



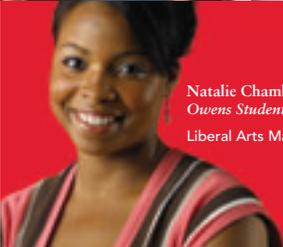
Local and National News

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The Sojourner's Truth



Volume 14, No.01 "And Ye Shall Know The Truth..." April 23, 2008



Natalie Chambers
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This Strikes Me... Attention Toledo: The Potholes Aren't Your Fault!

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture



What the hell is going on? Look, let's start with the basics. You ... yeah, YOU reading this. You are a resident of Toledo or Greater Toledo. You own or operate a motor vehicle. You use this vehicle as a means of transportation in your everyday affairs. The upkeep of this vehicle, registration etc. etc., are your responsibilities. That much can be agreed on, right? So... If you own and operate this vehicle responsibly, you are fulfilling your obligations. You are deserving of your privileges. The vehicle and upkeep of the vehicle are the responsibilities of the motorist But guess what? The streets and the upkeep of the streets are the responsibilities of the municipal government. Plain and frickin simple.

If you drive your car down Douglas and you stay inside the lines and do the speed limit, you're doing your job. If you drive your car down Douglas and you ride over a foot-wide gaping hole in the road and now your car is damaged, that means the members of the municipal government responsible for upkeep of that street are not doing their damn job. How can it be that a driver is responsible for repairs that were not caused by any wrong doing on his part? How can it be that you should have to pay for damage you didn't cause? Oh yeah, the city is strapped for cash. Honestly, every city is strapped for cash. The man in the White House has made sure that this playing field is even, even if it is gruesome. Money is scarce, programs are under funded, infrastructure is crumbling, etc. etc. etc. However, there's a few new shiny T.P.D. cars whipping through the streets these days. New light fixtures on Reynolds Rd. in front of a ma... wait, that's not a mall! Okay, come to think of it there are repaving efforts going on around the city. So why are people still damn near wrecking their entire front ends on these Glass City mini-craters our city leaders have agreed we must suffer? #1. Of all the repaved roads, how many of them are in high-traffic areas used by most of the city vs. how many of them are in quiet residential neighborhoods where not many except a few people may drive? #2. Is it just me, or are some of these so-called "re-paving efforts" some of the worst work any one has ever seen? Patching a hole should leave a smooth surface. But instead you find a huge lump where there used to be a huge gap. In cases where that huge lump was not sufficient to fill in the actual hole in the asphalt, you can actually see the lump breaking apart and now it's back to being a literal hole in the ground. On some streets around the city, you actually have a huge-ass lump followed by deep-ass crater. It's almost insult to injury. It's like saying "yeah, let's raise the car a good six inches in the air then drop down into a hole that six inches deep in the street... that oughta fix 'em." I laugh, but at one point I really did wonder if this was intentional. Think about it... even though you hate Toledo and you think Toledo is small, there are more than a few things this city present in over abundance. Restaurants (starve in the 4-1-9? Ha! Not likely), nursing homes and... (drum roll please)... car repair shops! At one point I was really questioning if the pot holes that make our streets so treacherous were actually just a cash cow for a few repair shop owners influential enough to tell city crews "hey, use that sub-grade material to patch this street... and that street over there, don't even bother patching it."

I'm not sure if "patch" is the correct term. But one thing I know I'm right about is this: No way in hell should a motorist have to pay for what his/her city officials have done to his/her car! Now they want people on certain streets to pool their own pocket money to... yo, I don't even know where to begin. So homeowners who happen to also be motorists are basically being penalized. That's what it amounts to. You do all you're supposed to do, but now you've got to pick up the slack for an entire governing body? Find money, fix the damn streets, make sure they stay fixed. I'll say it again so everyone in Government Center can hear me: find money, fix the damned streets, make sure they stay fixed. Tax payers pay taxes. City officials oversee the upkeep and day to day business of the city. We will handle our side, will you handle yours? Readers - feel free to write in or email about this issue. We gotta let 'em know! Stop trying to force the upkeep your city streets on the citizens.

Community Calendar

April 23-25

Pastoral Anniversary: Bibleway Temple's Pastor Bruce and Lady Karen Mitchell; nightly services at 7 pm; Guest speakers - Evang. Kim Drewy-Brown, Pastor Nolen White, Pastor Pat McKinstry, Bishop William Polley: 419-246-9357

April 24

3rd Annual fundraiser for the League of Women Voters of Lucas County: Honoring local juvenile justice advocates - Celia Williamson, Ph.D., Henry Cummings, EleSondra DeRomano, Jean Cook and Ruth Tzrnadel; Reynolds Garden Caf ; Social hour at 5 pm: 419-902-3268

April 25-26

Prayer Summit 2008: Sponsored by the IMA and Search-Lite Ministries; Walls Memorial Chapel, AME; Friday night program from 6 to 9 pm; Saturday events start at 8 am with a pastor's breakfast; Evening worship at 6:30 pm; Rev. Shirley Sparks is host pastor: 419-787-2230

Turning Over a New Leaf Ministries Revival: Speaker Apostle Leo Sampson of Brooklyn NY; Services nightly at 7:30 pm

April 26

3rd Annual "Sale for Life." Rummage sale to raise money for Ahava Ministries; Lambertville United Methodist Church; 734-847-4900

Citywide Christian Trustee Association: Meeting at 10 am; James B. Simmons Bldg: 419-380-9477

9th Annual Path to Life LifeWalk: Check in 9 to 9:50 am; 3433 Navarre Ave; 2.5 mile trail (long) or .8 mile trail; Help Moms and Babies: 419-693-5433

April 27

25th Pastoral Anniversary for Rev. Robert Wormely and Sis. Edna Wormely: 4 pm Service features Pastor Clifford Mayes of Macedonia MBC

16th Pastoral Anniversary: Bishop Anthony Witcher, Sr. of Greater Faith Covenant Church; 4 pm: 419-535-3020

May 2

Turning Over a New Leaf Ministries: Women's Day Services; Friday night at 7:30 pm; Sunday May 4 at 1:30 pm; "Can You Help Sister Out?" 419-490-6902

Street Renaming: True Street to become "Rev. Robert P. Wormely Way;" 11 am; Corner of Indiana Avenue and True Streets: 419-381-2295

May 3

25th Pastoral Anniversary for Rev. Robert Wormely and Sis. Edna Wormely: Banquet in Wormely Multipurpose Hall; 6 pm

May 4

Annual Women's Day Celebration: New Prospect Baptist; 11:00 am; Morning speaker is Evang. Scharita Barry Lacy of Springfield Ohio; 3:00 p.m., a musical with guest from around the City of Toledo

25th Pastoral Anniversary for Rev. Robert Wormely and Sis. Edna Wormely: 4 pm service features Rev. John Roberts of Indiana Avenue MBC

5th Pastoral Anniversary for Pastor Robert W. Lyons, Sr: Greater St. Mary MBC; Guests are Rev. Cedric Brock and Mt. Nebo MBC family: 419-699-7330 or 419-244-2663

May 7-9

IMA Revival: Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church; Singing by the Ambassadors (conducted by Calvin Hughes); 7 pm nightly; Evang. Edward Vann each night; Rehearsal for Ambassadors each Thursday at Warren AME at 7 pm prior to event: 419-514-8840

The Sojourner's Truth

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Councilman Michael Ashford Leads Seniors Against Garbage Fee

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Toledo City Councilman Michael Ashford plans to introduce legislation exempting senior citizens from the city's garbage fee.

