



Local and National News

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# The Sojourner's Truth

Volume 15, No.18 "And Ye Shall Know The Truth..." February 18, 2009



*The Arts Issue*  
A Black History Month Special

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## This Strikes Us ...

### *A Sojourner's Truth Editorial*

President Barack Obama managed to get his \$800 billion stimulus package through Congress last week ... finally. The bill received no votes from House Republicans and only three from Senate Republicans.

In the wake of the president's first big victory – time will tell if it is indeed a victory – Republicans are decrying the so-called bi-partisan efforts of the administration, but the fact is, the administration was prepared to compromise much more than the Republicans were.

No such bill can make everyone happy but that is exactly what the Republicans seemed to want, a bill to make everyone happy. When confronted with the charge that they don't seem to want to do anything, the Republicans deny the accusation. The words of Obama's predecessor reverberate with many it would appear when George Bush said that he did not want to go down in history as this generation's version of Herbert Hoover.

So, yes, the Republicans admit, for the most part, that something needs to be done but what they insist on is more in the way of tax cuts and less spending.

So Obama reached out and, in an effort to garner more Republican support, a huge percentage of the final package is in the form of tax cuts. He risked losing the support of his more liberal members to do this, but felt it was necessary to do so in the interest of bi-partisanship. For all the good that did him.

We remain unconvinced that tax cuts will provide the same type of stimulus that spending will. The purpose of tax cuts should be to get that money cycled back into the economy but, in reality, as we have written previously, the risk in tax cuts is that they will go into savings or to pay down accumulated debt, thereby doing little to stimulate the economy.

We applaud Obama's efforts to reach across the aisle but it is imperative that he receive a response from the other side. In the true spirit of bi-partisanship, neither side can expect to be fully satisfied with a piece of legislation – compromises have to be part of the picture.

We also hope that Obama resists the urge in the future to simply say, "I won, I have Congress on my side, so I don't really need to reach out if this is going to be a one-way street." The last two administrations, in particular, have fallen prey to the urge to carry on without two-party support and it has cost the country dearly.

\* \* \* \*

Although Republican lawmakers were underwhelming in their support of the Obama stimulus package, GOP governors, in a number of instances, are eager to reach out for those parts of the package that can help their states.

There are some state executives, such as Gov. Mark Sanford of South Carolina, who have expressed opposition to the plan. Sanford has maintained his conservative credentials throughout the process. Ironically, however, South Carolina currently receives more federal tax money than it sends out.

We think the right thing for Sanford to do is to refuse to accept any federal funds in the Obama stimulus plan that might be earmarked for his state. We think he and other governors who do not support the measure ought to stand on principle and tell the feds not to help their states out.

\* \* \* \*

Speaking of bailouts, we certainly hope the funds that are being disbursed are more carefully monitored than were those disbursed to the banks last fall in the TARP bailout.

Much controversy centers around just how involved the government will be with the auto industry in its efforts to re-structure. We hope they are involved as much as possible.

It's popular to deride government intervention in private industry by pointing to waste, mismanagement and lack of accountability in the public sector. But how could certain parts of the private sector – Detroit, Wall Street – have performed any more incompetently than they have over the last few years. Could the government be any worse at management?

The auto industry has to simplify in order to survive. Brands have to be cut, alternative energy products have to be developed, jobs must be pared and the number of dealerships should be trimmed. There are virtually no examples of efficiency in the big world of U.S. big auto.

General Motors and Toyota have about the same market share in terms of U.S. sales but GM has almost three times as many dealerships as does Toyota. Something has to give and it appears that auto manufacturers are unable to deal with such an issue on their own. They need the hand of big brother to assist them.

## The Sojourner's Truth

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## Community Calendar

### January 20-February 10

"Breathe Free: The Plan to Stop Smoking:" Collingwood Center; Smoking cessation program with sessions on January 20, 22, 26, 29, 30, February 3, 10; 5:30 pm each day; Facilitated by healthcare practitioners and a support team: 419-474-6639 or 419-345-6452

### February 18

Black History Month at UT: "Whites in Black History: A Choice of Legacy;" Discussion led by Marshall Rose of BGSU's Office of Equity and Diversity; Noon; Health Education Bldg Rm 103; Health Science Campus; \$19-383-3438

Lourdes College Black History Month Event: The Color of Justice; 1 am and 12:15 pm; Franciscan Theatre: 419-824-3999

Lourdes College Black History Month Celebration: John Jones of Urban League, Clarence Smith Community Chorus, Lourdes College Chorus, Scott HS Gospel Choir; 5:30 to 7:30 pm; Franciscan Theatre: 419-824-3825

### February 19

"Artist Willis "Bing" Davis: Two interactive sessions; 9:30 to 10:30 am at The Learning Center at The Source; 1 to 3 pm at Owens CC Center for Fine and Performing Arts (Oregon Rd - I-75 exit 198): 419-283-7300

### February 20

"Mission Possible" Youth Service: Crusaders for Christ Church; 7:45 pm; Singing, dance, spoken word and more

Abundant Joy Ministries: "Young but Equipped" Service; World Wide Living Word COGIC; 6:30 pm; Speaker Bishop Randall Parker III; Guest soloist Marcia Bowen-Jones: 419-787-3732 or 419-699-0586

### February 22

St. Martin de Porres Black History Month Event: An Evening with the Toledo Symphony; 5 pm

Historic Third Baptist: Inkster High School Performing Arts Academy: 11 am service; 4 pm concert: 419-248-4623

Old Ship of Zion: Ebenezer Baptist Church; Mass Choir; 5 pm

Men's Day Celebration: St. Paul AME Zion; "Men of God being steadfast in perilous times;" 4 pm: 419-243-1065

Northwest District of the Ohio Assoc. of Colored Women's Club, Inc and Youth Affiliates: Fifth Annual Black History Month Extravaganza and Soul Food Buffet; 2 to 5 pm; Local 14 UAW Hall; 419-535-5960 or 419-537-9042

Mt. Nebo MBC Black History Month Banquet: 1:30 pm: 419-246-8561

IMA Black history Month Service: Warren AME; 5 pm; Speaker Pastor Chester Trail

### February 23

UT Annual MLK Scholarship Benefit Dinner: "A Progression of Change;" Speaker Ohio State Senator Ray Miller; 7 pm; Student Union Auditorium: 419-530-8520 or 419-530-2508

### February 24

All Saints Episcopal Church Men's Guild: Pancake supper; 10 am to 7 pm

### February 25

All Saints Episcopal Church: Ash Wednesday Services; 5 am, noon, 5 pm

### February 26

Black History Month at UT: Dr. Lancelot C.A. Thompson Achievement Program; 7 pm; Student Union Auditorium; Recognizing African-American students with 3.0 GPA or better

National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice (NABCI): Meet and greet; Tabernacle of Faith Worship Center; 6 to 8 pm: 419-514-9367 or rjohns019@yahoo.com

Nirvana Now! Evening of Rest and Rejuvenation for women incest and child sexual abuse survivors; Elizabeth House; 6 to 9 pm: 419-729-0245

### February 27

Lourdes College BHM Event: Trip to National Underground Railroad Freedom Center: 419-824-3837

## The Sojourner's Truth

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### A Certified MBE, 2009

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# Two Things That Make Me Bark ...

