk of Courts Bernie Quilter, City Clerk of Court Vallie Bowman English, County Prosecutor Julia Bates and School Board President Steve Steel.

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