"This garbage tax greatly affects our senior homeowners who are on a fixed income," said Ashford surrounded by senior citizens he represents as District 4 councilman.

"I will propose an ordinance to my council colleagues that if you are a senior - 65 and older - and you are a homeowner, you should be exempt from paying the garbage fee. This garbage tax forces seniors to make a decision between medication, food or gasoline and paying the garbage tax."

The Toledo City Council passed the 2008 general operating budget on March 25, 2008 which included a \$7 per month garbage fee. Ashford noted that that fee will increase to \$10 within "a couple of years." Ashford voted against the garbage fee.

The current garbage fee is \$5.50 a month and raises about \$4.5 million a year. It is due to increase to \$8.5 per month in 2009 for those homeowners who do not recycle and to \$10 on May 1, 2010.

Along with Ashford, Councilmen Phil Copeland, Frank Szollosi and Lindsay Webb voted against the increase.

"In my opinion the garbage tax is illegal and we did not get a chance to participate in a public meeting to discuss the garbage tax," said

Ashford on Monday. "The increase was never discussed in any committee meeting."

Ashford said that since the passage of the fee, he has had the opportunity to discuss the matter with senior homeowners whom he termed "disappointed" at the result of the council vote passing the increase.

"Our senior homeowners should not be the victims of Carty [Finkbeiner]'s or [Council President] Mark Sobczak's poor political decision," said Ashford.



Willie Perryman Promoted to Commissioner of Water Distribution

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Rev. Willie Perryman, former manager of Neighborhood Beautification Action for the City of Toledo, was promoted last week to commissioner of Water Distribution.

Perryman, pastor of Jerusalem Baptist Church, has been with the City of Toledo since 2002 after spending 14 years with the State of Ohio's Department of Transportation. He was brought into city government by former Mayor Jack Ford and was retained by Mayor Carty Finkbeiner after the

election of 2005.

Perryman has already assumed his new duties in Water Distribution and has set as a goal "to enhance the services we provide to the citizens of the City of Toledo."

To that end he has determined that a team effort is critical to success. Perryman plans on establishing a four-person leadership team assigning one of the team to planning, one to the budget and one to the day-to-day operations.

The division of Water Dis-

tribution is part of the Department of Public Utilities and is responsible for the city's water operations to residential and commercial buildings.



MAMA...I Just Saw a Colored Kid Reading a Book!

By Lafe Tolliver Guest Column

What was it about the recent article in a local paper in which Ottawa Hills elementary school (a private school for all practical purposes) donated a bunch of new books to the kids at Pickett School (a public school) that made me, when I was having lunch, almost swallow a fried chicken wing bone?

I mean, come on. Look at this picture. A so-called denied and deprived public school obsequiously accepts books from their patron white school and the principal of the Ottawa Hills schools indicates, tongue in cheek, that the white kids came down to "learn about you" kids (meaning the black kids). Learn about you? Does that mean these black kids are a unusual species of humans who have two noses and three ears and

speaking Coptic? Does that mean that these black kids are on a tribal reservation and once a year, the white visitors will come and gawk and touch these natives?

Or does it mean that this yearly book exchange is akin to a visit to the Zoo in which they observe their darker counterparts as they undertake the educational process but in less friendly environs?

Learn about you? Black folk have been in America before the Mayflower hit Plymouth Rock and have been in Toledo for hundreds of years and yet the principal (supposedly an educated person) speaks about learning about native black folk as if they just came out of the ground like a swamp gas.

Learn about you? What has prevented this mission-

ary/principal and, for that matter, Ottawa Hills from engaging in the affirmative and engaging people of color for the past hundred years and much less in the past 50 years via dialogue and student exchanges and book fairs and overnights (yes white kids going to spend a weekend in homes in the central city... Yikes!!)

Can you imagine the cries of anguish from white parents seeing their Johnny or Susie go off to spend time in homes on Batavia or Islington or Machen Streets.

Learn about you? I betcha two dollars to a donut that Ottawa Hills is not asking Pickett School for any black history books or CD's or tapes. Can you imagine if the parents of Pickett School were

(Continued on Page 10)

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Good advice rule number one.

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Stripping the Effectiveness of the Ohio Tobacco Prevention Foundation

The Governor and legislative leaders have recently passed a bill to take \$230 million of the Ohio Tobacco Prevention Foundation (OTPF) endowment to fund a new state initiative, leaving OTPF with only enough money to fund one year of programming.

Raiding OTPF's endowment will jeopardize health services that are saving Ohioans' lives today, which includes the "Be Smoke Free Tobacco Initiative" of UMADAOP Lucas County that currently provides PREVENTION AND CESSATION programming to citizens of Toledo and Lucas County.

OTPF's programs, including the UMADAOP Be Smoke Free program, are proven-effective and have reduced Ohio's tobacco use by more than 40 percent among youth and nearly 15 percent among adults. There are nearly 375,000 fewer adult smokers now than in 2003 - a 17 percent decrease, which is nearly double the national average.

Those are the statistics, but to understand the true value of OTPF's programming we should look at one of our fellow neighbors here in Toledo, Ohio. The Toledo Stand Team has reached out to hundreds of youth in the past year about the dangers of tobacco.

Without continued, long-term funding from OTPF, UMADAOP Lucas County will be unable to sustain tobacco prevention programming to our area and OTPF won't be able to help future generations of Ohioans. That means that people like Toledo Stand Team youth will likely not have the resources to successfully persuade teen smokers to quit for good and change their lives for the better.

One life lost to tobacco is too many, let alone the roughly 19,000 Ohioans who die every year from preventable smoking-related illnesses. We urge our legislators to change their minds and allow OTPF to keep its endowment to fund programming that is making a difference in the lives of Ohioans.

Sincerely,

Aaron Williams Tobacco Project Coordinator

Girls Booked on Beauty Shops Local Organizations and Beauty Salon Partner to Encourage a Love for Reading

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The message from the Top Ladies of Distinction to their audience of young girls, ages six to 12, is simple: reading books can be stimulating and enriching.

Books, say the volunteers of the local chapter, who put together a Read-in at the Navaeh Salon and Spa on April 21, can introduce readers to new people and places if you can't af-

ford an airline ticket. Books can help with problems and make readers feel better about who they are. Books are a joy to touch, open, read, finish..

In addition to the Top Ladies Toledo Chapter, Navaeh Salon, Ruth Court #6, PHA, Heroines of Jericho partnered to promote the importance of literacy and a love of reading in a creative way.

The girls in attendance were allowed to browse the many books brought to the salon for the occasion and choose the ones they liked. They were encouraged to sit and read with the adults present from Top Ladies, Ruth Court #6 and the salon. After the event they were allowed to take several books home along with copies of "Top Ten Reasons to Read" and "20 Tips for Parents to Encourage Reading."

In addition to the free books donated by the various groups – as well as the

Friends of the Toledo Lucas County Library – the girls were treated to pizza provided by Navaeh Salon and Spa and beverage and cookies provided by Ruth Court #6.

Mary Dawson is president of Top Ladies; Barbara Tucker and Denise Black-Poon are the chairmen of the Community Partnerships Committee which organized the reading events for both girls and boys throughout the year. Other committee members include: Charlesena Smith, Edith Gholston, Gwendolyn Brown, Delores Bates, Muriel Webb Williams, Wanda Terrell, Armanda Taylor, Wanda Brown, Equila Roach, Dana Blalark and Clara Petty, vice president.