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq  
Guest Column

(1) You know, it is tough enough in this economic climate to make a living in a solo law practice but when you find out that public taxpayer monies in the form of court appointments via the Lucas County Court judges is so skewed against minority lawyers, you wanna groan and say ... "what now!"

The county spends nigh millions of public taxpayer monies to appoint lawyers to represent indigent clients in the various court rooms of the common pleas court system and to see the list of what judge appoints whom (and how often) versus the number of appointments that black lawyers get, it is a down right travesty.

This biased system of judges appointing few or no minority lawyers to these public taxpayer based client funding is tantamount to using these public funds like one's own personal wallet or purse. You wonder.

Is it political, is it gender based, is it race based, is it based on who the judge likes, is it a matter of convenience or is it pure laziness that the county clerk has not installed a computer system by which this appointment mess can be cleared up and can be more transparent than it is.

A black lawyer should not

have to go to the courthouse and see appointment after appointment go to the same white lawyers who are representing for the most part a black indigent population. Something is wrong with that picture. Why can't black defense attorneys dine at the public feedbag, certainly more often than they do now or have in the past 20-plus years?

Imagine, if you will, a cadre of black attorneys in Wood County getting 98 percent of all appointments of the white indigent offender population. A white lawyer in Wood County would be well within his or her rights to say: "Hey what gives here. Why can't I get an appointment now and then?"

Is this being done intentionally by the sitting judges on the bench in Lucas County? Or is it a case of, "if the wheel don't squeak, don't oil it?"

Well, the wheels are a' squeaking and squawking and something needs to be done so that there is a computer-based system of appointments so that some of the county public funds find their way home to the bank accounts of minority criminal defense attorneys.

Morale to the story? It is all about the money and follow the money trail. So far, that trail is practically a dead

end to the pockets of black attorneys.

(2) May I humbly suggest for the umpteenth time and urge that if the local minority contractors and their allies want to make a stand that will be effective in soothing the outrage of those contractors at being the abused step child of white general contractors and the project owners then the following should happen:

(a) minority contractors, their agents, minority local unions and churches need to plot (yes, I said plot) a means by which they will raise the needed capital to do a diversity study of the contracts that have been awarded by public government in the past 20 years and use those studies to bring a lawsuit against the State of Ohio or County of Lucas or the City of Toledo for perpetuating race-based exclusion of minority workers and contractors from receiving construction contracts and contracts for goods and services.

(b) With the raised capital, this group must seek out a local or national party who specializes in doing such grunt work so as to gather and present a cogent 'no fat' power point presentation that graphically shows the economic impact of this ongoing exclusion.

(c) With such a study, it must also be shown that the local unions have been in cahoots by their systemic denial of entry into apprenticeship programs by minority youths. This exclusion has reached the crisis point wherein many youths do not even try to enter into such programs because the past history of the unions in Toledo indicate that if you try,

you will not gain entry and, if you do get in, you will be so harassed that you will leave. If you do get your journeyman card, somehow the union hall simply can not find you any employment.

(d) When the above data is gathered and is rock hard solid, you then need to present your findings to the offenders and give them 30-90 days to clean up their act

because you have on retainer a law firm that will do such a class action or an equivalent lawsuit that will bust this good ol' boy game wide open.

Morale of the story? If you do not want to fight to win and fight with money and manpower, simply quit crying about this injustice and go to another city and write Toledo off.

## Crying and Dying Mothers and Sisters

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, D.Min.  
Guest Column

What's going on?

That was the question generated by the 1971 soul recording by Marvin Gaye but is also a relevant query to be posed to the African-American church as there are still far too many black women, daughters and sisters crying and dying.



It is no secret that the black church in America, which was born as a response to social issues and was/is critical to the survival of an entire people by helping them deal with the everyday, dehumanizing experiences of slavery and oppression, finds itself rapidly becoming irrelevant, obsolete and losing influence despite having a surface vibrancy and being a constant hub of activity.

This impotence is alarming considering that the contemporary status of many persons who look to the church's power can be described as a struggle to survive.

While the church continues to be of benefit in so many ways, in this instance rather than quickly placing the blame for criticism, disinterest or lack of participation (and lack of

effectiveness in changing lives when there is participation) on others, it may be more beneficial for the church to become introspective.

Society in general, and young people in particular, are bombarded with images from a evolving consumerist culture which glorifies violence, disdains serious commitments, disrespects and insults its women, trivializes black culture and has an uncontrollable hunger for pleasure.

Many churches continue to hype prosperity and an anti-intellectual emotionalism, while their congregations, hypnotized by pulpit personalities and celebrity, feed their insatiable appetites for internal drama and soap opera dynamics.

However, the reality is that the issues that directly impact the day-to-day lives of people living in contemporary society remain unaddressed due to the church's failure to fully appreciate the link between social problems and the theological problems as it attempts to minister without explicit mention of racialized oppression, poverty, unemployment, health care, educational policies or violence. The church increasingly utilizes a spiritual hermeneutic that alludes to the biblical text while ignoring the "social text" of life.

The recent alleged attack upon entertainer Rihanna by her boyfriend, R&B star Chris Brown, brings a contemporary issue to light which a mostly patriarchal black church has long kept in the dark. According to the Institute on Domestic Violence in The African American Community, intimate partner and domestic violence homicide is the leading cause of death for African-American women ages 15 to 45.

Black youth are over-represented as victims of teen dating violence as almost 14 percent of African-American youth (vs. seven percent of white youth) reported that a boyfriend or girlfriend hit, slapped or physically hurt them. The church has been unable to speak this issue with a theologically authoritative word.

Black women who are battered have more physical ailments, mental health issues, are less likely to practice safe sex and are at greater risk for attempting suicide, for being depressed and for suffering from post traumatic stress disorder, yet there is little mention of this from the pulpit. Often rationalizations are made or justification is acceptable in the black community that violence is an appropriate choice for mediating dispute if it is believed that the perpetrator was provoked. This excuse is sadly the view of too many men, especially in a society, community, and even religious institution that often views women and girls as little more than the property of its men.

Black women in abusive relationships need the support of friends, family, a loving but socially-minded church, and competent and ethical clergy. Battered black women who reported that they could rely on others for emotional and practical support were less likely to be re-abused, showed less psychological distress and were less likely to attempt suicide.

Confronting this issue will not come easily as it is not in the immediate interest of a black church clergy built in large measure on an inauthentic theological system of male privilege and psychological bondage of women and which is often guilty, in its own misogynistic, sexist characterizations of women, of verbal abuse itself.

What is required is a new ethic, integrity and a theological system that moves beyond the boundaries of traditional church language and orthodoxy to engage with the pressing needs of our time and that meets people where they are.

Contact Donald Perryman, D.Min., at [drldperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org](mailto:drldperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org)

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# Mayor Attempts to Close Toledo Budget Deficit

By Fletcher Word  
Sojourner's Truth Editor

Last week Mayor Carty Finkbeiner presented his plan to fill not only an anticipated budget deficit for fiscal year 2009 but also the budget shortfall from 2008. That combined figure stands at \$14.26 million.

In order to deal with the budget crisis, the mayor has put forth a proposal that calls for a minimum in city layoffs and focuses on cutting back hours, reducing overtime and eliminating equipment and fuel requirements.

