



Local and National News

www.thetruthofledo.com

Volume 17, No.11 "And Ye Shall Know The Truth..." January 13, 2010

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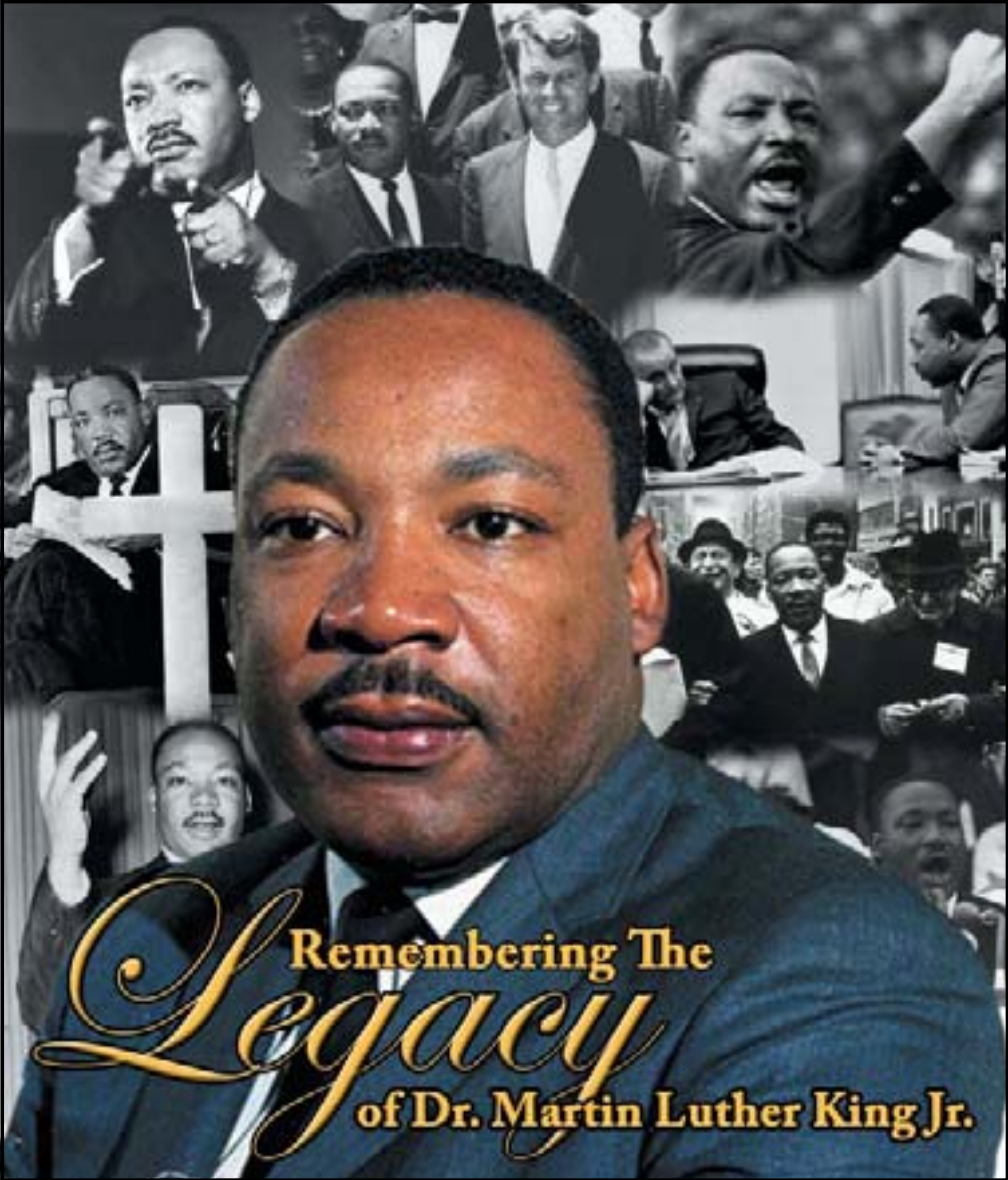
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Remembering The  
*Legacy*  
of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



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## This Strikes Us ...

*A Sojourner's Truth Editorial*

### What would Martin think?

As we enter the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, more than 40 years after the death of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., we frequently have to stop and ask ourselves – what would Martin think?

If Dr. King were still alive, or if he simply came back for a visit, how would he view the events, the circumstances of the early 21<sup>st</sup> Century in terms of what he labored to change or correct?

Would he feel pleased that all of his hard work had helped produce so many success stories for African-Americans and other minorities? Or would frustration set in as he absorbed the news of the widening gaps between the haves and the have-nots in so many areas?

On the whole, we think the success stories are exactly what he would have predicted. The lack of attainment for so many, however, would have struck him as inexplicable.

Yes, African-Americans can vote just about anywhere and everywhere. And African-Americans do indeed vote just about everywhere without fear of the repercussions that caused such anxiety for their ancestors in certain areas of the land of the free.

And yes, we have highly visible elected and appointed officials in every nook and cranny of the land. Since King's death, we have elected African-Americans to many positions – mayors, state representatives, judgeships, etc. The nation has elected a couple of black U.S. Senators, a governor here and there and, of course, we now have an African-American president.

Not only have African-Americans made great strides in achieving elected office but also in appointed positions such as Secretary of State, Attorney General ... on the national level.

The face of America, at least as the rest of the world sees it, has become a model that other nations can and should emulate. The last four Secretaries of State have been either African-American or female ... or both.

Such accomplishments have prompted other nations to respond in kind when it comes to diplomacy. That would have made Martin proud we think.

On other fronts, African-Americans continue to have access to institutions of higher learning; several black Americans have achieved CEO status at Fortune 500 companies; opportunities in the fields of law, medicine, engineering, education abound on all levels.

That's the good news.

The bad news, however, is that in so many ways the African-American community is much worse off than it was in the 1960's and that would have troubled Martin greatly were he alive to see it.

Yes, institutions of higher learning open their doors to virtually all who have the desire and the ability to achieve. Unfortunately, as a community, we don't really seem to care about such things nearly as much as we should.

We start off on the wrong foot and stay out of step with mainstream America. The birthrate for black Americans born out of wedlock, virtually always to mothers who will be raising these children on their own, approaches 70 percent in many areas. In many cases the mothers are too young and too uneducated to understand what they need to do to raise their children out of the cycle of poverty that has entrapped their families for generations.

And on it goes. Young boys raised in families with absent fathers, aspiring at early ages to be rap stars or basketball players – their only role models. By the time they realize it is too late for either, the excitement of the streets has captivated them.

In Manhattan, where Geoffrey Canada has founded the Harlem Children's Zone, a 97 square block, holistic approach to education that starts in the womb and carries on to young adulthood, the challenge is daunting simply in terms of the economic statistics. White families with children under the age of five in Manhattan have an average income of \$248,000. Black families with such children have an average income of \$31,000.

The frustration Martin would feel is embodied in the statistics of college attendance for African-American students. There are far too few African-American women attending college, however, two thirds of black college students are women. Black male college students are an endangered species.

Dr. King waged his fight against the white power structure that told black citizens "we will not allow you to have a seat at the table." Were he to return, he might see any number of open seats and not nearly enough black Americans vying to grab them.

The white power structure is by no means trying to wrap its arms around black Americans and inviting them to sit down. On the other hand, the seats are there for the taking if the black community is ready to step up.

Today, Martin would not be facing clubs and dogs and water hoses. He would be on the streets of Harlem and East Cleveland and South Central knocking on doors and pushing kids into schools and urging parents to get involved. It might have made him nostalgic for those dogs and water hoses..



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## Community Calendar

### January 3-8 and 10-15

Baptist Ministers Conference of Toledo and Vicinity Annual 'Twelve-Night' Revival: two nights each at Eastern Star, St. Mark's, Jerusalem, Ebenezer, Southern and Indiana Avenue.

