



Local and National News

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Volume 17, No.25

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

April 21, 2010



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The Ancestor

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, D.Min.
The Truth Contributor



Our struggle is also a struggle of memory against forgetting. – Freedom Charter (South Africa)

Last week's passing of Rev. Benjamin L. Hooks and the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in Raleigh, N.C. not only symbolically affirmed the generational passing of the torch of black leadership but also provides an opportunity to visit yesterday's struggle to gain insight for today and tomorrow.

SNCC began in 1960, emerging from campus-based sit-ins started by college students in the South who were protesting racial segregation and whites-only public accommodations. Benjamin Hooks served as president of the NAACP during the 12-year reign of presidents Reagan and G.H.W. Bush.

Passionate about the cause of civil rights enough to die for it, SNCC's members faced violence, vicious dogs and lynchings in order to achieve voting rights. Hooks, a minister and pastor, piloted the movement at a time when Reagan strongly and publicly professed the Christian faith, characterizing his presidency as "an opportunity to serve God," after symbolically beginning his 1980 presidential campaign in Philadelphia, Mississippi, the site of the brutal 1964 Ku Klux Klan murders of three young civil rights workers supporting voting rights for blacks. Reagan also instituted countless other cruel policies which clearly reflected a pattern of heartless un-Christian assaults upon the needy and vulnerable.

With an African-American population of which more than half were born after the landmark civil rights legislation of 1965, how can we catalyze the next movement and equip a new generation with a similar sense of purpose that inspires ideals worth dying for?

There are several challenges.

Since the Civil Rights Movement there has been an increased diversity among blacks as a group. All blacks don't dwell in the inner-city and everyone residing in the urban community is not black. With gaps in socio-economic status and wide variations in the political interests within the community it is difficult to mobilize the entire community around specific issues. Instead, building coalitions across racial boundaries is required rather than relying exclusively on race-based political strategies.

Also, the success of integration has provided a few of us with new "platinum chains." As a result, we have been hesitant to address controversial issues that originate inside rather than outside the black community such as immoral or incompetent black leadership, black on black crime, domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, prison, welfare and other issues that mainly affect the marginalized and stigmatized.

Another challenge lies in the failure of our black institutions and churches to commit the attention and resources for substantive leadership mentoring/development and to take recruitment and outreach to where young people are – the streets, schools or universities and colleges.

The question is: In this new diverse and integrated society, what can we bring out of the treasures of the past to face – not the vicious dogs of racist Southern police but rather our own vicious dogs attacking ourselves AND the police; the unfinished business of widespread poverty, illiteracy, a cradle to prison pipeline and widening racial disparities?

Today's generation, having been shaped by social and political forces different from those forged by the civil rights struggle, cannot avoid crossing cultural boundaries. But if diversity is going to be legitimate, black culture should not have to disappear in order to come into contact with other cultures. "Real diversity must maintain a strength of presence so that each culture can participate with equal status and effect."

Homer Ashby, PhD, writes, "There is a new double consciousness that African Americans must have. DuBois described African Americans with two conflicting identities – one American and one Negro. For African Americans in the 21st century the two cultural identities consist of one in diversity with other cultures and one diverse in its common cultural expression."

These do not conflict with each other but require discernment and the strength to navigate between the two cultural realities without getting lost or shipwrecked, adds Ashby.

Finally, we must understand that the exercise of education is never neutral, being either engaged in conforming young minds to accept and maintain the status quo or it is empowering and liberating, teaching youth to participate in transforming their world. Therefore the community must be willing to educate its own rather than depending exclusively upon the schools for education.

A story told by Renita Weems, PhD, is about the great wise man, the Ancestor. The Ancestor was dying and sent for his children. "I have acted as intercessor for you, and now when I am gone you must do it yourselves. You know the place in the forest where I call to God? Stand there in that place and do the same. You know how to light the fire, and how to say the prayer. Do all these things and God will come to see about you."

After the Ancestor died, the first generation faced trouble and did exactly as he had instructed. And sure enough, God came to their rescue. But by the second generation, the people had forgotten how to light the fire exactly the way the Ancestor had taught. Yet, when times got difficult they remembered the special place in the forest and said the prayer, and sure enough, God came.

By the third generation, the people had forgotten how to light the fire, and forgotten exactly where the place in the forest was. But they spoke the prayer, and, sure enough God came.