Yvonne Hill represented Ruth Court #6.

Navaeh Salon is owned and operated by Martine Goodwin and Alena Dunbar.



Denise Black-Poon reads to girls and parents



Barbara Tucker and Alena Dunbar

Warren A.M.E. Announces 2008 Baby of the Year

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Dorothy Day of Day Funeral Home delivered the message on Lay Witness

event. Neveah Marie Harris, two-years old, captured the second-lace prize of a \$100 savings bond and seven-week old Demetrius Lavelle Loggins finished third and was awarded \$50.

Rounding out the field of contestants with honorable mentions were 14-month old Ahmir Crensenciano Ellis and four-year old Daiton Kevin Guy.

Also present for the occasion was the 2007 Baby of the Year Taylor Marie Butler and her family.

The contest is sponsored by the Warren A.M.E. Lay Organization and Brunetta O'Neal served as chairman of this year's committee.

Sunday at Warren A.M.E. Church and then the babies took center stage as the church announced the winner in its 2008 Baby of the Year contest.

And the winner was ... six-month old MaKayla Woodard-Banks, who was more impressed by the bouquet she received than by the \$200 U.S. Savings Bond awarded for her first-place finish.

The winners were decided based upon the amount of money that was raised in each one's behalf in the church fund-raising



Dorothy Day



First-place winner MaKayla Woodard-Banks with grandmother Massa Banks



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Seven Proves Lucky Number for Toledo Library's Authors! Authors! Series Bringing Marian Wright Edelman to Glass City

By Geneva J. Chapman, Sojourner's Truth Reporter

"She's been a champion for children's rights," said Kurt Franck, managing editor of The Toledo Blade at the city paper's most recent presentation of Toledo-Lucas County Public Library's Authors! Authors! series.

"Tonight I'm honored to bring to you our author and our nation's most respected children's rights advocate, Marian Wright Edelman," said Clyde Scoles, director of the TLCPL, Wednesday, April 16, 2008, as he introduced Marian Wright Edelman to an audience that filled several hundred seats in the Great Hall of the Stranahan.

Scoles said he's been trying to get Edelman to the Toledo area for seven years. "I'm glad to be here and I'm glad you invited me the seventh time," said Edelman, founder of the Children's Defense Fund (CDF). "I love libraries. I love books. There were always books in our house. More books than toys.



Marian Wright Edelman

More books than shoes."

After encouraging parents to get their children to turn off the television and pick up books, the soft-spoken woman who has advocated for children for over 35 years began an intimate conversation with the huge audience.

Talking to the diverse crowd that came out in large

numbers to see her, Edelman seemed to have a one-on-one conversation with each person in the audience, speaking as a best friend, sister, mother, aunt, grandmother, teacher or counselor. Her words, though powerful and sometimes radical, felt warm and reassuring to many who are in desperate need of hope

in the face of our nation's many problems.

"This is a very important year," she said. "It's the 40th anniversary of Dr. [Martin Luther] King's death and the 40th anniversary of the Poor People's Campaign." Edelman, the author of eight books, revealed the premise of her next publication, as if sharing a secret with an intimate acquaintance.

She is writing a letter to Dr. King reporting on the state of America. Edelman reminded her close friends in the audience that in the last years of his life, Dr. King warned against the triple dangers of materialism, mili-

tarism and racism.

"I believe children are the metaphor for the next change," she said. "There is nothing new about poverty. What is new is we now have the technology and resources to get rid of poverty. The question is whether we have the will."

Reciting a litany of statistics that elicited hushed gasps from some, Edelman acquainted her close acquaintances with poverty in America. "Every year we choose to let 13 million children live in poverty," she said.

Recalling the violent aftermath of Dr. King's assassination, Edelman said Dr.

King once said that riots are the voice of the unheard. "We remember Dr. King's dream but forget the nightmare that followed that dream." Edelman asserted that rather than remember who Dr. King was, "the disturber of all unjust peace," now in his memory, "we'd rather build a monument or name a street after him."

Edelman who was counsel for the Poor People's Campaign spoke fondly of Dr. King, recalling the real man behind the myth. "His greatness lay in his ability to see and hear the truth," she said. "He spoke because he saw our nation's ills run far deeper and need to be addressed."

Edelman imagined what Dr. King would think about America in the 21st Century. "He would be delighted that there are thousands of black elected officials in this nation," she said, adding that Dr. King would be proud to see Barack Obama on the

(Continued on Page 6)



Edelman with Perryman family. Willetta, Tracee and Rev. D.L.

Advertisement for WT05-TOLEDO featuring shows like girlfriends, the game, aliens in america, and everybody hates chris.

Marian Wright Edelman

(Continued from Page 5)

verge of winning the Democratic nomination for President.

"He would be appalled that a black male child has a one in three chance of going to prison."

A report from the CDF titled *Cradle to Prison Pipeline*, states that "our nation

they were a very small group of confidants. "A child in our rich nation is born into poverty every 36 seconds," she said. "Our children are born without health insurance every 41 seconds."

The next series of statistics were even more disturbing.

so much to the wealthy and so little to the poor, Edelman made one of the few political statements made during her hour-long *te* *te* *te* wither Toledo family.

"Our biggest problem is not a money problem - it's a values problem," she said. "I've got to say my grandchildren have radicalized me." Edelman bemoaned the world we are leaving to future generations.

"We're going to have to change this world," she said, "especially us grandmothers." Going back to her reference to children as a metaphor for the next change, Edelman said there should be no more tax cuts for the wealthy, but help for working families.

"I think we need to think about children, put our children in the middle of this," she said. "The great events of the world are not elections, not thunderbolts. The great events of the world are babies. Each baby comes with a message."

Edelman cautioned her good friends in the audience that the nonviolence advocated by Dr. King is more crucial than ever now to the lives of our children. "Our choice today is between nonviolence and non-existence," she said. "A lot of people are waiting for Dr. King to come back. He's not coming back. We're it."

Turning to politics again, Edelman cautioned those who believe electing a new

president or governor or congressman will solve all our problems. "We still need citizens who will make them accountable," she said. "I hope that we can live by conviction rather than by conformity."

Edelman was flanked on the stage by large photos of children. Each picture told a story. One was of a child who died from dental abscesses because he could not get medical treatment in time; and another was of a child who died of advanced kidney cancer that was left untreated because of the bureaucracy of social welfare.

"God did not make two classes of children," she said. "Let's change the climate in America so all our children can grow up with what they need."

Edelman ended with a prayer that was actually a pledge of commitment to serve our community and

keep our children safe. Calling on the accomplishments and achievements of our ancestors and forbearers, Edelman, although still standing apart from the crowd on the stage, seemed to encircle everyone listening to her in her warmth to impart her final words of wisdom.

"I hope that each of us will ask God in this critical time in our history to give us what we need to stand up and help children," she prayed.

A film that was to follow her friendly little chat was not shown due to technical difficulties that plagued the evening, causing Edelman's voice to be barely hear without amplification for some time; however, her hushed tones added to the intimate feeling of her talk with a few hundred of her closest friends here in the Toledo area.

A question and answer session gave a few people a chance to get even closer to the approachable author whose humility and down-to-earth manner gave no indication of her many accomplishments.

Not only did Edelman found CDF in 1973, prior to that she was the first black

woman admitted to the Mississippi Bar, having graduated from Spelman College and Yale Law School. She directed the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund office in Jackson, Mississippi, then moved to Washington, D.C., where she was counsel for the Poor Peoples' Campaign and founded the Washington Research Project, a public interest law firm and the parent body of the CDF, serving as director of the Center for Law and Education at Harvard University for two years.