### January 10-15

The Gathering Pt. III: Greater New Psalmist Church and Bishop Brehon Hall; 7 pm nightly; Guest preacher Prophet Joseph Hargo from Houston, TX: 419-720-0520

### January 18

2010 MLK Jr. Unity Celebration" UT's Savage Hall; 9:30 am; 11 am community luncheon: 419-245-1565

### January 19

Women's Entrepreneurial Network "Getting Started" Business Seminars: "Writing a Business Plan;" 6:30 pm; Seymour & Assoc/Mass Mutual Training Room; Advance registration necessary: 419-536-6732 or www.wen-usa.com

### January 21

Joint Utility Winter Information Fair: Erie St. Market; 10 am to 2 pm; Information from utility and social service agencies on programs offering assistance through the winter months; Free H1N1 shots; Housing applications for LMHA; Home weatherization from NHS; Avoiding foreclosure workshops: 419-213-8930

### January 26

Women's Entrepreneurial Network "Getting Started" Business Seminars: "Marketing Your Business;" 6:30 pm; Seymour & Assoc/Mass Mutual Training Room; Advance registration necessary: 419-536-6732 or www.wen-usa.com

Ambassador Fatherhood Parenting & Mentoring Class: 10 week program for men needing a parenting class; 6:30 to 9 pm; Operation Re-Seed Christian Ministries: 419-297-3530

### January 29

Rosary Cathedral School "Get Acquainted Event:" 9 to 10:30 am; Tour of school, reception and presentation: 419-243-4396 or ktatkowski@ccmcschool.org

### January 29-30

Monroe Street Neighborhood Center Open Registration: Expanded gym hours for youth ages 11-16; 3:30 to 5:30 pm each day; After school open gym program will have structured activities Mon-Thurs from 3:30 to 5:30 pm starting 2.08: 419-473-1167

### January 30

26<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference for Aspiring Minority Youth: "Living a Life of Service: Giving Back to Your Community;" Presented by the UT Toledo EXCEL Program; UT Student Union Auditorium; 8:30 to 1:00 pm; Reservations start Jan. 21; Keynote speaker Malaak Compton-Rock: 419-530-3820, 3823 or 3830

5<sup>th</sup> Annual Bridal Show: Noon to 5 pm; Garden Lake Banquet Hall; Open vendor displays, bridal registry, fashion show, marriage renewal, entertainment, food tasting: 419-346-5275

### February 2

Women's Entrepreneurial Network "Getting Started" Business Seminars: "Financing and Record Keeping for Your Business;" 6:30 pm; Seymour & Assoc/Mass Mutual Training Room; Advance registration necessary: 419-536-6732 or www.wen-usa.com

## The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's Truthful African-American  
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# Waiting to Exhale? Do So Now

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq.  
Guest Column



shooter waited to wipe her feet on the porch mat before she entered the group home and that act probably gave Linda an extra minute or two to say her final prayers before she was blown to kingdom come.

So, in an effort to save time, I have presented below two scenarios, one of which coulda/woulda saved a life...that of Linda Hicks, a mentally ill person.

Choose the one that best fits what transpired. Now remember, the shooter confronts Linda Hicks in Linda's bedroom purportedly lying down on her stomach and with her hands hidden.

*Scene One. Action. Roll the cameras:*

**Shooter:** Hi Linda..I am Officer Chandler and I am here to save the day but that could also mean shooting you. Hey! I cannot see your hands! Get up!

**Linda:** No. I want to lie here until help comes. Are you that help?

**Shooter:** It depends. Help

is a relative word. Since I can not see your hands, I am worried that you have a weapon. Do you have a weapon?

**Linda:** Just a pair of scissors that I used for arts and crafts. Want to see them?

**Shooter:** You betcha! Get up and let me see them.

**Linda:** OK...but promise not to shoot me because today is zoo visit day and I want to go see the tigers. (note: Linda gets up and approaches the shooter with the scissors.)

**Shooter:** Linda, I gotta tell you that I feel threatened by you and those scissors...sorry, but I gotta end this now. **Blam! Pow! Blam!**

Note: Linda looks shocked and falls to the ground and the zoo visit is now a thing of the past.

*Scene Two. Action. Roll the cameras:*

**Shooter:** Hi Linda. I am Diane. What's going on? I hear that you are not feeling well and you are off of your

medication and that you are scaring people with some scissors. Wanna tell me what the problem is?

**Linda:** Just a bad day all around! First, no Corn Puffs for breakfast and then I cannot find my purple socks and then I got these terrible headaches. These are my favorite scissors and I want to keep them to do my cutouts.

**Shooter:** Linda, I will still need for you to show me your hands so I will know what you have.

**Linda:** No!  
**Shooter:** OK, Linda. Everything is going to be OK. I am going to slowly

leave your bedroom and let you laithere and someone else will be back shortly. Just rest, OK? We will have to lock the door from the outside but that is for everyone's safety..OK?

**Linda:** You are a nice lady! Let me know when they find some more Corn Puffs and I will come out because I cannot miss the zoo visit day!

At this point, the shooter exits the bedroom of Linda, secures the door from the outside and waits for an intervention team from Rescue

Crisis or other officers who are trained in intervention with the mentally ill.

Linda stays inside her bedroom and in about 20 minutes, para professionals arrive who defuse the situation and after talking with Linda for about an hour, the door is cracked open and Linda throws out the scissors and she is peacefully subdued and taken to a local hospital.

Now from the above two scenarios, which one works the best and uses the least drastic means?

Which scenario should have been employed? Why wasn't it used?

Why did Linda die within five minutes of the shooter arriving at the scene? What was the rush to shoot this mentally ill person?

What is an outrageous statement from the prosecutor's office is the statement that the officer... "did attempt everything to prevent this situation from escalating and all of their efforts to prevent that from happening were in vain."

Whata crock! Did 'everything' include simply leaving this person to stew in their

own room until a crisis intervention team arrived? Answer...No!

What witnesses to this event were allowed to testify before this grand jury as to what they observed?

How far from the bed (and a prostrate Linda Hicks) was the officer who felt threatened and responded in "self-defense?"

Knowing that the officer was responding to a situation involving a mentally ill person, why did the officer play "tough guy" and approach Linda who was lying in her bed and posing no immediate threat to anyone.

I have not heard any evidence that Linda rushed or charged this officer especially with Linda in a prostrate position.

So many questions. So few answers. One thing is for sure...Linda Hicks is dead.

A warning to the mentally ill in Lucas County. Do not provoke officers when it is your zoo visit day. You just might not get to see the lions and the tigers.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com

Well, the verdict is in and the grand jury says that the killing of the mentally retarded in Lucas County is OK with them...even if the mentally ill person has no gun. They will allow the brandishing of a pair of scissors to be a good stand-in for a snub nose .38 special.

According to Toledo Police Chief Mike Navarre, when the police arrived at the site of the home of mentally ill Linda Hicks, black female, age 62, she was shot within five minutes. It would have been quicker but probably the

# Ashford and Meadows Pull Petitions to File for House of Representatives Seat

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Democrats Toledo City Councilman Michael Ashford and Schylar Meadows appear to be the early entrants in the contest to replace Ohio Rep. Edna Brown.

Meadows and Ashford have pulled petitions for the Democratic May 4 primary to determine who will face a Republican opponent in the heavily Democratic 48th District. Brown is term-limited from running for re-election.

The deadline for filing as a Democrat is February 18. Independents have until May 3 to file their petitions.



**The University of Toledo, TOLEDO EXCEL**

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**26th Annual Conference for Aspiring Minority Youth**

inviting  
(all Toledo-area 7th - 12th graders, their Parents and Community)

**"Living a Life of Service... Giving Back to Your Community"**

**Saturday, January 30, 2010**  
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at  
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-----Free Admission and Lunch-----

Guest Keynote Presenter:  
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Activist/Philanthropist

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Thursday, January 21 thru Thursday, January 28, 2010  
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# Ministers Meet With Police Chief over Hicks Shooting

By Fletcher Word  
Sojourner's Truth Editor

Several ministers, not content to allow the circumstances surrounding Linda Hicks' death to fade from community memory, met last week with Police Chief Mike Navarre. The meeting was an effort to evaluate police action in the wake of events that led to the fatal shooting of a mentally ill woman armed with a pair of scissors.

That shooting occurred on December 15 when police were called to Marissa's Adult Family Home on Fernwood Avenue by Tanya Murphy who told the dispatcher that Hicks, who suffered from schizophrenia, had brandished the scissors at her. Murphy requested the "crisis police."

Two officers responded, Diane Chandler, who has been on the force since 2006 and has had Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training, and Rebecca Kenney, on the force since 2002.

The two officers entered Hicks' bedroom, tried to use a Taser on her twice but the instrument did not function. An agitated Hicks, according to the officers, rose from the bed and advanced with scissors towards Chandler, who fired her weapon four times, killing the woman.