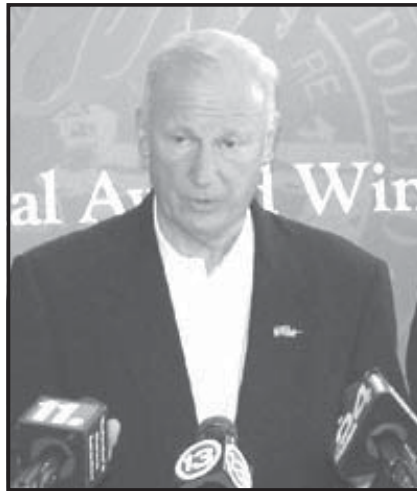
"This is the single greatest challenge I have faced in my 12 years as mayor," said Finkbeiner as he started his budget announcement.

Then delving into the issue of city employees, the mayor produced graphics showing that Toledo already has fewer employees per resident than the other major Ohio cities at approximately nine per thousand.

"We know we can not afford to lay off many more people," said Finkbeiner. "We want to prevent lay-offs in every possible way."

Therefore, the mayor has proposed to close much of the \$14 million deficit in the following manner:

- Transferring \$800,000 in unused 2008 capital improvement funds;
- Reducing overtime in the fire department by taking a truck out of service and placing more firefighters on the line thereby saving \$2.5 million;
- Billing for structure fires and generating \$500,000;
- Reducing the police department's overtime, training funds and postal expenses and saving \$440,000;
- Switching 150 employees from a five-day, 40-hour workweek to a four-day, 36-hour workweek saving



\$530,000;

- Cutting a half million from the fuel budget;
- Slashing \$1.4 million by asking unions to accede to cuts similar to the cuts AFSCME has agreed to; Finkbeiner will be asking for a five-day mandatory furlough, a one and a half percent reduction in the amount the city pays to the state pension fund;
- Switching to automated trash trucks by the last quarter of the fiscal year and reducing the number of workers on the trucks to a single driver rather than a three-person crew;
- Freezing the trash fee at \$2 for those who recycle and \$7 for those who don't which will raise about \$175,000;
- Eliminating 50 percent of the tax credit to neighboring cities which would raise about \$5.2 million in additional taxes from those who work outside Toledo and do not pay Toledo taxes.

"The city's financial picture went from a storm to a tsunami," said Toledo City Councilman Michael Ashford in the wake of the mayor's announcement. "For months the mayor did nothing to calm the storm and it just got bigger and bigger."

Ashford took issue with Finkbeiner's proposals to shift the tax credit, to mandate furloughs and to ask for pension rollbacks from fire and police.

"All his proposals just keep people on pins and needles and keeps the unions on edge," said Ashford. "He still hasn't properly addressed spending or the \$1.7 million deficit for '08. He's basically saying 'we're going to walk away from that.'"

The 2008 deficit, which must by law be closed, totals around \$8.1 at the moment. The city plans to apply \$6.4 million from the rainy-day fund to close part of the gap but that leaves the administration \$1.7 million in the red.

The mayor's proposals will now go to City Council for changes and approval.

# Nationally Acclaimed Artist and Educator Willis 'Bing' Davis

to Speak at Owens Community College, Feb. 19  
Special to The Truth

Area residents interested in gaining insight into how history, culture and diversity can have a profound impact on artistic expressions are invited to attend two free master class lectures featuring nationally-known artist and educator Willis "Bing" Davis at Owens Community College on Thursday, Feb. 19.

Davis' master class lectures are being held in conjunction with the College's ongoing celebration of Black History Month. The first presentation will occur from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in Owens' Learning Center at The Source. The College's Learning Center is located on Monroe Street in downtown Toledo. The second master class lecture will take place from 1-3 p.m. in the Center for Fine and Performing Arts Mainstage Theatre on the Toledo-area Campus in Perrysburg

Township. Admission to both events is free and the public is encouraged to attend.

During the two master class lectures, Davis will provide attendees with a firsthand account into his life as an artist and how African and African-American culture has influenced the creation of his masterful masks, paintings, drawings and sculptures. Additionally, Davis' afternoon master class on the Toledo-area Campus will include an interactive African-inspired jewelry demonstration for audience attendees.

An esteemed longtime faculty member at Central State University, Davis' career as an educator also includes teaching in the Dayton Public School System and at DePauw and Miami universities. While at Central State, the Dayton resident served as Chair of the Art

Department and Director of the Paul Robeson Cultural and Performing Arts Center. He also held positions as an artist-in-residence at the University of Dayton and a visiting scholar at Wright State University. He currently is President of the Board of Directors of the National Conference of Artists.

The Greer, S.C., native's artwork has been exhibited in locations worldwide to include the Studio Museum of Harlem, the American Craft Museum, the National Museum of Art of Senegal West Africa and the U.S. Embassy in Accra, Ghana, as well as in private collections for Dr. and Mrs. William H. "Bill" Cosby and former President and Mrs. George H.W. Bush, among many others. He also served as curator for the popular and

*(Continued on Page 5)*

## A BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

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## Mary Lee Toler

January 25, 1927 – January 23, 2009

The Toler and King Family would like to thank everyone for all of their support, prayers and well wishes during the passing of our mother. Special thanks to Reverend James H. Willis, Sr., St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, Pastor Pat McKinstry and the Area Office on Aging.

We would also like to thank all of our mother's caregivers for providing excellent care to our mother during her illness.

We love you, mom, and miss you. You will FOREVER be a part of our lives and in our hearts.

Your Children



## Davis

(Continued from Page 4)

groundbreaking exhibition titled "Uncommon Beauty in Common Objects: The Legacy of African-American Craft Art", which toured the United States in the 1990s.

Davis attended the School of the Dayton Art Institute and received a bachelor's degree from DePauw University and a master's degree from Miami University. In addition, he holds honorary doctorate degrees from the Maryland

Institute College of Art, Adrian College, DePauw University and the University of Dayton.

In addition to the free master class lectures at Owens, Davis' artwork, along with other nationally recognized artists, is currently on display at the 20 North Gallery in downtown Toledo as part of their annual Black History Month Exhibit through March 1. For additional information about

the master class events, call (567) 661-7421 or 1-800-GO-OWENS, Ext. 7421.

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## Rev. Gary Black Celebrates Second Anniversary at First Antioch Baptist



The members of First Antioch Baptist (Church of Christ), located at 3201 Dorr Street, welcomed the congregation of Jerusalem Baptist church on Sunday, February 15, 2009, to help celebrate the second anniversary of Rev. Gary W. Black. Rev. Black, First Lady Deborah Black and their two children, Gary and Simone, joined the First Antioch family in November of 2006.

Rev. Black dedicated his life to the Lord and was ordained at Jerusalem Baptist Church under the leadership of the late Rev. H.M Crenshaw, so it was more than fitting that the current pastor of Jerusalem, Rev. Willie L. Perryman, delivered the sermon at this anniversary celebration.

It was a wonderful event with members of First Antioch Baptist dressed in

royal blue. The theme of the program was "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly ... But his delight is in the law of the Lord," and all those in attendance were blessed by the word shared by Perryman, the spirit-filled music from Jerusalem's wonderful choir and the love that filled the room for the Black family.

## Zepf Center to Celebrate New Child and Adolescent Services Addition

Special to The Truth

The Zepf Center has announced the addition of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, provided at their 905 Nebraska Avenue location, beginning Monday February 16, 2009. Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday with extended hours Monday until 8:00 p.m. and Wednesday until 7:00 p.m.