She has also received over 100 honorary degrees and many awards including the Albert Schweitzer Humanitarian Prize, the Heinz Award, a MacArthur Foundation Prize Fellowship and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award. She has also received the Robert F. Kennedy Lifetime Achievement Award for her writings, including *Families in Peril: An Agenda for Social Change, The Measure of Our Success: A Letter to My Children and Yours and Stand for Children.*



Rhonda Sewell,
Cynthia Tetterton
Williams, Allison
Cole, Joy Balls,
Asha Barnes

does not value and protect all children's live equally. So many poor babies in rich America enter the world with multiple strikes already against them: without prenatal care and at low birthweight; born to a teen, poor and poorly educated single mother and absent father. At crucial points in their development, from birth through adulthood, more risks and disadvantages accumulate and converge that make a successful transition to productive adulthood significantly less likely and involvement in the criminal justice system significantly more likely."

Based on these facts, Edelman shared a harsh truth with her new-found friends in Toledo. "If children can't read, we're sentencing them to death in this global economy," she said, adding that race cannot be separated from poverty. "The most dangerous place to grow up in America is still at that intersection of race and poverty."

Edelman shared more statistical data, drawing the hundreds listening to her in as if

"We have a child killed by a firearm every four hours," said the child advocate on the first anniversary of the killing of 32 students and staff at Virginia Tech University. "We have the equivalent of Virginia Tech killed every four days."

Those statistics seemed to shock and dismay her audience and their best friend, mother, aunt, grandmother, counselor meant for them to just that.

"I don't know what it's going to take for us to stop killing our children," said Edelman. "Dr. King would be appalled at the violence against children." Denouncing a system that has given



Cynthia Tetterton Williams, Wright Edelman and
Asha Barnes



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Fifth Annual NANBPWC Vocal Arts Competition A Contest Between Sophomore Sopranos from The University of Toledo

By Geneva J. Chapman,
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Posing for photographers in the stately sanctity of St. Paul's Missionary Baptist Church, Friday, April 11, 2008, prior to their fifth annual Vocal Arts Competition for Emerging Artists, the members of the NANBPWC, Inc. Toledo Chapter formed a bouquet as beautiful as a dozen roses carefully arranged in a stained glass vase.

Merely metaphor fails to describe this group of women, who may be as beautiful as flowers but certainly are no shrinking violets. Members of one of the areas most active women's clubs, the women of the Toledo Chapter of the National Association of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. are some of the area's most influential and powerful citizens. They are professional women, educators, medical professionals, clerical and blue collar workers, businesswomen and women of merit

and achievement.

One of the greatest achievements of this women's club is their annual competition "to provide a competitive arena for talented young African-American vocal artists to showcase and demonstrate their artistic abilities in classical vocal performance."

This year, two sophomore sopranos majoring in music education at The University of Toledo faced each other in a competition that sent the winner on to compete at the district level. Both were accompanied by pianist Cherie Osswald.

Former contestant, Katrese Sutton, winner of the Vocal Arts Competition in 2003, went on to place second in the district competition and has since competed in the National Association of Teachers of Singing Regional Auditions, moving to the final round. She has also won UT's Concerto and Aria

Competition. Sutton sang as a guest artist at this year's competition.

Hoping to follow in Sutton's footsteps, contestants Gabrielle Hill and Brittney Roane were supported by friends and family who came to cheer them on and, along with the others who attended this year's competition, marvel at the talents of these two accomplished young singers.

"Good luck to the contestants and kudos to the Toledo Club on what I know is going to be a very outstanding performance," said Barbara Tucker, governor of the district and chair of the Vocal Arts Competition committee.

Competing first, Hill performed selections by Mozart, Schubert and Handel, as well as a spiritual, the required repertoire of the competition: an aria form a major opera, an oratorio cantata, a German lied or French melodie and a Negro spiritual or a work by an

African-American composer.

Although Hill's voice was sweetly lyrical singing the Mozart, it was stronger and more vibrant singing Schubert. Soaring into St. Paul's arched ceiling, Hill's unamplified voice demonstrated the power and magnificence of a trained voice. Handel's "Where You Walk" provided the 19-year old soprano with the opportunity to show her range. Effortlessly hitting the high notes, Hill sang both sweetly and strongly, scaling notes as her clear, articulate voice bounced around the playful little melody like a balloon caught in a gust of wind as wind and rain created another kind of music outside the church. However, the most difficult musical phrasing in Hill's quartet of performances was reserved for her final number, "Ride on King Jesus."

Showing her command of America's first original art form and the music of her people, Hill gave her most exciting performance of the competition, eliciting a spontaneous standing ovation from audience members that could hardly contain themselves throughout her performance, having been reminded twice by emcee Sharon Green-Gaines, corresponding secretary of the chapter, to hold their applause until Hill's performance was complete.

Roane had a hard act to follow, but proved up to the challenge. Like Hill, she selected Mozart for her first selection. Performing an aria from "The Marriage of Figaro," Roane's young voice sounded as mature as that of the diva for which the Vocal Arts Competition was originally named, Leontyne Price.

The rain paused briefly and the sky started to clear as if heaven itself paused to listen to this remarkable young singer with a voice so perfect and so powerful when she was born, her first utterance had to have been high C.

Roane then sang a lyrical selection composed by Debussy that showcased an incredible range and vocal dexterity as she breezed through the quick, light melody with its barrage of 16th notes that fell from her lips like the rain drops that had resumed falling from the sky outside.

Following her classmate's lead, Roane chose Handel for her third selection, which was from the German composer's masterpiece, "Joshua." Attempting a very difficult series of trills, Roane was powerful, confident and nearly perfect in her first delivery of the formidable refrain. Her voice remained strong, articulate and vibrant throughout the challenging piece with her finally achieving perfect delivery of the competition's most complex piece.

Roane ended her stellar performance gliding across the dissonant chords of a traditional spiritual. Showing a maturity and resonance beyond her years, Roane inspired images of her one day performing at the Met.

Adjudicators (judges in vocal arts competition) Clarence Smith, Jr., Shirley Lyons and Tom Szor, some of the areas finest musicians and purveyors of classical music, retired to tally up the scores while guest performers entertained the contestants and the audience with a series of performances as noteworthy as those of the

two competitors.

An accomplished pianist, Sutton played and sang an original composition, "It's not in Vain." Her beautiful soprano voice, fully developed with a robust energy that comes from years of study, hours of practice and a life time of faith, sang the simple lyrics of a beautiful melody as skillfully crafted as the arias, cantatas, lieds and spirituals performed in the competition.

However, Sutton's original music breathed with the anointing of the Holy Spirit and that spirit was felt by everyone who heard her. "God loves you, it's not in vain," she sang. "Your story is His glory." Simple words with a timeless message.

"What a touching song," said Clara Brank, the chapter's assistant secretary, feeling the spirit Sutton's music evoked. "Praise the Lord!"

Keeping the spirit in the place, Carlinda Garrett performed Gospel mime, incorporating American Sign Language (ASL). Gracefully signing the words of a recorded song, an instructor in this form of expression having formed her own mime ministry in 1998, Garrett wordlessly expressed her love of God. Using her facial expressions and the movements of her hands and body, she captured the audience and moved everyone with her performance to "Amazing Grace."