Rev. Cedric Brock, pastor of Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church and president of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, Bishop M.C. McGhee, pastor of Serenity Church of



Chief Navarre, Director Green, Rev. Brock, Bishop McGhee, Chaplain Lucas

God in Christ, and Rev. William Lucas, pastor of Liberty Ministries Church of God in Christ and chaplain with the Toledo Police Department, met with Navarre and Safety Director Shirley Green for an hour on Friday afternoon in the chief's offices.

"We're working together," said Brock at the start of the meeting. "We are men of peace not men of wrath. The Bible says we should work together ... things that can happen can be resolved."

Navarre opened his remarks with two comments. First, Chandler after taking a week off, had returned to active duty. Second, just hours prior to the meeting, a grand jury looking into events surrounding the shooting had returned declined to indict the officer on a charge of murder with a gun specification. Neither announcement pleased the ministers.

"Only off five days for something that serious?" asked Brock.

"There are several schools of thought," replied Navarre. "One is to get back on the horse right away, but it's not over for that officer."

"I'm not concerned about the officer," interjected Brock. "I'm concerned about the family."

Navarre then explained that the week off for Chandler was not punitive and until the department's internal Fire Review Board had an opportunity to examine the events of the night in question, there was no reason to discipline the officer. That review board is expected to convene, with Deputy Chief Derrick Diggs as chairman, within two weeks time.

The chief then explained to the ministers the department's stance on CIT training and how he expects the training to evolve.

Currently, some crisis in-

tervention training is incorporated into the standard state-mandated police academy curriculum—less than a day's worth at the moment.

The CIT training, how-

ever, is voluntary and Navarre said that 107 officers have undergone the 40-hour course.

He anticipates that the mandated training will be increased in the near future by the state to 16 to 24 hours but he would like to see all of his officers undergo the voluntary CIT training in addition to the mandated hours.

**"I'm not concerned about the officer," interjected Brock. "I'm concerned about the family."**

After the chief's review of the training issue, Brock returned to the matter of Of-

ficer Chandler having returned to active duty and working, as before, out of the Scott Park station. He asked Navarre to "re-examine" that matter.

The chief declined to commit to any change in the department's approach to handling officers involved in shooting incidents.

Last week's meeting, to which several members of the press were invited, solved nothing but seemed to serve to keep the chan-

nels of communication open between the community represented by the ministers and the police department.

In fact, until the Fire Review Board convenes and

hands down its judgment on whether there were violations by the officers on internal policy and procedures, there is little the ministers could have focused on during this preliminary phase.

In comments made later to The Truth, Brock iterated his commitment to keeping the issue alive — be it through letters to area leaders and elected officials or a silent march, if necessary.

## Guest Column

# I Don't Understand Why She Died

By Marci Colton Dvorak, Executive Director  
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) of Greater Toledo

I know no more about what happened during those few minutes before the shooting of Linda Hicks than anyone else who has read and watched the news but I have seen first-hand how this has impacted the mental health community. People in support groups and education classes are saying: "I am afraid to call the police now for myself, my child, my husband, my wife and my loved one."

This is devastating to me personally. Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) is a national NAMI program. So many people have worked so hard to bring this to the Lucas County area that to have people distrust it is another tragedy.

While I know little, my questions remain. CIT training entails not only lectures but also role playing, site visiting and one-to-one interaction with people living with the disorders. The purpose is to not criminalize individuals because of symptomatology and to divert to appropriate treatment.

I don't really understand why longer methods of talk intervention were not used, per training, or why backup was not called to assist.

I don't understand why it had to reach the point where weapons are pointed. I don't understand why she died.

I don't understand what it is like to be a police officer.

I recognize that they walk in when we are running out. But I do know what it is like to have an ill individual point a weapon at me and to have nothing but my ability to relate to them to defuse the crisis. As a social worker in mental health, and a family member, I have lived through those experiences and so have many others.

I have personally seen trained CIT officers in action and their skill and patience did save lives. I have also been able to hear the personal accounts of people with mental illness, their families and mental health providers relate similar stories. Those hundreds of positive tales are not known to the community and they should be.

The shooting of Ms. Hicks is a horrible occurrence that must be addressed. Lessons must be learned and the community must decide that issues regarding our citizens living with mental illness must be a priority. If it is not a priority, people do die.

What do we need to do now?

Well, first of all, the community does need to know that CIT has been successful in hundreds of cases. We need to focus on what didn't work and how we can change that. The Lucas County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board and NAMI of Greater Toledo, along with other agencies, consumers and systems have been meet-

ing long before this shooting to take a long hard look at the curriculum, talk with other CIT's across the country and revamp the training.

But training is only the beginning. Officers need time to process what they did and how it worked or didn't work. They need additional training and time to ask more questions and, yes, they need to be honored when they do it well and lives are saved.

But the City of Toledo needs to say that this is a priority and hold all accountable. Ms. Hicks and all the others cannot be forgotten after the sensationalism has diminished. Her death cannot be just a headline. She was so much more than that. But she was not alone. There are many people like Ms. Hicks out there. Sometimes they are in treatment and sometimes not. But they are our family members and our friends and us. The need to make mental health training for law enforcement mandatory is not just a response to a tragedy. It is a necessity.

Ed. Note: Marci Colton Dvorak, executive director of NAMI of Greater Toledo, was one of the individuals responsible for introducing CIT training to the Toledo Police Department in the late 1990's

**♥ Hearts Before Hands ♥**

**Lucas County Strengthening Families**



**Parents -** Do moments like these have you feeling stressed? Feeling overwhelmed? Before the age of one most children will attempt to feed themselves. However, children at this age are still developing their hand to mouth coordination and their parents should be prepared for the inevitable mess. Having realistic expectations of what your child should be able to do at their age will help you to be more patient and less stressed. For more information call the Lucas County Family Council.

**Lucas County Family Council**  
One Government Center, Suite 580 • Toledo, OH 43604 • (419) 213-6992

# Deadline Approaches for Museum's Art Travel Scholarship



**TOLEDO, OHIO**—Students of art are encouraged to apply now for the Palmer Scholarship awarded by the Toledo Museum of Art. The application deadline for this art travel award is January 29, 2010.

The Palmer Scholarship provides funding for travel for an individual(s) to pursue a course of study in an art-related field. The award recipient(s) will receive up to \$8,000 toward the costs of travel—including airfare, hotel and meal expenses—either domestic or abroad, to enhance studies in an art-

related field. Project examples include advancing creative skills, conducting research, and studying educational techniques.

Applicants must reside in Northwest Ohio. The award recipient(s) must complete the travel within one year of notification. Awards will be announced in March 2010.

Full details and the application form can be downloaded at [www.toledomuseum.org/learn/classes](http://www.toledomuseum.org/learn/classes). Questions can be directed to class registrar Rebecca Byers at [rbyers@toledomuseum.org](mailto:rbyers@toledomuseum.org)

or (419) 255-8000, ext. 7363.

The Palmer Scholarship is just one of many awarded by the Toledo Museum of Art. Scholarships for TMA art classes—for children and adults—are intended to provide art education to those who might not otherwise be able to participate, and to encourage artistically gifted individuals. See the Museum website for additional information.

The mission of the Toledo Museum of Art is based upon the belief in the power of art to ignite the imagination, stimulate thought and provide enjoyment. Through our collection and programs, we strive to integrate art into the lives of people.

The Toledo Museum of



Art is a nonprofit arts institution funded through individual donations, foundation grants, corporate sponsorships and investments. The Ohio Arts Council helps fund programs at the Toledo Museum of Art through a sustainable grant program that encourages economic growth, educational excel-

lence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans.

Admission to the Museum is free. The Museum is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sunday, Noon-6 p.m.; closed Mondays and major holidays. Friday evening hours are made

possible by Fifth Third Bank. The Museum is located at 2445 Monroe Street at Scottwood Avenue, just west of the downtown business district and one block off I-75 with exit designations posted. For general information, visitors can call 419-255-8000 or 800-644-6862, or visit [www.toledomuseum.org](http://www.toledomuseum.org).

## The Omni Group Exhibition

The Toledo-Lucas County Public Library proudly presents The Omni Group Exhibition on display in the Tatum Gallery (located in the Art Tatum African American Resource Center/Kent Branch Library, 3101 Collingwood Blvd.) on view beginning Tuesday, **January 12** through the end of February.