Zepf Center is a non-profit organization whose focus is recovery success for adults, adolescents and children with severe and persistent mental illness. Nancy Carroll, MD; Karen A. Kindervater, MD; and Tabinda Rehman, MD are among the staff who have joined Zepf to help make these new services successful.

The child and adolescent services that are available include: psychiatric services, medication management, community-based treatment (CBT), home-based therapy (HBT), office-based therapy (OBT) and vocational services as well as drug and alcohol services.

For more information about Zepf Center's Child and Adolescent Services, visit website [www.zepfcenter.org](http://www.zepfcenter.org) or call 419-255-4050 ext. 4000.

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# Annual Afro-American Ball Celebrates Heritage and Community Service

By Artisha S. Lawson  
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Hundreds of Toledo area teenagers gathered on Saturday, February 14, 2009 at The Gladioux Meadows in South Toledo to attend The City-Wide Afro-American Ball.

Throughout its lengthy Toledo history, this traditional ball has celebrated the African-American heritage and has highlighted a few Toledo-area Afro-American clubs, their community service and court members.

Each school with an active club was asked to participate in the "club of the year contest," in which they would be asked to provide community service in their school and neighborhood. Four high schools participated in this contest: Scott, Springfield, Waite, and Woodward.

Each displayed a board which showcased their service projects completed throughout the year and plans for the future. Woodward High School won the top honors of club of the year, with votes from The Sojourner's Truth and The Toledo Journal representatives.

Springfield's Afro-American Club hosted OGT tutoring, celebrated President Barack Obama's victory, collected socks and undergarments for YMCA women's abuse shelter, collected pop can tops for Ronald McDonald House and collected clothes for Family House and visited nursing homes.

Waite's Afro-American Club prepared and delivered Christmas baskets, participated in the Boys & Girls Club Halloween Bash, tutored elementary students, participated in American Red Cross Blood Drive; and posted monthly information about Breast Cancer and Diabetes.

Scott's Afro-American Club passed around information about the OGT testing to their neighbors; assisted Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Stock Nest program; participated in Toys for Tots; read at local daycares and volunteered with United Way. Scott's senior court member and club president Markee McCullough was inspired to join after a conversation with the club's



Springfield Afro Ball Court

advisor. "Ms. Winfield made me join. I didn't know anything about it, she made it seem interesting when she told me about it and that's why I joined."

The winning club – Woodward's Afro-American Club – passed out information on Sickle Cell in September, donated a Christmas basket, performed community service at St. Paul's Com-

munity Center and held a coat drive that benefited the Cherry Street Mission. Woodward senior court member, Brianna West, a two-year court member, is proud even though the court is a smaller size. "Woodward's Afro Ball Court has been progressing

every year, this year we didn't have as many seniors on the court, but we're still committed to our community service and school participation."

After that announcement Rogers High School, Scott High School, Springfield High School, Start High

School, Waite High School and Woodward High School presented their courts. The courts included Afro-American club members from their schools dressed in lovely evening gowns and tuxedos as they danced to a range of dance music and themes.

(Continued on Page 16)



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## Milestones in African-American Art and Music

**1746**  
Lucy Terry, a slave, becomes the first black American poet. Her one known poem, "Bars Fight," was not published until 1855.

**1764**  
Newport Gardner is the first black American to compose in the European tradition. He becomes the first black music teacher in 1783 and his "Crokked Shanks" is the first musical composition by an African-American to be published, in 1803.



**1773**  
Phillis Wheatley publishes the first book of poetry by a black person (and the second by a woman).



**1785**  
John James Audubon born in Haiti. He was taken to France at the age of four and studied drawing with Jacques Louis David in Paris at the age of 17. Audubon began his explorations of the American West in 1843. He completed his famous "Quadrapeds of North America" in 1845.



**1795**  
Joshua Johnson, the first African-American artist in America to earn a living as a professional painter, is born.

**1818**  
Frank John is the first black American to publish sheet music. He is also the first black to win acclaim in America and England, the first black to give formal band concerts and the first black to tour widely in the U.S. In 1843-44, Johnson gave the

first racially integrated concerts in the U.S.

**1829**  
George Moses Horton becomes the first Southern black to publish a collection of poetry.



**1842**  
Robert Scott Duncanson becomes the first African-American artist to win acclaim at home and abroad as a serious landscape artist.



**1845**  
William Henry Lane (Master Juba) becomes the first African-American dance star. He took his stage name from the

African dance – the Juba. In 1845, Lane won the title "King of All Dancers" after three challenge dance contests. He toured with three white minstrels, receiving top billing.

**1853**  
Elizabeth Taylor Greenfield becomes the first black concert singer. She gave a command performance before Queen Victoria in 1853.



**1867**  
Edmonia Lewis, African-American female sculptor, completes "Forever Free," a sculpture in marble, in Rome and ships it home to the United States.



**1873**  
The first black opera troupe (Colored American Opera Company) is formed in Washington, D.C.



**1876**  
Edward Mitchell Bannister achieves full recognition in America as a painter special-

izing in landscapes. He later founded the Rhode Island School of Design.



**1878**  
James Bland composes "Carry Me Back to Ole Virginy" which became the official state song in 1940.

**1891**  
Charles Bolden forms first jazz band in New Orleans.



**1893**  
Henry Ossawa Tanner completes his most famous painting, "The Banjo Lesson." The next year he completed "The Thankful Poor," which would be auctioned by Sotheby's in 1981 and sold to William and Camille Cosby for \$250,000. That was the highest price ever paid for a work of art by an African-American artist. In 1927, he was the first black artist elected to the National Academy.

**1897**  
First piano rag by a black



composer, "Harlem Rag," is published.

**1920**  
Mamie Smith becomes the first black woman to make a record: "You Can't Keep a Good Man Down" and "This Thing Called Love."

**1924**  
National Urban League hosts a dinner to introduce black literary talent to New York's white publishing establishment. As a result, the dinner opened up a national market for black literature and music.

**1934**



Augusta Savage becomes the first member of the National Association of Women Painters and Sculptors.

**1988**



Romare Bearden, collageist, co-authors *A History of African-American Artists, From 1792 to the Present*.



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**The Truth Gallery Artists****Klaire: She Just Started Painting**

When one asks an artist how or when she started her creative efforts, the response is, more often than not, that it has always been so. 'I have been painting ever since I was a child,' she generally replies.

Even if the artist got started relatively late in life, she might note that she had always wanted to paint, or sculpt, just never had the opportunity until...

Those, however, are not the answers one gets from Klaire.

January 7, 2007 is Klaire's response. That's when she started to paint.

But you always wanted to paint, right?

Never before then, she replies.

OK ... but it occurred to you that this is something you might enjoy?

It never occurred to me, she iterates.

So on January 7, 2007, Klaire just started painting. She had never studied art, she had little interest in art. But on that date, something miraculous occurred she believes. Klaire picked up paint brush, applied paint to surface and, in just a few minutes, a work of art was completed—a work of art that she sold within a short time for \$85. And on that date, a life was changed.

A Toledo native, Klaire has had her share of challenges during her adult life. As recently as 1997, she was on welfare bringing home \$400 a month. In fact from the age of 17, when she was married, she spent the next 11 years on welfare.