Heads nodded, hands shot up and spirits soared as the audience silently witnessed the wordless expression of faith. Breaking the silence with a shout at the end of her performance, Garrett left the stage amid roaring applause as people



The Truth Art Gallery
1811 Adams Street,
Toledo, Ohio 43604
Phone: 419.243.0007

Ramon Tiggs, Curator

For event information contact:
Glenda D. Brown
Director of Events
419.346.5275
Email: gcreationevents@yahoo.com



The Truth Art Gallery and Events Center is dedicated to providing professional services for your next event. We invite you to come and view the art gallery and see the many possibilities that we offer for having your special event at this special venue.

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The YWCA H.O.P.E. Center and Battered Women's Shelter need your help.

Zeta Phi Beta's Finer Womanhood Scholarship Luncheon

By Alexis Randles
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

It has been 88 years since the inception of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Incorporated and the members of that national sorority are still opening doors for those who wish to follow in their footsteps. The small group of founders, known as the "five pearls," has been transformed, quite frankly, into a chain of pearls with over 125,000 members today globally.

On Saturday, April 12, 2008, the local Zeta Xi Zeta chapter hosted their annual scholarship luncheon, which was appropriately titled "African-American Women Succeeding in Higher Education," at the Toledo Women's Club. The purpose of the luncheon was to honor the sorority's mission which is to address and correct the problems of society, particularly in the African-American community. The theme is also an ode to Zeta Phi Beta's core values of scholarship, sisterly love, service and finer womanhood.

Each year the sorority



selects a local high school graduating female who exemplifies the values and mission of their organization. The successful applicant must be in good academic standing as well as be an active participant with a charitable or community-based organization. The award recipients can use the scholarship at any institution of higher learning towards tuition or buying books.

"Education sharpens the intellect and prepares you for the future," said Soror Mary Oakes who has been active in the education arena for over 45 years in a variety of administra-

tive positions. She pointed out why it is so necessary for her and her sorors to give back to those who are thirsty for knowledge and not just waiting for opportunity to knock. Oakes gave a brief history on how Zetas through the years have utilized their education to be trailblazers within their communities.

"You cannot find the information window if you can not spell the word information," said Oakes. She strongly believes that without an education your hands will always be tied because there is no end to knowledge. "Let us go forward under God's guid-

ance, with heads held high, with bright hopes and with our hearts filled with love for all men and women as we position ourselves with a positive action through education, service and leadership."

This year's scholarship recipient, Brittany Burgess, who is the daughter

of Donna Burgess and Gregory Walker, was chosen because of her active role within the community and dedication to school. Burgess maintains a 3.5 grade point average (GPA) at Jesup W. Scott High School and is involved in several activities. She is a member of the class of 2008 Scott High National Honor Society, the Drama Club and is the president of Scott High School's African American Club.

Outside of her school, Burgess is also active in a variety of services in the community. She volunteers at the Barack Obama campaign office, Toledo Grace Community Center and the YMCA of Greater Toledo as a tutor.

Next year Burgess plans

to use the scholarship at The Ohio State University. She intends to major in secondary education science. Through her studies she hopes to one day help young African-Americans expand their knowledge in the many fields of science. However, her ultimate goal is to one day accomplish all these things while being a member of the wonderful sisterhood of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc.

"College is a time to learn about yourself and to really make your dreams come true," said Kaye Patten Wallace, Ph.D., who is vice president of student affairs at The University of Toledo and the keynote speaker for the luncheon.

(Continued on Page 9)

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Meet & Greet Brings Out Art Lovers

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Art lovers turned out in droves on Friday evening, April 18, to tour 10 art galleries in the Toledo neighborhoods close to downtown – the Warehouse district, Uptown and the Old West End.

The bus loop, organized by the Arts Commission of Greater Toledo, brought hundreds together to enjoy a spring evening of art, entertainment, mingling and drinks.

The galleries on the tour included: the Davis Building Gallery, SPACE 237, Parkwood Gallery, Paula Brown Gallery, Collingwood Arts Center, 20North Gallery, Secor Gallery, Blue Heron Gallery, CVA and the Truth Art Gallery.

The event, which featured music by the Mike Whitty Trio, lasted from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. An afterparty celebration was held at Wesley's Bar & Grill on Adams Street.



Artful Hands by Jason Holland



The Truth Gallery's Events Manager Glenda Brown and Curator Ramon Tiggs



Artist Cindy Millen with Nancy Swan Drew's You Win Honey

Zeta Phi Beta

(Continued from Page 8)



"College education is essential today in order to have a steady income and a secure future," she said. "It may be hard to believe but those with a bachelor's degree earn 70 percent more than those with just a high school education." Patten Wallace admits that college is not easy, nonetheless she believes that half of the battle is knowing as much as you can before going in so that you can make the best out of a great experience.

For years Patten Wallace struggled with the many titles a woman must wear. "I worked full time all day, attended classes in the evening and on weekends worked on my assignments and took care of my family



of four," said Patten Wallace. She often found that she had to carve out time in her schedule to be mom and wife and not the other way around. "I knew that I wanted my daughters to have memories of me sitting at the kitchen table because that would imprint on their minds the importance of education and sacrifice."

In addition she realized that she was a double minority. First she was an African-American and, secondly, a woman trying to climb the academic ladder. "Women account for nearly 60 percent of the student population across the nation but one challenge for women is that there are not the same number of female role models or females in leadership positions on campuses," she said.

If there were one piece of advice she could give to all our future women leaders it would be "find your own kitchen table," she said. Patten Wallace emphasized that it is the time we allocate for our career and families that truly makes a difference in the lives of those who admire us.



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THIS BUSINESS OF MUSIC

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

Okay, no I'm not about to get into the actual business side of the music game.

However, I did want to take some time and say a few things.

That new Erykah Badu *New Amerykah* joint – got it. Don't even wanna write a review on it yet.

Just let me sit on this one for a while, y'all... you know how important she is to me.

But, about those last album reviews: Danity Kane and Day 26.

I hear people complain about music and the quality of what's out there these days.

Hell, I have those same complaints often times.

But real talk – you have to recognize when good music does come out.

Those two albums are truly excellent albums for what they were intended to do.

You don't even want to know how often I listen to "Co Star," you would probably think I was borderline "Britney" (my new slang for calling someone bonkers or crazy – oh yeah, a few years ago... it would've been borderline "Whitney").

But there is plenty of music out right now that gives me hope.

Outkast is on a joint with Raekwon (www.pjbutta.com – dang, now it's time for the under godz to share our resources with the rest of the city)

And I could go on and on.

But you know what? "Lollipop" by ya boy Weezy F. Baby (please say da baby)... that's probably my favorite joint at radio right now.

I predicted weeks ago that his new joint would be his first number one of his career and, lo and behold, "Lollipop" currently sits at the number two spot on the Billboard Hot 100.

Say what you will, that song is pure genius. On many levels.

Yeah, I know – we are that part of Generation Y halfway between the dominance of the East Coast and the take over from the South.

Caught halfway between the two Carters (younger Gen Y listeners think Lil Wayne is the greatest emcee alive today, slightly older Gen Y listeners give that crown to Jay Z).

One thing that truly does suck, is the fact that the "best rapper out" argument used to be... hell, it used to be a real argument.

Five years ago, you had to factor in Eminem, Luda, Busta, Mos, Talib, Hov, etc. etc.

Now, all radio listeners really have is Lil Wayne because he hits you over the head for years and years, with or without an album... this dude is everywhere!

But for those true heads that are left, we will just give Weezy his props until the

long-awaited day Andre 3000 comes in and turns the emcee game on its ass!