A special public and **FREE** reception to help kick off the exhibit is scheduled at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, January 12. Light fare and refresh-

ments will be provided by the Friends of the Tatum Society.

The exhibit includes paintings, sculptures and jewelry by some of the area's finest artists including, Paula Fullilove, Omni Group Director, Wil Clay, Alice Grace, Mack Walton, Ron Jamison, Robert Shorter, Charlene Ransom, Gail Stephens, Kelly Norwood, and C.C. Audrey.

The Omni Group is a newly formed group of artists.

For more details, please call 419.259.5392

Did you know? Nearly half of your Library's funding is generated from state dollars, the other half from property tax dollars. The recent 30 percent reduction in state library funding, coupled with a drop in property tax valuations, has caused a drastic \$7.4 million shortfall for 2010. To survive and provide service to our patrons, the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library has been forced to reduce hours, staff and Library materials. Thanks for your continued support.

## Bell Names Patrick McLean to Post of City Finance Director

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*



Toledo Mayor Mike Bell put in place the final major piece in his administration last week when he announced his choice for Finance Director. Patrick McLean, currently associate vice chancellor for Affordability and Efficiency for the Ohio Board of Regents, will be assuming the city post at a challenging time considering that the outgoing administration of Mayor Carty Finkbeiner has predicted a deficit of \$40 million for the 2010 fiscal year.

"I'm glad to have Patrick coming on board to join us, though I wish it were under

more fruitful circumstances," said Bell. "We face a great challenge in putting together a balanced budget that will preserve the city services our residents value. Patrick understands the need for a transparent process that accounts for citizen input and collaboration with our partners on City Council."

"It's a difficult role," said McLean. "But there are a couple of core philosophies the mayor has articulated – transparency, collaboration ... and continuous improvement ..."

McLean noted that he and his staff will look at such items energy efficiency, informa-

tion technology and purchasing, among other key areas, in which to save money.

"It's both a problem and a challenge," he said of the tasks ahead. "Some of the revenues that have decreased may not be coming back – that's the reality of what we may be living with. We've got to have a process which is inclusive. We'll present options and live with that."

As to the issue of raising taxes, Bell said that the administration will first look internally to make sure all is being done to balance the budget. "We can't go to the public for taxes until we've taken care of everything inside," said the mayor.

McLean is a native of Defiance, OH. Prior to his position with the Ohio Board of Regents, he served as chief financial officer in the Office of the Ohio Attorney General and has also served as chief of staff to the Ohio Senate Minority Caucus.

McLean has taught and designed courses in political science, philanthropy and global issues.

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Keep Dr. King's dream alive. Become a foster or adoptive parent through Lucas County Children Services.



419-213-3336  
[www.lucaskids.net](http://www.lucaskids.net)

## Belts Promote Pride, Self-Esteem and Success

Special to The Truth

On Friday, January 8, 2010, Jewel Chapter #20, O.E.S., Prince Hall Affiliate, Phi Delta Kappa Sorority, Inc. and the Toledo Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. joined in a partnership to provide approximately 50 belts to students at Marshall Elementary School, where Bulista Kimbrough is the principal. The groups hope this donation will encourage the boys to learn to wear their pants properly instead of sagging down.

Each of these community

organizations is dedicated to providing services to enhance the potential of all children for success, to develop self-esteem and a sense of pride in their achievements and appearance. Providing belts is just one way to bring about the accomplishments of these goals.

Delores M. Bates is the Worthy Matron and Ronald McClorine is the Worthy Patron of Jewel Chapter #20, O.E.S., Prince Hall Affiliate organized in 1895. Phi Delta Kappa Sorority, Inc. spearheaded this endeavor un-



Sharon Byersmith, Wanda Terrell, Clara Brank, Bulista Kimbrough, Denise Black-Poon, Lori Weidemon, Delores M. Bates, Barbara Tucker

der the chairmanship of Clara Brank, a teacher at Marshall Elementary School and a member of the three partnering organizations.

Phi Delta Kappa Sorority, Inc. is an Educational Teacher Sorority committed to educating and enlightening every student they can with sisterly smiles and a caring and sharing manner. The Toledo Club of the NANBPWC, Inc., founded in 1964, is dedicated to serving the community in the areas of health, education, employment and economic development. Under the

leadership of Wanda Terrell, President, the club provides many valuable services under the umbrella of these areas.

Also supporting the project were the many members of the three organizations who provided the belts. Other individuals present at the presentation of the belts were:

Denise Black-Poon, Toledo Club First Vice President, Barbara Tucker, North Central District Governor, Sharon Byersmith and Lori Weidemon, Parent Partners.

### The Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union

currently located at 1339 Dorr Street, has just launched their "Brick Campaign". The **TUFCU** has begun this campaign in an effort to raise funds for the new building which will be built at the corner of Detroit Avenue at Dorr Street. If you are interested in purchasing a "Brick" as a part of the campaign the prices are as follows:

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## A Triumph of Human Will: The Nonviolent Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.

By Geneva J. Chapman,  
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The King Holiday has become iconic for many African-Americans, representing the struggle for racial equality and real freedom in a nation that still held slaves after declaring its independence from a tyrannical power.

However, for many Americans, King Day is just another Monday holiday with little real meaning. Despite annual civic ceremonies and celebrations of King's life with recordings of his "I Have a Dream" speech blasting through the auditoriums of public schools, colleges, and universities, many Americans probably don't observe the day as anything more than a day off from work — provided they are lucky enough to work at a site that recognizes the holiday.

Those who do celebrate the holiday, often with great reverence and enthusiasm, see King as an almost messianic figure who has reached mythic proportions in the years since his death. Yet, the central ideology of his movement — nonviolent resistance — while employed by everyone from gay rights activists to anti-abortion, pro-life groups — seems lost on a generation as accustomed to school shootings and terrorists attacks as King's generation was to "whites only" signs on public restrooms and water fountains.

"Next week, the nation will celebrate (or merely acknowledge) the birthday of the most popular and prophetic protester of 20th century America — Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.," writes Sean Gonsalves. "And while the commercialized (let's all hold hands and sing "We Shall Overcome") image of Dr. King is praised from Cape Cod to California, collecting dust in the archives is an address the Gandhi apostle gave on April 4, 1967 — exactly one year before he was

assassinated during a campaign to help sanitation workers on strike in Memphis."

The speech Gonsalves refers to is not "I Have a Dream" or the famous "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech made the night before King's death. Gonsalves is talking about a speech called "A Time to Break Silence," given at Riverside Church in New York City. "True to his theological roots, King spoke out against what he considered to be an unjust and 'immoral war' in Vietnam," continues Gonsalves.

Although protest against the war seemed a logical progression for a movement based on nonviolent resistance, King's decision to speak out against the war was not without controversy.

However, despite his success in the Civil Rights Movement, King had already experienced opposition according to the African-American Almanac:

"In the north, King soon

discovered that young and angry blacks cared little for his pulpit oratory and even less for his solemn pleas for peaceful protest. Their disenchantment was clearly one of the factors influencing his decision to rally behind a new cause and stake out a fresh battleground: the war in Vietnam.

"Although his aim was to fuse a new coalition of dissent based on equal support for the peace crusade and the civil rights movement, King antagonized many civil rights leaders by declaring the United States to be 'the greatest purveyor of violence in the world.'

"The rift was immediate. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) saw King's shift of emphasis as 'a serious tactical mistake;' the Urban League warned that the 'limited resources' of the civil rights movement would be spread too thin; Ralph Bunche felt King was undertaking an impossible mission in trying to bring the campaign for peace in step with the goals of the civil rights movement.

"From the vantage point of history, King's timing could only be regarded as superb. As students, professors, intellectuals, clergymen and reformers of every stripe rushed into the movement, King turned his attention to the domestic issue which, in his view, was directly related to the Vietnam struggle: the War on Poverty.

"He threatened national boycotts and spoke of dis-

rupting entire cities by non-violent camp-ins. With this in mind, he began to draw up plans for a massive march of the poor on Washington D.C., itself." (The African-American Almanac, 7<sup>th</sup> edition, Gale, 1997)

The progression of Dr. King from preacher to civil rights leader to anti-war protester began in his youth. While at seminary King, became acquainted with Mohandas Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolent social protest. On a trip to India in 1959, King met with followers of Gandhi and during discussions with them, he became more convinced than ever that nonviolent resistance was the most potent weapon available to oppressed people in their struggle for freedom. His greatest living example of "a man of peace," as he had always believed Jesus to be was the humble Indian.