Everything changed in 1997 when she got a good-

paying job with Chrysler. From then until 2004, she and her kids lived a good life. She eventually bought a house.

But in 2004, Klaire got sick and started losing consciousness, at home and at work. She got sicker and sicker with an apparent stomach condition but the doctors she saw were unable to diagnose the problem. She lost her job at Chrysler. She lost her house. She was living in her car and visiting hospitals trying to find out what was wrong with her.

Depression set in, her weight ballooned to 220 pounds. "I didn't want to live," she says now. "I wanted to kill myself."

On December 31, 2006, Klaire was back in the hospital for her undiagnosed stomach problems and remembers a nurse she saw in the middle of

the night ... not a nurse really, on second look. Whoever she was, the visitor prayed for Klaire for several minutes and gave her five crayons.

Klaire was clearly not ready to use the crayons so she slipped them under her pillow.

A few days later, she was discharged from the hospital and decided to treat her 16-year old daughter to a visit to a store to pick up a few things to entertain. Her daughter, on the other hand, had a different idea. She thought her mother needed something from the store to inspire her. She suggested to Klaire that she try her hand at painting.

Klaire was unconvinced.

Her daughter, undaunted by her mother's negative reply, selected five acrylic paints—ironically enough, the same five colors her mysterious visitor had selected several days earlier—and five brushes.

Encouraged by her daughter, Klaire finally broke out the material on January 7, 2007 and painted a church in about 10 minutes. She sold the painting a few weeks later. She kept painting. Filled her house with her paintings. Paintings that



just flowed out of her... quickly ... in minutes. Within 30 days, she says, she had sold everything in the house.

How would you describe your work, a visitor asks her?

She can't really. She knows that she paints in a 360 degree style and three dimensional. Her paintings can be turned and flipped—there is no right side up. She paints on many different surfaces—canvas, boxes, furniture, clothes ... even people at times.

"I just do it, I don't have to think about it."

Bright, vivid colors. Lots of florals, lots of geometric

shapes—not that she knows where this stuff is coming from. Fortunately, it does come.

Klaire just recently was invited to display her art in a major Columbus, OH studio. So the art thing is going pretty well. So is the health thing.

As mysteriously as her health deteriorated, her problems disappeared. She has been relatively untroubled since she started painting. She once took 13 medications, she is now down to three; down from eight doctors to one.

She just keeps painting.

## Alice Grace: Cookie Jar Lady Expands Her Horizons



"My work shows how I grew up and each piece tells a story," says Alice Grace. "It is therapeutic ... getting rid of some of those things I grew up with ... a form of self expression."

Grace grew up in Louisiana and has been doing some form of art for as long as she can remember. "Painting, sketching in school," she recalls. She has been winning awards since she was in elementary school and 4H Clubs. She sells her paintings and crafts now, of course, but this is nothing new. Back in the day, back in elementary school, she sold her art for quarters to the other kids.

After high school, Grace attended Southern University for a year and then made her way to Toledo with her husband ... and continued her painting, sculpture, greeting cards, ceramics, and so on. In fact, her first paintings were done on ceramics, such as cookie jars (she was once dubbed "the cookie jar lady"), when she eventually decided that if she could paint on ceramic, she could paint on canvas—so she did exactly that.

Fifteen years ago, she started her canvas work in different styles—abstract, surrealism, portraits.

"I'm fascinated with all forms of art," she says today of the eclecticism of her styles and her media. "I want to do continuous artwork, I want to be good at it, I want to be great at it."

Grace also wants to expand, as do so many other artists, beyond the confines of Toledo. "I'm working hard to accumulate enough work to do that," she says. "I have displayed in Atlanta but I want to go farther than that."

And she wants to go further with her ventures. Recently she started doing some woodwork and made a curio, "then I made a chair ..."

Obviously, there are no limits for the cookie jar lady.

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## 20 North Gallery's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Black History Month Celebration

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

20NorthGalleryandOwens Community College have joined forces this year to present the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Black History Month Celebration at downtown Toledo's oldest art gallery.

This year's exhibit presents featured artist Willis "Bing" Davis from Dayton, along with eight other African-American artists: Aaron Bivins, Wil Clay, Charles Gabriel, Jr., Wade Harrison, Marcus Nunn, Merv Russell, Ramon Tiggs and John Wade, III.

The opening reception, on

January 30, presented an opportunity for gallery visitors to win a watercolor portrait by Bivins of the U.S.'s 44<sup>th</sup> president, Barack Obama.

The Black History Month Exhibit will run until Sunday, March 1. 20North is open from noon to 4 p.m., Tuesdays through Fridays; 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and by appointment at 419-241-2400.

Other exhibit sponsors include Buckeye Telesystem, WTVG-13abs and "Coffee with the Fords" (Sundays, 6:30 a.m. WTVG-13abc).



*Aaron Bivins and his Obama*



*John Wade and his art*



*Will Clay with My Babies*



*Peggy Grant introduces artists as 20 North owner Eric Hillenbrand looks on*



*Marcus Nunn and his art*



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## Mt. Nebo's March 1 Shoe Giveaway

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

On Sunday, March 1, Rev. Cedric Brock and the congregation of Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church, will giveaway women's shoes, belts and hair accessories to churchgoers.

"These economic times require us to provide a little extra assistance," said Brock last week as he unveiled the shoes and boots that have been donated for the giveaway.

The products, which are all new, have been donated to Mt. Nebo's by retail outlets – Shoes



Four You and Star Beauty Supply. The 200 pairs of shoes will be made available to those present during the 11:30 a.m. church service. Coupons will be handed out to attendees to claim their shoes, boots or accessories.

## New Book Provides In-Depth Chronicle of African-American History in Ohio, Accomplishments that Shaped U.S. History

In a fascinating new book by professor and author Ronald Shannon, *Profiles in Ohio History: A Legacy of African-American Achievement*, he presents a comprehensive account of the significant contributions of African-Americans in the first 175 years of the country's history. His work shines new light on the little-known achievements of black Ohioans during this formative period in the United States.

*Profiles in Ohio History* profiles 38 black Ohioans' accomplishments and their significance to both the state's history as well as the nation's story. He begins with James Davis, the first African-American born in Ohio, and continues on to the profiles of other African-American trailblazers, such as the first black voter, Olympic gold medal winner and publicly elected official.

Also chronicled in this in-depth resource are the stories of four important African-American groups in Ohio history: the Oberlin-Wellington Rescue Case, which describes how dozens of Oberlin and Wellington residents rescued

a captured fugitive slave from those trying to transport him back into slave territory; the Black Brigade, a group of Cincinnati African-Americans who formed a battalion to protect the city from Confederate troops during the Civil War; and two black Civil War infantry divisions. *Profiles in Ohio History* also incorporates useful appendices, including Ohio's fugitive slave laws, Ohio constitutions of 1802 and 1851, and thorough a timeline of key events in Ohio's African-American history.

With biographies and historical accounts divided into seven important periods from 1802 to 1978, *Profiles in Ohio History* provides new students to the subject with insight and gives seasoned historians additional information uncovered through detailed research.

Shannon's lifelong interest in both American black history and the characters from Ohio who contributed so much to it drove the creation of *Profiles in Ohio History: A Legacy of African-American Achievement*, which records these noteworthy Americans' achievements and their impact on life in the United States today.