I think that day is coming.

But who knows. Point is, I'm a little more excited about the music that's out there now than I've been in recent years.

True, even as I type this I'm listening to "Caramel Kisses" from Faith's second album but yo – I'm finding more and more good music that's out TODAY.

NOV ABOUT TOLEDO'S ENTERTAINMENT/MUSIC SCENE.

The quality of music is getting better in my opinion.

Yes – there's much I could say about all that goes on around here that

kind of makes the game dirtier than it needs to be.

Ego is a terrible thing. Lack of talent is an even worse crime.

But outside of all that, I actually want to do something to bring all the crews/labels/individuals and participants together.

Maybe I should make a little Power 30 ranking of the top Urban Entertainment entities in the city. Like the boy Cuntry – dude is an entity unto himself.

I barely know what he looks like, but I know his voice and I know his name is floating on four out of every five flyers you can find in this city – regardless of the event.

That's someone who has

buzz, who has clout, who holds some weight.

Hutch Daddy Dolla of Hot97... another big dawg in the local Entertainment scene (too bad ya peeps made you kill the R&B drops, U.G.E. got a lot of pub doing those joints for ya show last summer!).

Hutch actually noticed the division amongst all Toledo's little labels/clicks soon after he arrived here from Florida. So, that lets me know that I have to do my part to bring us all together.

So hit me up – I'm gonna list all the crews... all the people who are doing something out here. If you belong on that list, send me an email.

Obvious entries include Frank Wright and Wright Tyme Studios.

Sir Verse. The aforementioned Cuntry and Hutch Daddy Dolla.

Can't forget about Dre P... someone I met and think is talented and on point.

And also peeps I never met but have heard of like King Roy

(dude, if you reading this... never met ya, but heard good things, bro).

The Infamous D.J. One Tyme. Big Lou, Scott Smoove and Lyte N Rod.

You know all the usual suspects plus some who you may not know or need to remember.

Speaking of which – mad shouts to D.J. Keith Success!

So yeah, if I make a list I will be sure to check it twice and I'll be sure to put Toledo as a whole on full blast (and also warn aspiring artists of a few shady characters around here you need to stay the hell away from – more on that another time).

As for the U.G.E. World – Onasis will be at L.A. Caf in Adrian, Mi May 2.

Aye Dee will be performing at a charity event at Owens Community College in Mid May. Darron Scott and T. Rist are getting polished and ready to get back in the booth.

Leigh Ashley is in the lab working on new material to debut at her first official U.G.E. solo artist showcase.

New artists & new execs – always looking of course.

The Pro Audio Show with Buck Buchanan was a good look on the radio two weeks ago. You can hear us break

ish down during our interview and hear our artists live on the air by logging on and getting the podcast at: theproaudioshow.mypodcast.com

Hear the U.G.E. interview as it was on the air earlier this month, our first of many visits.

Oh yeah – to address the rumor:

No, not yet. I know I told a few of you that our management in NYC had gotten one of our tracks placed on a certain platinum-selling N.Y. rapper's new album.

But nope, not yet – still waiting to hear the verdict.

But yeah, we are ready and we thank you for wishing us continued success.

The Under Godz & U.G.E. will keep grinding to make this a reality, tho.

And all the other crews and artists around the city,

Just reach out to me, I'll make sure to try and let everyone who counts be counted.

www.myspace.com/undergodznt — you know what to do.

Let's get connected Toledo.

MAMA...

(Continued from Page 3)

to donate books about Marcus

Garvey and Frederick Douglass and Malcolm X and W.E. DuBois and Fannie Lou Hamer and Carter Woodson and Sojourner Truth and James Farmer to their library... would they be ac-

cline their offer since it is basically saying "...you poor children in Toledo Public Schools; we rich white folks will aid you with our books so you can learn."

Learn about you? Let me give you a tip. Taking a few white kids to Pickett School

Pickett School or Scott High School should adopt a white Ottawa Hills school and once a year shovel them a boat load of books and sing "Kumbaya" ...

cepted or would there be a polite excuse why such books could not be placed on the shelves of Ottawa Hills elementary school (or their high school for that matter).

Learn about you? What a condescending dribble down approach to education. It is bad enough that the TPS can not fund their own schools with sufficient books (sorry Superintendent John Foley but your excuse about books wearing out fast just won't cut it).

It is embarrassing enough that Foley does not have enough sense to politely de-

once a year and letting them see black kids, probably for the very first time up close and personal, should be considered a field trip and the kids should receive a credit as if they went to a museum or a science fair since that is how foreign each one is to the other.

Learn about you? Put this under your hat. Taking 800 dollars worth of books to an inner city school is not being part of the larger community and you are not learning anything except you have more money than other school districts. The white kids can see

what their white skin privileges were economically able to acquire for them via their parents and grandparents benefiting from the American style of apartheid that was the norm in this country.

Pickett School or Scott High School should adopt a white Ottawa Hills school and once a year shovel them a boat load of books and sing "Kumbaya" at a joint convocation and then examine and interrogate the white kids and their parents to see what makes them feel that they have ownership rights to the world.

You want to make a real impact? The next time you are at the family dinner table in Ottawa Hills, tell your daddy who hires at the local plant that your new found black friend's dad needs a job at your plant. Will you hire him?

Tell your mama to tell the police chief of Ottawa Hills that they need to stop profiling blacks who drive through Ottawa Hills in brand new Cadillacs and Corvettes. Learn about you? Give me a break!

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Toledo Community to Gather to Raise Awareness of Violence Against Women

Special to The Truth

Hundreds of people are expected to gather at Toledo's Woodward High School, Friday, April 25, for the 14th annual Take Back the Night event.

Take Back the Night events are held in communities around the world. In Toledo, Take Back the Night takes place in a different neighborhood each year to illustrate the fact that violence against women happens everywhere.

"Take Back the Night is the largest annual anti-violence event in northwest Ohio and a great example of grassroots action and campus-community engagement," said Diane Docis, coordinator of the UT Sexual Assault Education and Prevention Program. "It is an amazing event that empowers, educates and inspires participants to create change."

The April 25 program will begin at 6 p.m. with a Re-

source Fair, followed by a Community Rally, a Women's March, a Women's Survivor SpeakOut, and a Men's Program. The Clothesline Project with more than 200 shirts created by local survivors of violence against women will be displayed at the event beginning at 3 p.m. Also, the Silent Witness Project, which is a group of silhouettes, will be displayed to honor northwest Ohio women murdered by their partners.

The hour long Community Rally will include remarks from community organizers and survivors, followed by music and drumming. After the rally, there will be a 1.5-mile Women's March through surrounding neighborhood streets, then a return to Woodward for the Survivor SpeakOut, where women survivors of violence will share their stories. During these events, men are invited to attend a program for an interactive session about what they can do to help end

violence.

There will be a free shuttle from UT's Main Campus. The bus will depart from the Transportation Center at 6 p.m. and will leave from Woodward at 10:30 p.m.

The Survivor SpeakOut will be closed to the media.

UT co-sponsors of the event are the Sexual Assault Education and Prevention Program, Women's and Gender Studies Department, Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women, College of Law Domestic Violence Clinic, MINIYA, Student Social Work Organization, Alpha Chi Omega, UTURN and POW. Community groups and social service agencies co-sponsoring the event include AAUW, Bethany House, People Called Women, YWCA, Adelante, Cocoon and the National Organization for Women Toledo Chapter.

For more information, contact Docis at 419.530.3431 or visit takebackthenighttoledo@yahoo.com.