Gandhi's life and commitment to nonviolence unfolded before King like a tapestry, depicting in real life images a vision he had for his own life of service.

Wrote Lord Richard Attenborough who directed the Academy Award-winning film *Gandhi*:

"Mohandas K. Gandhi was born in 1869 to Hindu parents in the state of Gujarat in Western India. He entered an arranged marriage with Kasturba Mekanji when both were 13 years old. His family later sent him to London to study law, and in 1891 he was admitted to the Inner Temple and called to the bar.

"In Southern Africa he

worked ceaselessly to improve the rights of the immigrant Indians. It was there that he developed his creed of passive resistance against injustice, *Satyagraha*, meaning "truth force," and was frequently jailed as a result of the protests that he led. Before he returned to India with his wife and children in 1915, he had radically changed the lives of Indians living in Southern Africa.

"Back in India, it was not long before he was taking the lead in the long struggle for independence from Britain. He never wavered in his unshakable belief in nonviolent protest and religious tolerance. When Muslim and Hindu compatriots committed acts of violence, whether against the British who ruled India or against each other, he fasted until the fighting ceased.

"Independence, when it came in 1947, was not a military victory, but a triumph of human will." (*A Brief History of Mohandas K. Gandhi*, by Richard Attenborough)

King was duly impressed by Gandhi's successful use of nonviolent resistance and wanted to use a similar approach to ending the oppression of African-Americans in the South. "Dismissing the use of violence as both impractical and immoral, Martin Luther King, Jr. endorsed the method of nonviolent protest stating that this "mentally and spiritually aggressive" technique not only avoids "external physical violence," but "seeks to avoid internal violence [to the] spirit."

In his first book, *Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story*, King wrote that, "Gandhi was probably the first person in history to lift the love ethic of Jesus above mere interaction between individuals to a powerful and effective social force on a large scale." King affirmed his conviction that nonviolent resistance is "one of the most potent weapons available to oppressed people in their quest for social justice."

History had demonstrated to King the power and potential of nonviolence. Upon returning from India, King remarked that India and Gandhi had provided a template of social change, through nonviolent direct action for blacks in America. "I left India more convinced than ever before that nonviolent resistance was the most potent weapon available to oppressed people in their struggle for freedom. The way of acquiescence leads to moral and spiritual suicide. The way of violence leads to bitterness in the survivors and brutality in the destroyers. But the way of nonviolence leads to redemption and the creation of the beloved community. I returned to America with a greater determination to achieve freedom for my people through nonviolent means. As a result of my visit to India, my understanding of nonviolence became greater and my commitment deeper." ("Nonviolent Resistance," [www.stanford.edu](http://www.stanford.edu))

(Continued on Page 8)



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# Legacy

(Continued from Page 7)

Despite King's interest and theoretical commitment to nonviolent resistance, it was another African-American who provided the neophyte preacher with the necessary skills that enabled him to put the theories into practice and become a truly non-violent protester. Forty-four-year-old Quaker Bayard Rustin, the unheralded hero of the civil rights movement, became one of King's most influential and powerful allies and mentors.

Wrote Buss Haughton: "Although Bayard Rustin was one of the most important leaders of the American civil rights movement from the advent of its modern period in the 1950s until well into the 1980s, his name was seldom mentioned; he received comparatively little press or media attention, and others' names were usually much more readily associated with the movement than his was. His was a behind-the-scenes role that, for all its importance, never garnered Rustin the public acclaim he deserved.

"In 1956, Rustin was approached to provide Dr. Mar-



tin Luther King with some practical advice on how to apply Gandhian principles to nonviolence to the boycott of public transportation then taking shape in Montgomery, Alabama" (*Bayard Rustin, Civil Right Leader*, by Buss Haughton, 1999.)

King had previous academic exposure to Gandhi but, according to Rustin biographer Jervis Anderson, it was Rustin who prevailed on King to dispense with armed guards and to embrace non-violent action as the trademark of the budding movement. It was also Rustin who forged links to radicals in the

North. There was always nervousness among King's advisors about Rustin's communist past and his homosexuality, but his organizing skills and political savvy proved indispensable. According to Anderson, Rustin "conceived and charted" the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, along with Ella Baker and Stanley Levison. This was to serve as the organizational mechanism for King's ascent to national prominence.

Over the next decade, Rustin remained a close advisor to King, especially dur-

ing moments of crisis." ("Bayard Rustin and the Rise and Decline of the Black Protest Movement," Stephen Steinberg, *New Politics*, Summer 1997)

"Arguably, the high point of Bayard Rustin's political career was the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom which took place on August 28, 1963, the place of Dr. Martin Luther King's stirring 'I Have a Dream' speech. Rustin was by all accounts the March's chief architect. To devise a march of at least one-quarter of a million participants and to coordinate the various sometimes fractious civil rights organizations that played a part in it was a Herculean feat of mobilization." (Haughton)

Rustin provided King with the tools, but it was King who built the movement. His strategies are spelled out in the encyclopedic entry from

www.stanford.edu: "In King's 'Letter from a Birmingham Jail,' he laid out the four basic steps within a campaign using nonviolent direct action: (1) collection of facts to determine whether injustices are alive; (2) negotiation; (3) self-purification; (4) direct action. Through these steps, King concluded, the necessary level of constructive nonviolent tension would be created.

"Nonviolent direct action seeks to create such crises and establish such creative tension that a community that has constantly refused to negotiate is forced to confront the issue. It seeks to dramatize the case that can no longer be ignored," King wrote.

"In Birmingham and Albany, protesters trained in the discipline of nonviolent resistance responded to the violence of police dogs, Billy

clubs and fire hoses with nonviolence. Their refusal to react violently aided the cause, creating a crisis in Birmingham and creating moral indignation throughout the world."

It was this resolve and resistance that King brought to his protests against the war in Vietnam. In his speech, "A Time to Break Silence," King addresses those who questioned his anti-war stance. "Why are you speaking about war, Dr. King? Why are you joining the voices of dissent? Peace and civil rights don't mix, they say."

On January 16, 2004, J. William T. Youngs, a history professor at Eastern Washington University, recalled hearing a speech King gave at Berkeley in May 1967. "King began slowly, arguing that the Vietnam War was wrong in itself and wrong also

(Continued on Page 9)

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## Legacy

(Continued from Page 8)

because it got in the way of efforts to fight poverty and discrimination. [His words] resonate today. 'We are on the side of the wealthy and the secure,' King said, 'while we create a hell for the poor.' And so Halliburton overcharges \$61 million for oil shipments to Iraq, and wealthy Americans enjoy huge tax breaks while social programs languish. And how could King have known almost four decades ago how we would trivialize France, Germany, and the entire United Nations with bogus claims about weapons of mass destruction in 2003? Here is what he said in 1967: 'Americans are forcing even their friends into becoming their enemies. It is curious that the Americans, who calculate so carefully on the possibilities of military victory do not realize that in the process they are incurring deep psychological and political defeat.' Remembering that moment thirty-six years ago, when Martin Luther King spoke these very words at Berkeley, I still recall being transfixed by his presence. I still remember his amazing conviction. I still remember seeing the actual sweat on the actual brows of that good, great man. 'Now it should be incandescently clear,' King said, 'that no one who has any concern for the integrity and life of America today can ignore the present war. If America's soul becomes totally poisoned, part of the autopsy must read 'Vietnam.'" Alas, today, as we Americans accept so sheepishly the news that we were led so dishonestly to war in the Middle East, Martin Luther King would likely say, "If America's soul becomes totally poisoned, part of the autopsy must read 'Iraq.'"

What would Dr. King's thoughts be on the war in Iraq? Would he feel the same way about the "war on terrorism" that he felt about the "war on communism" in Southeast Asia?

"In an era where a federal holiday has served to both commemorate and sanitize the history of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., white America has forgotten just how radical and controversial a figure he was in his time," writes Geov Parrish in a January 2004 article for WorkingForChange.com titled, "Martin Luther King: Terrorist?"