About the Author  
Ronald Shannon has studied African-American history for more than 30 years. Currently an adjunct professor of political science and criminal justice, he earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Toledo, received two master's degrees from Eastern Michigan University and pursued doctorate-level studies at Bowling Green State University and Michigan State University.

## Black History Month Art Show

*Special to The Truth*



In observance of Black History Month, The Art Tatum African American Resource Center Gallery proudly presents "Gifts of an Artist," the artwork of Willie Nell Shahraki-Heard.

This collection of 11 original paintings will be on view in the Tatum Center Gallery now through February 25, located at Kent Branch Library, 3101 Collingwood Blvd.

Heard is a local author and artist and has lived in the Toledo area since 1968. Her passion is captured in the beauty of her oil paintings. Heard said she especially likes to feature historical images in her art that are reflections of her southern roots in Greensboro, AL.

This exhibit is co-sponsored by Diane Gordon, of the Toledo Kwanzaa House and The Art Tatum African American Resource Center at Kent Branch Library.

For more information, please call 419.259.5207.

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## MTV Real World Castmate to Speak on Diversity at Lourdes College

*Special to The Truth*

Best known as a former cast member on MTV's *The Real World: San Francisco* (Season 3), Mohammed Bilal will present "12 Steps Towards Appreciating Diversity" at Lourdes College on Monday, February 23. Bilal offers a fun, interactive presentation that mixes scholarship, hip-hop and self-reflective narratives in order to equip audience members with easy, valuable and powerful tools for appreciating diversity.

Wearing many professional "hats" including that of a diversity consultant, mediator and presenter, Bilal's work has been featured throughout the world. His expertise on diversity issues has been utilized by a wealth of organizations including the United States Treasury, Wells Fargo, Boston College and Purdue University.

Bilal's presentation will be held in the Ebeid Stu-



dent Center in the lower level of McAlear Hall at 4:30 p.m. Attendance is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact

Lisa Binkowski, Director of Student Activities and Recreation, at lbinkowski@lourdes.edu.



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## The Truth Gallery Artists

### Mack Walton's Passion: Art as a Life's Work

For so many artists, their work is simply what they feel compelled to do. For such artists, releasing their creative juices is as much a part of life as breathing.

"It's my life's work," says local artist Mack Walton. "I love this."

It's Walton's life, it's his passion. And it has been so for over 40 years.

Walton, a Toledo native who attended Scott High School, started painting in 1966 when he won a contest and took a correspondence course. After that he was hooked, says the Vietnam veteran who joined Jeep in the late 1970's and remained in factory work there until his retirement in 2001.

Walton developed a procedure, and a following amongst his fellow employees at Jeep, by transferring photographs to oil canvases. He estimates that he painted over 100 portraits during his 25-year Jeep career. He would simply take home the photographs that he was presented by his colleagues and acquaintances and start to paint.

This kept him fairly busy, he recalls, but it also limited his ability to reach for a broader audience. "I didn't have time to sell myself," says Walton. And as any successful artist will freely admit, an artist must have the ability to pay attention to the business side of the art business.

"Most of the time when an art exhibit was going on, it was over before I knew about it," he says. That was then.

Times have changed over the last year for Walton. He has been featured in a number of shows and galleries – such as The Truth Gallery. And his range has expanded as he has devoted even more time to his art.

Walton painted a portrait of a young Mike Tyson, for example. The Tyson portrait, a large 30" by 40" canvass, was inspired by Walton's love of boxing ("one of my favorite sports") and his admiration for the Tyson of an earlier day – the Tyson of pre-caricature days.

Walton also ventured into street scenes and still life to satisfy his own artistic curiosities. Now, there are few subjects that he does not undertake. From portraits, to landscapes, to animal scenes, Walton has his hand, and his oils, in a wide range of subject matter.



## BGSU's Center for Multicultural and Academic Initiatives Hosts the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Dinner Theatre

Bowling Green State University will kick off its 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Dinner Theatre celebration at the end of the month of February as part of its commemoration of Black History Month. This year's theme: the classic musical *Grease*, which will be re-enacted by students, faculty and other community members who will proudly take the stage to display the talent that BGSU has to offer through dramatic performance, song and dance.

The Dinner Theatre festivities continue to stand out as one of the most anticipated community events that BGSU presents annually to students, parents, faculty and others who would like to witness this memorable occasion. Past themes have included "The 90's," where

performers belted out well-known tunes from musical sensations of that decade such as Janet Jackson and Boys II Men, while others acted out scenes from movies like *Forrest Gump* and *Austin Powers*.

Other notable past themes have been "The 70's" and "The Best of Dinner Theatre," which highlighted the most memorable performances from past celebrations. Regardless of the theme, high spirits, laughter and the fun-filled showcasing of talent always creates an atmosphere that never fails to provide a reason to keep coming back for more.

Dinner Theatre performances will take place at the Bowen Thompson Student Union on Friday February 27, 2009 at 8 pm and on Saturday

February 28, 2009 at 7 pm. The general admission price for the Friday performance will be \$10 and a cash bar will be available, while admission prices for the following night will be \$20, with the attendees being offered a buffet dinner in addition to the cash bar and, of course, the live entertainment.

Dinner Theatre's widespread popularity always creates a high demand for tickets, therefore it is highly suggested that tickets be purchased early. They are guaranteed to sell out.

Tickets can be purchased at the Bowen-Thompson Student Union Information Desk. For additional information on Dinner Theatre, contact Yolanda Flores at 419.372.2642.

**Book Review****Duke Ellington: His Life in Jazz by Stephanie Stein Crease**

c.2009, Chicago Review Press \$16.95 / \$18.95 Canada

148 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
Sojourner's Truth Contributor

Imagine a world with no iPods and no MP3 players.

There are no CDs, no VCRs, no DVDs, no video games, and, in fact, no television in that world. Roads aren't paved because there aren't any cars to drive on them. Computers don't exist, and indoor bathrooms are rare. There are no telephones and even radio is a few years away.

The main entertainment for families is—are you ready for this?—based around a piano.

Now imagine becoming a famous musician in a world like this.

Sounds kind of impossible? Well, that was the world in which Edward “Duke” Ellington was born over 100 years ago but Duke loved to embrace new technology and that made him a star. Read more about the Duke’s life by

grabbing *Duke Ellington: His Life in Jazz* by Stephanie Stein Crease.

When Edward Ellington was born in 1899, Washington D.C. was an exciting place for African-Americans. The neighborhood where Edward was born, the “Uptown District,” was close-knit and residents were proud to live among black-owned stores, restaurants, and the finest schools.

Washington D.C. was segregated then (as were many cities), but young Edward still had a typical childhood like most boys of his time.

Early in his life, Edward (nicknamed “Duke” by his best friend) was fascinated with baseball and he was an awesome artist. His parents were afraid he’d be hurt by the sport, and they encouraged his artistic talents. But everything changed when

Duke was 14 years old.

He re-discovered piano. Ragtime music was very popular then and Duke was obsessed by the syncopated beat. He studied it day and night and practiced piano. Soon, he was playing music with his friends and other musicians.

For over 50 years, Duke Ellington embraced “new” technology and made music. By seeing the advantages of radio and record albums, movies and telephones, he was able to bring his innovative compositions and experimentation with new sounds to people of all colors. You can still find the Duke’s music on CD and internet, and maybe on your own iPod.