Fifth Pastoral Anniversary



Greater St. Mary Missionary Baptist Church, 414 Belmont Avenue, is celebrating the pastor's 5th Anniversary Celebration Services, honoring Pastor Robert W. Lyons, Sr.

The theme: "The harvest is plenteous, but the laborers are few." Scripture text - I Timothy 5:17 & 8. Pre-anniversary services began on Sunday, April 7, with Rev. Torrance Oliphant - messenger.

The "Sons of Lyons" will officiate the remaining service at 5 p.m. on Sunday, April 27, Pastor Robert W. Lyons, Jr. and Word of Faith Congregation from Dayton, OH will be our guests.

The annual anniversary day is Sunday, May 4, as we climax the pastor's anniversary celebration with Pastor Cedric Brock and the Mt. Nebo MBC family.

To God be the Glory!

More information contact 419-699-7330 or 419-244-2663

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

Laura, Willie's Wife

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

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

Joya, Willie's Daughter

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Owens Offers First-Ever Summer Weekend College Education

Area residents will soon have the opportunity to continue their college education during the late spring and summer months on the weekends at Owens Community College as the academic institution is expanding its offerings to include a new Summer Weekend College on the Toledo-area and Findlay-area campuses. Summer Weekend College classes will occur May 30 - July 27.

"Owens Community College is excited to complement our current academic offerings with a Summer Weekend College program and provide students with alternative ways to pursue a college education," said Bruce Busby, Ph.D., Owens vice president of Academic Services. "Expanding our weekend education during the summer months offers greater accessibility to academic options for our students and their career aspirations."

The eight-week academic course options available to students on the Toledo-area and Findlay-area campuses as part of the Summer Weekend College program will include introductory to financial accounting, anatomy and physiology, business professionalism, contemporary business, principles of management, introduction to CAD, production drawing, composition, foundations for college, and introduction to the humanities.

Summer weekend course offering also include fundamentals of computing, computer concepts and applications, spreadsheet applications-Excel, marketing, developmental algebra, college algebra, beginning keyboarding, general psychology, life span psychology, sociology, multicultural diversity in the United States, and public speaking, among others.

In addition to new summer weekend academic course offerings, Owens, last year, made available its first-ever weekend associate degree programs, which allow students to begin and end their college education entirely on the weekend. Academic programs offered through the Weekend College curriculum include the associate of arts general concentration, associate of science general concentration, associate of technical studies and the associate of applied business in business management.

According to Tamara Williams, Owens dean of Academic Services, the new Weekend College curriculum is just the first of many more academic initiatives under consideration. "There are several weekend academic program initiatives in the development stages with the idea of providing greater accessibility to higher education," she stated.

Owens currently offers more than 160 classes as part of its Weekend College academic curriculum in the areas of chemistry, marketing, English, welding, psychology and physics, among other academic curriculum selections.

For additional information about Weekend College classes, call (567) 661-7777 or 1-800-GO-OWENS, Ext. 7777, or (567) 429-3509 or 1-800-GO-OWENS, Ext. 3509.

Mayor Lauds Economic Development Along Alexis Corridor

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Mayor Carty Finkbeiner paused outside of the newly constructed Fairfield Inn on Monday to praise the recent spate of economic development along the Alexis corridor - the first stop for drivers entering the State of Ohio in their drive south on I 75.

"This is a much improved area," said Finkbeiner at a Monday morning news conference. "Hotels and motels are important assets to the Alexis Road corridor."

The mayor also listed, along with the Fairfield Inn, the new Menard's, situated directly across the street from the hotel which will open in early May, and the Meijer's Superstore, the Cinco de Mayo V and renovations to

the Speedway as examples of recent developments that have brought new life to the corridor.

The 84-room Fairfield is a Marriott franchise property owned by Toledo resident Steve Roumaya. The property opened in December and is available for meetings up to 100.



Warren Ballentine Shines a Bright Light on Lima's Difficulties

By Vickie Shurelds
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

"Until we all realize we came over here on different ships, but we're all in the same boat, there will be unrest like this in every city. This is not just happening in Lima, Ohio – it's happening all over the country – and we have got to get ourselves under control."

Syndicated talk show host Warren Ballentine was in Lima this past Monday, partly in response to the events surrounding the death of Tarika Wilson.

Although many local reporters claim the city has been in a state of unrest and that tensions are strained between the African American residents and the police department since January 4, the local NAACP and other organized factions continue to state loudly and clearly that these conditions existed long before that day.

Wilson's death and the shooting of her one year old child was just the "straw that broke the camel's back." The incident sparked response from a community that had long ago given up the hope of ever having an equal voice in the structure, infrastructure, or development of the place they call home.

"It's like this: if you were a child in a family of eight and every night you always ate at a different table and were served different food – everybody else was eating filet mignon and wonderful desserts, and they brought you a toasted cheese sandwich and a handful of chips, after a while; you'd start to

build up some anger and resentment. You're not being mistreated – but you are being treated differently than everybody else – so you'd start to wonder why. That's what it's like living here in Lima," says David Turner who works for a cooperative that includes three local community centers.

Just the week before, Turner had participated in a workshop for mentors and mentees garnering a deeper understanding of "self" led by Carey Graham, who had been brought in specifically for his unique brand of guidance. "That brother was deep. He brought out issues we had buried deep within – it was an experience," says Turner. "And that's one of the advantages to bringing in someone so far outside of Lima or even Ohio. They can see what's happening and bring it right back in your face. Put the responsibility right where it belongs."

"The real advantage for bringing in someone like myself," said Ballentine who addressed the media following a live broadcast of his talk show from Lima, "That is the opportunity to shine a very bright light on problems like this, giving every community in the country a chance to learn about and from the process that is currently in place. Sometimes the people living the experience are just too close to it to see the implications and even the effects, but if you can look at the situation from another perspective, what

you'll find is that this same scenario is being played out all over the country."

"The things that are happening here in Lima today have been talked about for years! For years!" said 5th Ward Councilman Tommy Pitts who has been ridiculed publicly by Lima Mayor David Berger for misusing the press to push his own agenda. "Some people say I've been talking about the system because my two boys were sent to prison on drug charges; but they are just two of many of our sons that have been given extreme amounts of time for drug dealing because the police allow them to rack up a stack of instances instead of taking them off the streets after the first or second buy like they do the white boys. That's just the way it is. It's not just me saying that, their own statistics prove it. And now this officer shoots two people, he gets misdemeanor charges and Anthony Terry faces years in prison – and they want us to be quiet and pretend that this is OK!"

As calls began to come in from around the country, the shock of the situation and the telling of similar situations across the nation brought home the same message the NAACP has been touting for nearly 100 years. Equality is the only answer.

Warren Ballentine has made a promise to a community that sees a list that rivals the depth of the Red Sea in those made before. He has said he'll be back. With him



Pastor Arnold Manley 5th Ward Councilman Tommy Pitts
FM Jason Upthegrove Warren Ballentine

will come an onslaught of others who thirst for justice. The light will continue to focus on the Lima community until the inevitable change begins. The call for Freedom Fighters has been sent out.

"Some of us will make great sacrifices for our community. There will be those that will lose jobs, lose friends, and so much more –

but we are fighting for more than ourselves – the Bible says we labor for the benefit of our children's children," says Lima NAACP President FM Jason Upthegrove who encourages the Freedom Fighter that lies deep within every resident of Lima and Allen County to step up.