Parrish makes his point graphically. "Let's not mince words. Were Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. alive today, he would be at risk for being imprisoned indefinitely, without charges or access to le-

gal counsel, as an 'enemy combatant.' He would be decried by powerful figures inside and outside government as, at worst, a domestic terrorist, at best a publicity seeking menace whose criticisms of America gave comfort to our unseen enemies. King would not have the opportunity to engage in repeated nonviolent civil disobediences. Media would be quickly bored by the spectacles; a nation accustomed to police violence against protesters yawns at the tanks, rubber bullets, chemical weapons, and 'preventive' arrests now commonly used against those who employ the same tactics King himself once used. The felony charges against King would put him away for years – if he were allowed to stand trial at all. The powerful black religious networks that produced King and so many other courageous civil rights leaders would be attacked by federal prosecutors as providing financial support for terrorism. Church groups' tax exemptions would be lifted; records would be seized. Charges would be brought, perhaps under federal RICO statutes or Patriot Act provisions. The FBI harassment that hounded King throughout his career would today be fiercer and subject to no judicial oversight."

Perhaps Parrish is right. It is merely speculation that King would even protest the war in Iraq. However, given his commitment to nonviolent resistance and his historic anti-Vietnam war activities at the end of his life, it is very likely that he would be part of the peace movement today.

Those last years of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life and political career rarely get mentioned in the many celebrations that take place in his memory.

Jeff Cohen and Norman Solomon made the following observations about King's treatment by the media:

"It's become a TV ritual: every year in mid-January, around the time of Martin Luther King's birthday, we get perfunctory network news reports about 'the slain civil rights leader.' The remarkable thing about this annual review of King's life is that several years – his last years – are totally missing. What TV viewers see is a closed loop of familiar file footage: King battling desegregation in Birmingham (1963); reciting his dream of racial harmony at the rally in Washington (1963); marching for voting rights in Selma, Alabama (1965); and, finally,



lying dead on the motel balcony in Memphis (1968).

"An alert viewer might notice that the chronology jumps from 1965 to 1968. Yet King did not take a sabbatical near the end of his life. In fact, he was speaking and organizing as diligently as ever. Almost all of those speeches were filmed or taped. But they're not shown on TV. Why?

"It's because national news media have never come to terms with what Martin Luther King, Jr. stood for during his final years. In the early 1960s, when King focused his challenge on legalized racial discrimination in the South, most major media were his allies.

"Network TV and national publications graphically showed the police dogs and bullwhips and cattle prods used against Southern blacks who sought the right to vote or to eat at a public lunch counter. But after passage of civil rights acts in 1964 and 1965, King began challenging the nation's fundamental priorities. He maintained that civil rights laws were empty without 'human rights' – including economic rights.

"By 1967, King had also become the country's most prominent opponent of the Vietnam War. You haven't heard the 'Beyond Vietnam' speech on network news retrospectives, but national media heard it loud and clear back in 1967 – and loudly denounced it.

"Time magazine called it 'demagogic slander that sounded like a script for Radio Hanoi.' The Washington Post patronized that "King has diminished his usefulness to his cause, his country, his people."

"In his last months, King was organizing the most militant project of his life: the Poor People's Campaign. He crisscrossed the country to assemble "a multiracial army of the poor" that would descend on Washington – engaging in nonviolent civil disobedience at the Capitol, if need be – until Congress enacted a poor people's bill of rights. Reader's Digest

warned of an 'insurrection.'

"King's economic bill of rights called for massive government jobs programs to rebuild America's cities. He saw a crying need to confront a Congress that had demonstrated its 'hostility to the poor' – appropriating 'military funds with alacrity and generosity,' but providing "poverty funds with miserliness." How familiar that sounds today." ("The Martin Luther King You Don't See on TV," by Jeff Cohen and Norman Solomon, 1995).

No, there won't be any youths reciting King's speeches protesting the Vietnam War or speculation about how things might

have changed in this country had the Poor People's March taken place in 1968, but there are those who remember all of King's life, including those years we never talk about on King Day.

"This year, even more than in the past, it has become essential to remember that King did far more than have a dream. Along with Mohandas Gandhi, he was one of the two most internationally revered symbols of nonviolence in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. King is not a legend because he believed in diversity trainings and civic ceremonies. He is remembered because he took serious risks and, as the Quakers

say, spoke truth to power. Unfortunately, we don't hear his powerful indictment of poverty, the Vietnam War, and the military-industrial complex. Today, as American soldiers fight two major wars on the far side of the world, and the U.S. military wades quietly into a half dozen more – all in non-white countries – they're more timely than ever. But it's not likely we'll hear much on the networks of King pronouncing the spiritual death of a country that would spend so much to kill and so little to help people live. That's a little too touchy nowadays." (Parrish)

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For more information please call the Board of Community Relations at 419-245-1565.

## Tilting To The White

By *Ajamu Dillahunt*  
Guest Column



From the stern way that President Obama dismissed the Congressional Black Caucus last month, you'd think the CBC had insisted that every last dollar of job-creation money go to African Americans.

And from the way some conservative pundits responded (columnist Michelle Malkin, for instance, called it a "shake down"), you'd think the CBC had demanded that the Secret Service round up white folks and force them to empty their bank accounts and hand the money over to black folks.

But of course they didn't. The Congressional Black Caucus made the very reasonable suggestion that 10 percent of the stimulus be targeted to the poorest urban areas, where so many African-Americans live. Given that African-Americans are about 13 percent of the US population, 10 percent is a pretty modest request.

Yes, people of all races are suffering mightily in the

Great Recession, the worst in 25 years. One in eight families receives food stamps now. But as our grandmothers used to say, when whites catch a cold, blacks catch pneumonia. December's white unemployment rate of 9 percent is bad, though better than November's; but the black and Latino rates jumped to the devastating levels of 16.2 percent and 12.9 percent, a 27-year high.

Families survive unemployment better or worse depending on how much of a cushion they have. African-American and Latino families entered the recession with a dangerously low median net worth, according to a new report by United for a Fair Economy, The State of the Dream 2010. In 2007, the typical black household had a net worth of \$17,100; the typical Latino family had \$21,000; and the typical white family had \$170,400. In other words, blacks had a dime of assets for every white dollar.

African-Americans have gotten less than their share of every federal benefit since the Homestead Act handed out land to white settlers in 1865; since Social Security was set up to exclude domestic and agricultural workers; and since the Urban Renewal program of the 1960s was nicknamed "Negro Removal" because it replaced torn-down white apartments but rarely black apartments.

But with the first black president, and with a Democratic majority swept into office by high black voter turn-out, we would expect better than this tilt to the white.

It goes without saying that the recent Wall Street bailout saved the jobs of a bunch of rich white men. And of course letting the estate tax expire was a big giveaway to mostly white multimillionaire heirs, since African-Americans are 34 times less likely to die with the \$3.5 million needed to trigger that most progressive of all taxes.

But even the aid for Main Street favors less-needy whites. By asking states for "shovel-ready" infrastructure projects, the President steered the money towards laid-off construction workers, disproportionately white men who recently had good jobs, rather than to human services and other more diverse occupations. The Associated Press reviewed more than 5,500 transportation projects using federal stimulus money, and found that 50 percent more per person will be spent in the lowest-unemployment places than in the communities that need the jobs most.

By boycotting a key Financial Services Committee vote, the CBC got \$6 billion for black communities added to two bills. Six billion may sound like a lot of money, but it's just one

percent the size of the TARP financial bailout.

When President Obama didn't refuse Van Jones's resignation, when he didn't contest the smokescreen charges of flakey-petition-signing and swear-words, he took a dangerous step back from the goal Jones had championed: targeting the new "green jobs" for the urban poor.

A fair jobs policy would not have to explicitly spell out race-equity; literal racial quotas might be controversial enough to kill a bill. But as the 2009 "Put America to Work Act" proposed, it could require the government to target job-creation spending to communities with the highest unemployment rates, or to the workers who have been jobless for the longest time.

President Obama has acknowledged the existence of structural racism. He knows that poor people of color face additional obstacles that poor whites don't have to deal with.

But when he told the CBC that all he "can do for the African-American community is the same thing [he] can do for the American community, period," he was operating as if he believed the tired, old, color-blind myth that general anti-poverty programs will reach every group in need. Only by affirmatively targeting the communities pushed backwards by historic racial injustice will recovery efforts reach everyone.