While *Duke Ellington: His Life in Jazz* is a good book and quite interesting for a grown-up, it’s meant for kids 9-and-up, which is curious.



In the first chapters, author Stephanie Stein Crease draws parallels between Edward Ellington’s life and that of children today, which gives kids a bit of a reference point.

By the middle of the third chapter, though, Crease has gone into territory that could tend to lose a kid’s interest:

band members, who played where, other information better suited for the child’s grandparents rather than the child.

Yes, the activities are kid-friendly (and may be great for a rainy-day grandparent-child project) but this book is, for a nine-year-old, a little

too much unless said nine-year-old is a music fiend with a propensity toward jazz.

Having said that, if your older child—say, 12-to-17—loves a variety of music, this book will quickly become a favorite. For them, *Duke Ellington: His Life in Jazz* is out of this world.

**The Truth Gallery Artists****Ronald Jamison: Blending The Cosmic, and the Comic, with Nature**

Ronald Jamison has been painting for as long as he can remember. The Toledo native remembers being influenced at an early age by his uncle, Johanna Nichols, an artist who was one of the founding members of the Conference of Black Artists (COBA) during the 1970’s, a group that also included the estimable Marvin Vines, another Jamison influence.



“Vines’ work was so alive and vibrant,” says Jamison. “He would put blues and greens in a face for example. I like vibrant things, I like the sparkle and splash”

That sense of vibrancy is exactly what Jamison endeavors to convey in his paintings. Asked to describe his work, Jamison replies immediately with a one word answer before expanding: “Cosmic.”

“My work deals with a lot of universal themes. I love nature—trees and bushes. I like painting women, I use anatomy a lot and themes of nature.”

Jamison also likes to delve into comic work, having been influenced by the artists of Marvel, among others. It doesn’t take long for a viewer to realize that Jamison is indeed a student of the comic school of art. His heroic drawings of human characters, frequently amidst the elements, are evocative of the comics. Not an easy calling, he acknowledges.

“You have to be dedicated to putting in the time and get good at it,” he says. By good, he also means prolific—that’s one of the keys to success in the comic world—being talented and fast.

Jamison is a painter at the moment but he has experimented with sculpture in the past—a medium he would like to get back to in the future.

As for the Whitmer High School graduate, he is clearly bullish on his opportunities in the art world.

“I think I’m good enough to reach a wide audience,” he says. “There are no boundaries as long as I get exposure... on a national level if I could. It’s limitless.

**Just Published...****Profiles in Ohio History**  
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**BLACK HISTORY in the Moment**

By Michael Hayes  
Minister of Culture



A week ago I was at Rogers High School speaking to the

Student African American Brotherhood (SAAB) and the first thing I noticed was that this group was not entirely African-American. Which was actually refreshing.

There were Hispanic and white young men taking part in this brotherhood as well.

One thing about me, I don't talk to high school students as if they are in the sixth grade.

I don't mince words. I don't sugar coat. I don't offer any easy answers because that will not benefit them. I remember all of the mentors, guest speakers

and such who came to speak to me and various organizations I was in and the ones who kept it all the 100 were the ones I remembered most and took seriously.

So I sat there and said my piece, and I was happy to learn so much.

My label U.G.E. currently has two Rogers seniors whom we produce (Joyce Allen a/k/a Chayse Evers and Terri Davis a/k/a T Lynn). Thanks to them I met Cherokee who, as president of SAAB at Rogers, invited me to come and speak about what I do musically and career choices and such.

But while there I met a few more Rogers standouts.

Eric, Antwon, the other Antwon, Aaron a/k/a Hungry, and more.

(Shout out to Paris, the singing sensation).

But as I spoke with what amounted to about over 30 young men that day, I learned of their aspirations. Eric is already a current phenom in the world of track and field.

John (fresh from Hawaii) wants to be a Marine.

Antwon plans to enroll

at Owens and major in appliance repair, a vocation somewhat less glamorous than other plans being shouted out across the room but I gave him props for having the foresight to pick a job that will have longevity.

At U.G.E.'s open mic night at The Truth each Saturday, from time to time we

have a few rows full of Rogers students so a few of them already knew that I did music.

But even with all the young men asking me questions about getting in the industry and everything, I kept it real and told them that I'm still trying myself and that the most important career choice is the one

you will do the work.

He used the album our label just put out as an example because all of the layout, design, recording, music, mixing and negotiating with the parent label was done by him and me.

That helped back up the recurring theme of the day, and that was helping these young men to see that your

headed.

Barack is bi-racial. Our president looks like the embodiment of one of our nations founding credo's : E Pluribus Unum – out of many, will come one.

But if we join the larger world view, do we lose our black consciousness?

Things are global now. Our president and his



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you feel blessed to pursue. I encouraged them to not live their lives trying to impress others.

I tried to get them to see that getting caught up in the hype of popularity, chasing shallow girls and fixating on kicking it too soon is the quickest way to lose sight of their goals.

I tried to show them that at 16, 17 and 18 years old...you are already making choices that can have a resounding impact on your life. Good or bad.

I had my Co-CEO Lavale Stewart there with me and he took pics on behalf of Brooks Photography, but when we started talking about the work behind chasing your goals he made the point about how much he and I have studied on our own.

It was important for them to hear that, no matter if you pursue a career in entertainment or accounting... if you are truly passionate about something

grind has to be something you choose for the right reasons if you really want to go hard at it.

I hope they learned something, I know I did.

It was an honor, gentlemen, you have my support and best wishes as you go conquer the world. Special thanks to Cherokee (who bumped TPS Superintendent Foley to have me come in...to which Mr. Foley said "that shows you how much power Cherokee has").

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

Here we are again.

But THIS time we have Barack Obama in the White House.

Does that make your Black History Month anymore profound?

Do you even care about being black right now?

People of all races are facing unemployment.

People of all races are frustrated with where our society and our world is

family have done wonders for black selfimage.

However, it has to resonate in the hearts and minds of each of us at the personal level.

Are you going to add to or take away from our current progress as a people with the decisions you are making in your life?

Are you even thinking as you are making these decisions?

Be inspired by our past and get the true history of our people from those in your life who can shed wisdom on you.

But even more than our past... I hope you become inspired by what we can become.

Congratulations to A.T.L./Dem Radio Boys for the Black Party at Hot Peppers.

I was there with my black on black, it was a nice atmosphere. Good look on a different kind of event.

Also, My Birthday Party /U.G.E. mini-concert/ The Last Royalty album release

Thursday 2/26 at The Peacock Café. Don't have to bring a gift, just bring ya self.

Congratulations to T. Diamond and Aye Dee as Fox Toledo's newest Toledo Idols

(www.foxtoledo.com). See y'all next week.

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# Lagrange Public Library to Host Fifth Third Bank's Rebuild Your Credit Workshop on February 21

Special to The Truth

A special program to assist individuals and families in re-building their credit will be presented by Fifth Third Bank from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 21, 2009 in the meeting room at the Lagrange Branch of the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library, 3422

Lagrange Street. Participating with Fifth Third, are the Consumer Credit Counseling Service and Advocates for Basic Legal Equality.