"There is room for everyone who will step up, but you have to decide to step up,

step off or step out of the way – because the change is coming. As we begin to demand for change in economic development, social change and different procedures for placement of judges, city/county and township officials – we must be ready to be the change as well – to prepare ourselves and our children to take the changes to the next level."

Harambee 2008! There is Power in Voting

By Vickie Shurelds
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Each year the call goes out: **HARAMBEE!** HARAMBEE! Come together, pull together, work together; responsibility for yourself and one another! Harambee! Given the current emotional and economic state of the Lima community, you would think the civic center's exhibit hall wouldn't be big enough to accommodate all that would come; instead, there was plenty of room for growth.

The Minority Caucus of

the Democratic Party has taken some pretty solid hits in the past two years. They are partners of the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus and have been honored on several occasions for their "Get Out The Vote" efforts. There are those factions that exclaim "Why are we separated? We are all Democrats, there shouldn't be a Minority Caucus!" Those voices are withdrawing their support of this committee that has been producing political results for

30 years.

"We are separate because there are specific issues and certain communication styles that are found in the minority community that are not found in the majority community. We are feeling the results of our failed communication efforts right now. We have to address these problems now – some of them can only be solved legislatively. There is power in voting! We want everyone to use

(Continued on Page 13)

Harambee

(Continued from Page 12)

their power to make the changes everyone is talking about," said Charles Thomas, chairman for this year's Harambee who still holds a belief that Lima and Allen County can survive the current turmoil.

"We just have to get together and get the information out about the candidates and the issues - give people all the information and then they can make a decision when they go to the polls," he said. "They can choose the person that will make the changes they want to see. Vote in who you want, Vote out who you don't want. It is the best way to let people know what you think. Vote. The power of the vote!"

The Harambee had as its keynote speaker a woman in her first year as a state representative: Tracy Maxwell Heard. She serves on the state committees for the environment and alternative energy, budget and education - all hot buttons for Ohio. Her strong message seemed to place squarely on the shoulders of every resident to become a part of the solution for the problems the community is fac-

ing not only economically but developmentally across the state. Developing plans that work is a key issue and our new governor, she said, is prepared to work side by side with those with the energy and fortitude to build a strong Ohio.

"I'm particularly excited about the strides we're making in education. We are just beginning new meetings about that using some strong data that support teachers and a more rounded curriculum in our classrooms that will prepare Ohio's students to take their place in the global picture," said Heard.

The data being drawn out of schools across the board are demonstrating that our past record, though devastating, is not impossible to correct but working together is the only way to create the change that is needed for a positive change in the system.

The Harambee itself is a chance for businesses and organizations to talk about their plans, needs and victories. Without an opportunity to connect with other sectors of the community on a regular basis, it's

events like these that offer the best way of getting the word out - disseminating information to the masses.

Members of the community came together to give information, friendship, hope. Health care issues were discussed, the failed school levy with representatives seeking one on one answers to the questions they will soon be paying thousands to gather through surveys. People in the community coming together to share their thoughts, ideas, plans, and dreams. Harambee!

"The upcoming election has people excited," Heard continued. "There are possibilities and the candidates are talking about issues that really affect people in Lima, in Ohio and in the world! Healthcare, education, economic development, these are the things we want to hear about. How will the candidate attack problems that have become a plague, taking away choices from us in our own communities - in our own homes."

The discussion was taking place at a table that seemed a cross section of the Lima Community -

grandmothers with their daughters and grand children, neighbors, and a community leader - engaging in small group communications about things that matter.

One member of the catering group serving the dinner was both encouraged and saddened by the gathering. "Look around. Many of the faces are the same as the ones last year and the year before. I guess that can be good in a way to give consistency, but what happens in the future of the group? As older members begin to fade into retirement, who can carry on the traditions and the caring of the community? It's good that they keep coming, but I just don't know how long they can keep it up."

"As long as we need to!" Thomas answered. "It's all about caring for our community, we have to get the word out and we can never let anyone in Allen County think for a minute that they don't have the power to make things happen. Our right to vote and make a difference is what makes the American Dream possible. It's what makes it possible, because we have the power to make it right."

The Minority Caucus of the Democratic Party/Ohio Legislative Black Caucus meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. at the UAW Hall, 1440 Bellefontaine Avenue. (There are no meetings in

July and August) they are always open to new members and are hoping to pass on their knowledge of the democratic process to others that will keep the minority vote a focus for the future.

Police and Firefighters to Face off at Rogers High School

NFL's Nate Washington to be special guest player at charity basketball game

Special to The Truth

On the city's streets, police officers and firefighters often work together to protect and serve.

On Friday, April 25, they will join forces once again. But this time they are fighting Toledo's leading killers - heart disease and stroke. Tip-off for the first annual "UT Hoops for Health" benefit basketball game, will take place at Robert S. Rogers High School, 5539 Nebraska Ave. at 7 p.m.

Nate Washington, wide receiver for the Pittsburgh Steelers

will be the special guest player. Also cheerleaders from Scott and Start High Schools will provide team spirit for the "Fearless Firefighters" and the "911 Ballers." Members from Scott High School's dance team will provide the half time entertainment.

There will also be concessions, prizes and opportunities for groups to register for the Start! Heart Walk, to be held Saturday, May 17 at The University of Toledo Glass Bowl Stadium at 10 a.m.

"This charity basketball game provides a fun and friendly way for both departments to come together and serve the public in a different way by fighting heart disease," said Vicki Riddick, director of Community Wellness and Health Promotion at the University of Toledo.

She added, "UT is pleased to sponsor this event because just like firefighters and the police officers, we value the health and well-being of everyone in the community."

A \$5 donation will be collected at the door. Children ages 5 and under are free. Proceeds of this event will benefit the American Heart Association.

For more information, contact Bianna Russell, event coordinator at (419) 383-2348 or Sonya Thomas, communications director for the American Heart Association.



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Spend Mother's Day in Style

Special to the Truth

Are you tired of buying your mom flowers for Mother's Day? Or perfume or clothes? Why not try something unique this year and take your mom to the Harbor House's Third Annual Spring Style Show and Luncheon!

The show and luncheon will be held on Saturday, May 10 from noon to 3 p.m. at the

Hilton Toledo, 3100 Glendale Ave. A delicious tapas buffet will start the show off while models parade throughout the ballroom. Melissa Voetsch of WTOL-TV will serve as emcee and announce the winners of the silent auction.

Great, unique silent auction items include handyman services, hand crafted jewelry

and pottery, scrapbooks, and a gourmet dinner for six in an Old West End mansion. Several door prizes will also be available and goody bags will be handed out to the first 100 attendees.

Tickets are \$30 each and RSVP deadline is May 1. Call Harbor House at 419-244-6300 to reserve your tickets.



Happy Birthday!!

Gertrude Kinnie Jones turned 90 on April 22.

Her son, Larry Jones, will be 57 on April 25.

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CLASSIFIEDS

April 23, 2008

Page 15

The University of Toledo

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HISTORICAL INTERPRETER

Metroparks of the Toledo Area has an opening through November, 2008 for a part time Historical Interpreter, sponsored by the Toledo Community Foundation, at \$12,239 per hour to research and create public programming about the Battle of Fallen Timbers. Looking for candidates working toward a bachelor's degree in history or related field with some research, interpretation, or programming experience. Apply at the Administrative Office, Wildwood Preserve Metropark, 5100 W. Central Avenue, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. by May 2, 2008 or visit www.metroparkstoledo.com to review the position description and download an application. Resume and application required. EOE/AA

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