*Ajamu Dillahunt, coauthor of "The State of the Dream 2010: Drained, Jobless and Foreclosed in Communities of Color," is a board member of United for a Fair Economy and the Outreach Coordinator at the North Carolina Justice Center.*

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**Book Review**

**Martin Luther King by Godfrey Hodgson**

c.2009, University of Michigan Press \$22.95 / \$24.49 Canada 249 pages

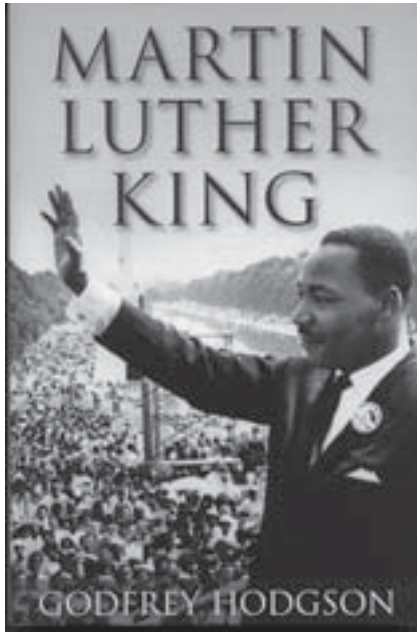
**Legacy of Secrecy by Lamar Waldron with Thom Hartmann**

c.2009, Counterpoint Press \$24.95 / \$31.50 Canada 923 pages

**Through It All by Christine King Farris**

c.2009, Atria \$15.00 / \$19.99 Canada 257 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor



Interestingly, Hodgson, who met Dr. King several times during the Civil Rights years, also goes further by giving readers a sense of the aftermath in the years following that day in April, 1968.

And speaking of that day, *Legacy of Secrecy* by Lamar Waldron with Thom Hartmann is a brick of a book (over 800 pages) that asserts that the King assassination was part of a years-long conspiracy.

Based on heavy research, interviews and by combing documents in the National Archives, the authors say that John F. Kennedy's death was the work of mob bosses who opposed his work to end organized crime.

Waldron and Hartmann also believe that they've uncovered inarguable evidence to prove that Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr. were likewise assassinated on orders from the Mafia, and that ongoing political and international reasons have kept the truth from being told.

He might be the elderly man, gnarled hands caressing a pencil as he tutors a child in need of more math skills.

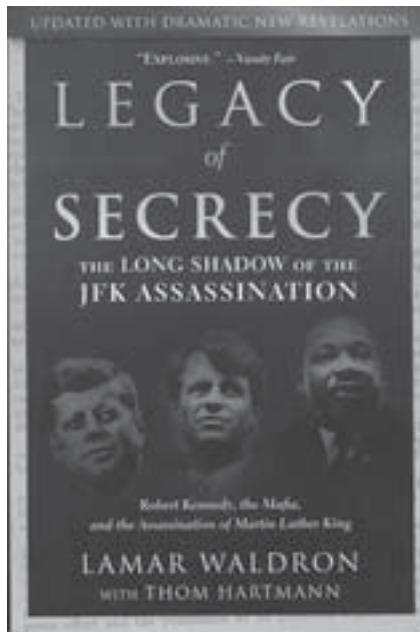
She may be a fresh-faced nurse with a gentle touch, giving comfort to someone at the end of life. Or maybe he's a child who stands up to bullies or who donates her birthday presents to kids who have nothing.

Heroes come in all shapes and sizes, and this month, we celebrate the birthday of one giant: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. By reading about his life, you can learn more about his death, his works, and his personal story outside his actions.

I was quite impressed with *Martin Luther King* by Godfrey Hodgson, perhaps because it's penned by a British biographer and journalist who writes about American politics.

This easy-to-read book broadly covers the Civil Rights Movement and Dr. King's work, both politically and socially. Hodgson

includes some of King's early background in his biography, of course, but the focus is on what happened between King's early influence and his assassination.



Will we ever know what really happened? The authors think they do but it's up to you to decide for yourself. Is what they say



is proof or just another conspiracy theory? This book – which includes extensive notes and sources – may surprise you and it may change your opinion.

And finally, a treasure: *Through It All* by Christine King Farris, author, teacher and Dr. King's sister.

In this wonderful, personal memoir, Christine King Farris writes about her life and her recollections. She tells personal stories of her brother as a child; of their beloved parents and the horrible death

of their mother; of places, people who set Dr. King on an early path; and of faith, friends and family.

I liked this book, partly because of the warmth it contains, partly because it's a different look at Dr. King's life, and partly because of the pictures packed inside.

If you're looking to celebrate or quietly contemplate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., you can't go wrong with a book about him. Pick up these books or any others and learn more about this American hero.

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## Lima's Treasure Company Is an Award-Winning Enterprise

By Sharon Guice  
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Sarah Ricks Treasure Company LLC is the creative idea of a young and upcoming 24-year-old student attending Bluffton University in Bluffton, Ohio.

It was a great surprise to Ricks in May 2008 when she won the Chamber of Commerce Award for Culturally Diverse Business of the Year Award for her custom gift baskets. She did not know she had won until it was revealed at the award ceremony.

Ricks has an uncle, George Ricks, who was nominated for the same award and she was amazed she won because she believed her uncle would surely be the winner of the award. Still to

day she does not know the name of the person nominating her for the award.

Ricks loves to give her basket gifts to family and friends. When she had to do a class presentation in high school for a business idea in 2002 producing a product for sale as part of a Propaganda technique of marketing, naturally she turned to her custom gift basket for the project.

The first basket Ricks sold was created with the help of her younger sister Elisabeth. A custom basket was created for a teacher to celebrate an anniversary and birthday. The basket included jewelry, gardening utensils, seeds, flowers and words of encouragement, gor-

geously wrapped with a big pretty ribbon.

After selling this gift to a teacher and receiving the comments and appreciation from others who saw her baskets, Ricks began to take other teachers' orders for baskets. The business began to grow as the word spread about her baskets.

Although Ricks was selling her baskets, she did not let her friends and family in on the business at first. She was encouraged by her mother, Diane, who eventually found out about the baskets but Diane remained firm about Ricks completing her education and getting a degree.

Ricks is working on a double major. She is majoring in business admin-

istration with a marketing concentration. She is also writing and pursuing a minor degree in English. Ricks will graduate from Bluffton College in May 2010.

The 2010 plans for Ricks include building new relationships and partnering with other businesses from networking at a Gift Basket Conference she attended in Columbus, Ohio. At this conference she was taught marketing techniques to project sales.

Ricks' future plans for her business include a store-front location and supporting the community through sponsorship. She also enjoys encouraging other small businesses that they can do it too. She will use her business administration degree to help other businesses learn and understand the needs of customers and how to communicate that in a simple way.

At the online business you will find Ricks' display of pre-designed baskets with categories of gourmet chocolates, meats/seafood, cookies and cheese cakes. Themed gifts of spa bas-

kets, novelty, corporate gifts, infant and toddler, his and her, and children gifts. There are also occasion gifts for birthday, anniversary, get well, condolence, thank you and weddings. And you will find special theme baskets, towers of candy, fruit baskets, and diabetic gifts and kosher gifts, jewelry and fresh flowers and even wine baskets. You name it, you can find it on the website.

If by some chance you can not find exactly what you are looking for, then contacting Ricks will be the next best thing to putting together a gift that will meet your need to offer a great gift basket filled with items that is sure to please the recipient of your thoughts of love towards them.

It's not all about school and work for Ricks. She also enjoys other hobbies of reading and learning new things. She says you can pick up a book and learn in a couple hours what it has taken someone else their life time to learn.

She loves to play games such as UNO, Scrabble, Spades, Wii, bowling and

tennis. She understands being around family and friends helps her to stay on top of life to achieve her goals and have fun while doing it.

Ricks' website [sarahrickstreasurecompany.com](http://sarahrickstreasurecompany.com) is where you can locate the pre-designed gift baskets. If you cannot find what you desire on the website, you can contact Ricks at 419-516-8343 and she will be glad to design a custom basket for you, a loved one or your business.

From the online business, gift baskets are sent directly to your home or business or the gift recipient.

Ricks thanks the Lima community and the Allen County Chamber of Commerce for all of their support. A lot of people have encouraged her giving her advice and rooting for the success of her business. "It has been good", she states.