The session is free and open to the public, however, seating is limited. Reservations are encouraged and can be made by calling

211. The workshop will include information on—
- Managing personal finances
  - Understanding credit scores
  - Reducing Debt
  - Budgeting techniques & Goal setting
  - Utilizing Financial tools

A Q & A session with finance, credit and legal professionals will be included. Representatives from the Consumer Credit Counseling Service, Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, and Fifth Third Bank will comprise the panel.

According to Linda Ewing, vice president, Community Affairs, Fifth Third Bank (Northwestern Ohio), "The key to addressing a situation where credit has deteriorated is to begin! Even if only small steps can be taken, those steps head consumers in the right direction. The

seminar will address those steps that should be taken." Especially in a weak economy, credit scores are even more important for families seeking financial stability. Low credit scores can increase the costs of borrowing or result in denial of credit.

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# CLASSIFIEDS

February 18, 2009

Page 15

## CERTIFIED HOME CARE AIDES NEEDED AND STNA TRAINING

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## ROUTE DELIVERY

ROUTE DELIVERY Part time could lead to full time with well-established linen rental company. Some heavy lifting. Must be a reliable self-starter & able to communicate with customers. Excellent driving record a must. No CDL required. If you like working in a fast-paced environment send resume to: PO BOX 20130, Toledo OH 43610 or fax to: 419-241-4598 Attn Branch Manager. EOE

## Need a tutor?

Professional, in-home tutoring offered in math, science, Spanish and more! Pre-K thru college. Call 419-708-0447 or visit [www.tutoringinyourhome.com](http://www.tutoringinyourhome.com)

## The Clarence Smith Community Chorus

seeks poems to feature at the chorus' March 29, 2009 Concert title "This Little Light of Mine." Anyone interested, please call 419-534-2299.

## NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS For Architectural / Engineering Services

The Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA), in anticipation of receiving Capital Fund Grant from the U.S. Department of HUD is soliciting Statement of Qualifications from qualified Architectural/Engineering firms for design services. Solicitation manual is available for pick up at the Modernization Department, 201 Belmont Street, Toledo, OH 46304. If further information is required call Pamela Sims, (419)-259-9462 or FAX (419)-254-3495 or email: [psims@lucasmha.org](mailto:psims@lucasmha.org) Qualifications Statement is to be submitted no later than **02:00pm on March 6, 2009.**

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

## PERINATAL OUTREACH WORKER

PERINATAL OUTREACH WORKER Neighborhood Health Association is seeking a (F/T) individual who will perform home visits to assist pregnant women and their babies. Worker will provide prenatal education and social services referrals. Requires H.S. Diploma/GED, valid driver's license and reliable transportation. Basic computer knowledge; prior outreach/case management experience necessary. \$9-\$11 p/h. Please send resume to NHA, 313 Jefferson Ave., Toledo, OH 43604. Attn: HR # POW

## PLASMA DONORS

PLASMA DONORS, NEW New Donors can earn up to \$80 this week while saving lives. Please bring proof of address, photo I.D., & Social Security card or Immigration card. Call for an appointment. Talecris Plasma Resources 625 Dorr Street Toledo 419-244-3910

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## Jerusalem Baptist Church

The Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church is offering church furnishings such as pews, lights, audio equipment, baby grand piano and other items. All inquiries should call the church office at 419-248-2139, Monday through Friday between 10 am and 2 pm.

## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CONTESTANT IN THE 2009-2010 MISS JUNIOR TOLEDO PAGEANT?

If you are between the ages of 12 and 18 (not turning 19 before July 26, 2009), possess a performing talent, please fill out this form completely and either mail or fax.

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DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Talent: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE OBTAIN YOUR PARENT/GUARDIAN(S) APPROVAL BEFORE FILLING OUT THIS FORM)

Mail to: The Miss Junior Toledo Pageant  
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## MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST

MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST Full time. Previous experience in front desk reception for a very busy multi practitioner office. Email resume [deirdrehardy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:deirdrehardy@sbcglobal.net)

## NURSE AIDE

NURSE AIDE Parkcliffe Alzheimer's Community has recently expanded and now has positions available. Experience in elderly care is required. Apply in person: 4234 Parkcliffe Lane Toledo Mon-Fri 9-4

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## BAY CLUB'S 6TH ANNUAL BLACK COLLEGE TOUR

Seats are still available for the 6th Annual Historical Black College Tour sponsored by The Maumee Bay Club, a local club of The National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club. The Tour departs on Sunday, April 12, 2009 returning on Friday, April 17, 2009. Campus visits are scheduled for select HBCU colleges in Tennessee, Alabama, Florida and Georgia. For more information please contact either Trevor Black at (419) 478-7844 or Gwen Banks @ (419) 944-5912.

**The Truth Gallery Artists**  
**Mary McCulough: Creating Visual Statements on Reflections of Traditional Subjects**



"My art is a little different," says Mary McCulough. "I like doing things that are multicultural."

A Toledo native and graduate of Notre Dame Academy, McCulough has been studying, teaching and creating art for more than 30 years. She earned both a bachelor's and a masters degrees in art education from The University of Toledo. She taught art for 16 years at Southview High School and was inspired by that experience to develop her own style – inspired especially by her students.

"The universal aspect of

my work derives from the subtle connotations of connecting with past experiences and shared truths," says McCulough

That inspiration, she says now, is rooted in both the diversity of her students backgrounds as well as the variety of techniques those individuals used as their art developed.

"My work has evolved to create a visual statement of my reflections on traditional subjects in still and the natural world specifically rock, caves, stones, trees, the sea and shore using abstracted methods," she says. "No matter what

the subject matter or media, line, shape and bold color dominate the work."

McCulough has worked in watercolor, acrylic, linoprints and mixed media in forging her art – art that has been displayed in numerous shows and exhibitions. Her goals are to be seen more and to have even more displayed.

"I want my work in more galleries," she says. "I like to have everyday people see my work. I do a lot of outdoor shows. My prices are not sky high because I want art in everybody's home ... I want my work out there."

**Afro Ball**

(Continued from Page 6)



*Start Afro Ball Court*

school participation."

After that announcement Rogers High School, Scott High School, Springfield High School, Start High School, Waite High School and Woodward High School presented their courts. The courts included Afro-American club members from their schools dressed in lovely evening gowns and tuxedos as they danced to a range of dance music and themes.

Afro-American Ball coordinator and Woodward High School Afro-American Club advisor India Santos said that she was inspired to include the community service aspect to the Afro-American Clubs after becoming aware of



*Woodward Afro Ball Court*

what her daughter's club participated in throughout the year.

"My daughter is a senior in high school, however when I first began three years ago she attended a private school in the city," said Santos. "When I asked her what she did during her afro club meetings, she said we have nail parties, go out to eat and do our hair and make-up. I became upset. I was disappointed that the advisor thought that all we do is get our hair and nails done and eat. I wrote a letter stating it was inappropriate and intolerable behavior. They should celebrate culture, go on field trips and participate in com-

munity service. Then I decided that there should be an example and that year Notre Dame High School, St. John's High School and Central Catholic High School Afro-Clubs participated."

Santos has also noticed that since the election and inauguration of Obama the club members are more excited about their service projects. "He is such an example," said Santos. "This year I didn't have any students say to me 'what is community service,' or give negative feedback about doing the work. They wanted to do it; I believe our kids are prouder because of the presidency."

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