You can look for Ricks and her creative baskets at the upcoming Black Achiever Unity Day Expo on February 27, 2010 at The Ohio State University and Rhodes State College Campus in Lima, Ohio.



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# Illuminati In Hip-Hop?? (Part one)

By Michael Hayes  
Minister of Culture



I won't waste any time, so let me start off by saying that I think this is the most ridiculous madness that I've ever seen brainwash so many so quickly.

In the last year or so there has been a blaze of videos, blogs and commentary online about the supposedly dark and occult allegiances of some of hip-hop music's biggest and most successful stars.

Videos, song lyrics and even logos have been seemingly deciphered by a group of internet wack jobs and washed-up pseudo-intellectual former music industry insiders.

The guilty parties: all hip-hop moguls, along with Rihanna and Beyonce.

One of the claims being made is that Jay Z, Diddy and 50 Cent have a monopoly on the upper echelons of the rap world and they are keeping their power consolidated and have taken blood oaths to lock down the industry so no one else can get to their level. Which, honestly, who cares?

The record sales and business climate that catapulted them to the level they enjoy won't likely ever return. The amount of success they've had won't probably be replicated anytime soon anyway because the climate is different.

Any idiot could tell you that.

Some of the more disturbing charges being made is that Jay Z is trying to lead millions of listeners down the dark path of satanic worship.

Wow. Just as I'm writing these words I'm going back and forth reading some articles people have written on this subject and just... wow!

So, hey, I'm something like a writer. If you don't mind I would like to address this in my opinion. Walk with me.

### HOW IRONIC?

In high school in the mid 90's, I was one of the East Coast conscious hip-hop/neo soul back packer types. I can tell you first hand, it was hip-hop itself that informed the un-educated masses on the REAL illuminati.

Wu Tang, Nas, De La Soul and others were the ones

TEACHING us (which is a hip-hop principle followed by most of the accused). These artists TAUGHT us to look at the symbolism in our currency, to look at the bogus political system of our nation, to look at how we have had our history stripped from us.

It was hip-hop that taught us what the true illuminati were all about. They warned us.

I'm thankful for the five percent references from Erykah Badu, songs like "Mathematics" by Mos Def and the anti-corporate stance of dead prez.

The conscious music fan has been aware of secret societies and unseen forces behind our society. If you are someone with a collection of Nas or Erykah Badu or WuTang, chances are this new popular topic of illuminati is not so new to you.

Like most students of conscious hip-hop, I spent years researching the jewels being dropped by my favorite industry heavyweights.

The Rothschilds blood line, shadow government, undercover super-secret rituals of high-ranking officials, and even the line wear RZA spit about the government putting microchips in the earlobes of new born babies back in the 90's.

A lot of us have already been hip to the real devious acts of the real evil doers. And we have hip-hop to thank for that awareness.

### ISSUCCESS IN MUSIC GOOD OR BAD?

One of the claims being made is that you need a blood sacrifice in order to sell a lot of records or attain higher levels of success. But is selling

records selling your soul?

The Fugees sophomore album, *The Score*, was and always will be an underground hip-hop album that managed to sell over 15 million copies worldwide.

That album was ANTI-establishment.

Come on...they publicly called racist cops BEASTS! I love it!

Talib Kweli said it best on his visit here to UT shortly after I graduated: "if you don't want to be commercial, don't put a price on your music."

He told the crowd that hip-

But Soulja Boy has more influence over hip-hop's younger listeners than any of the people supposedly involved in the secret music occult.

Jay Z routinely tells listeners to not sell drugs, think through their decisions and don't let money and fame overtake their spirit. Listen to his songs, you know all of those elements are there.

Soulja Boy accepts an award at a B.E.T. event and publicly thanks his slavemasters.

Now you tell me who is doing more damage to young

Because it seems to me that we all cheer for them as they are pushing their way up that mountain top but as soon as they get to the peak of the mountain top, we are finding ways to push them off. Which is self hatred, but that's a deeper issue perhaps for another time.

Jay Z, Diddy, Russell and other moguls have employed thousands upon thousands of young minorities, donated millions to charities and served as positive examples of how to mix the worlds of artistry and business all while telling the stories of young black American reality. Their success inspires us all.

They have done this for over a decade. Would you rather they never existed?

Do you feel we'd be better off if they never reached the level of power they currently hold? Oh I get it, you can't get what you want so somehow it's their fault.

Smh@that.

### RAP MUSIC HAS MORE NEGATIVE INFLUENCE IN THE 1990'S THAN IT DOES NOW

In the 1990's there was a short period where a new form of hip-hop emerged.

It was called Horror Core. At one point it was just about

who could say the sickest most distorted rhymes. But it became a way for rappers with truly satanic messages to influence fans.

The shock and awe element of this sub-genre appealed to upstart rhyme spitters like Eminem, Three 6 Mafia and other future rap heavyweights who only briefly associated themselves with this sub-genre.

But people like Esham, Necro and Brotha Lynch Hung chose to perfect this style of music and make a career out of psychotic episodes set to hip-hop tracks.

Honestly, I believe in freedom of expression so even though I could never listen to two minutes of this crap, I recognize its right to exist the same way that death metal is a sub-genre of rock. If a bunch of death metal artists can talk about drinking blood, then why not let some dumb-ass rapper call himself Brotha Lynch Hung.

I won't be buying it or listening to it, so who cares. However, I do find it ridiculous that Jay Z has been targeted as a rapper using some kind of secretly-coded call to satanic worship to influence fans while an entire sub-genre full of rappers have

(Continued on Page 14)



hop music is commercial. All music is commercial as soon as you want to charge a price for it. But the problem is when people sell out in order to make a profit and make music that's not who they truly are.

So it is possible to make money making music and still succeed without selling your soul.

With all of the hundreds of millions of dollars that Jay Z is worth.

Add that to the hundreds of millions of dollars that Diddy, Russell Simmons and 50 Cent are worth - ask yourself, how much harm are they doing to their listeners?

Soulja Boy is not a mogul.





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# CLASSIFIEDS

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**Marchelle Gregory and Family Celebrate 60<sup>th</sup> at Dexter's**

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*



Chana Crayton, Marchelle Gregory, Shaun Reid, Fairie Woods

Marchelle Gregory's family helped her celebrate her 60<sup>th</sup> birthday in grand style at Dexter's Jamaican Club on Friday, January 8.

Among the guests were her children, Fairie Woods, Chana Crayton and Shawn Reid; her husband Orion Gregory; sister Melinda Shands; brothers Tim and Fred Reid and a host of nephews, nieces and grandchildren.



Marchelle Gregory and family

children, who organized the event, have fond memories of the establishment. They still try to eat there once a week. And with a celebration that included curried chicken and goat, red beans and rice and oxtails, what's not to remember fondly?

For Gregory, as she enters her seventh decade and the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, these next years will be a time to travel and to give back to the community. Giving back, say her children, is her passion.

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School in 1968. She earned an undergraduate degree from The University of Toledo in criminal justice and for many years worked for the Ohio Lottery, retiring in 1995. She has been a Notary Public for 30 years. Why Dexter's? Gregory raised her family in the neighborhood and her



Melinda Shands, Orion Gregory, Marchelle Gregory, Tim Reid, Fred Reid

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**The Question Is: Would You Marry You?**

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

*Would You Marry You?* is both the title and the question James C. Wadley, Ph.D., asks in his book examining the relationship that you have with yourself.

A native Toledoan and graduate of Rogers High School, Wadley, who now lives in the Philadelphia area, returned home last weekend as the guest of the Arts & Letters Committee of the Toledo Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

The sorority held a literary event – book signing and discussion – with the author at Calvino's Restaurant on W. Central Avenue on Saturday, January 9. The free event on the second floor of the restaurant attracted dozens of sorority members and guests to meet the former Toledo resident.

Wadley, a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. earned his undergrada-



ate degree from Hampton University, his master's in education from the University of Kentucky and his doctorate in education from the University of Pennsylvania. *Would You Marry You?* asks you, the reader, over 200 questions about the relationship you have with yourself and presents the conversations that you have with yourself, your friends and your

family. Sorors Phyllis Wadley and Karen Sherman-Sorina organized the weekend event. The book can be ordered online by logging onto [www.authorhouse.com](http://www.authorhouse.com) to learn more about the book and the author, visit [www.drjameswadley.com](http://www.drjameswadley.com).