By the fourth generation, everyone had forgotten how to build the fire, and no one knew any longer just where in the forest one was supposed to stand, and finally the exact words to the prayer itself could not be remembered. But one person in their midst still remembered the story about it all, and stood one day in the midst of battle and recounted the story of it all to the rest (the story of the Ancestor, the forest, the fire, the prayer). And, sure enough, God came.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, D.Min, at drdperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org

Community Calendar

April 23

St. Paul MBC: Monthly Faith Friday; 7 pm; Speakers Min Clyde Kynard from worship Center and Min. Sherry Galloway from Rhema Word
Bethesda Christian Center Cathedral: Pre-church anniversary service; 7 pm: 419-810-0505

April 23-24

Project S.A.F.E. "Holiness Word of Power" Conference: Greater New Psalmist Church; Guest speakers Pastor Andre Cranford of Michigan, Rev. Pat McKinstry of worship Center, Lady Kathi Pitts of Cornerstone

April 24

Warren AME Church Health Fair: Sponsored by Faith in Motion Fitness; 10 am to 2 pm; Free screenings – blood pressure, cholesterol, glucose and vision; Comp massages; Free healthy lunch: 419-266-1065

Social Dance (Community Health Fair): Reynolds Recreation Center; 7 to 11 pm; Screenings, dance and stepping lessons by Mind, body and Soul: 877-291-1441

Phillips Temple CME "Taste of the Rainbow Tea:" 4 pm; Fellowship, food and entertainment; Pre-Women's Day event

Citywide Christian Trustee Association Meeting: United MBC; 10 am

YMCA/JCC and UT Present Healthy Kids Day: Free day of activities, nutrition information and giveaways; South YMCA at the Morse Center, UT Health Science Campus; Noon to 3 pm: www.ymcatoledo.org

NAOMI Transitional House "Women of Grace Moving Forward:" 11 am; Friendship Baptist Church; Guest speaker Margaret Harrington of MI Chapter of Sisters' Network: 419-343-1726 or 419-304-2733

April 25

Union Grove MBC 35th Pastoral Anniversary: Pastor J.L. Spears and First Lady Laura Spears; 4 pm; Guests Rev. William Holmes and First Baptist Church of Fremont: 419-243-4908

Temple of Praise Community Church: Jean Sunday Friends & Family Service Day; 11 am; Winterfield Academy: 419-754-0325

April 30-May 1

13th Annual Marriage Retreat: New Covenant Church; "Divine Design: A Fit Made in Heaven:" 419-262-0533 or 419-726-6836

May 1

Family & Friends – Adult and Child CPR Training: C & C Health Services; Three sessions – 9 to 11:30 am, Noon to 2:30 pm, 3 to 5:30 pm; The Body of Christ Fellowship Church: 419-464-8586 or 419-917-4881

Semi-annual Perennial Plant Exchange: Original Sub Shop; 8:30 plant dropoff; 9:15 am community gardening workshop; 10 to 11:30 am free plant exchange: 419-243-4857

Richard Health Systems Health Fair: 5237 Renwyck Dr; 10 am to 2 pm: 419-534-2371

Phillips Temple CME Church "Girlfriend Luncheon:" 11 am; "What Every Woman Needs to Know: Self Defense Techniques, Health Care Power, Health Awareness, Saving for Now;" Pre-women's Day event: 419-283-9836

May 2

United MBC 7th Pastoral Anniversary: For Rev. and First Lady Bass

May 8

West Toledo Bereavement Support Ministry: Bethlehem Baptist Church; 10 am: 419-867-2122 or westtoledobereavement@email.toast.net

May 9

"The Fantasticks:" Musical play by the Village Players to benefit the Monroe Street Neighborhood Center and Toledo Campus Ministry; Reception at 1, curtain at 2: 419-473-1167

The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's Truthful African-American
Owned and Operated Newspaper

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Tea Party: White Folks Behaving Badly ...

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq. Guest Column



The way these tea baggers are behaving you would think that they have had no home training as to civility and manners.

I guess that I am one of those persons who expected more of educated white folks than to see them prancing around in the streets calling Obama's administration, a "gangsta administration" and comparing him to Hitler and being a fascist dictator.

They have called him every name but a child of God and with the images of poster board drawings of sniper scopes trained on the White House and Obama being compared to Hitler, one can reasonably believe that another "hot issue" could cause one of these tea baggers to

suffer martyrdom and do a bombing ala Timothy McVeigh (remember Oklahoma City?).

Timothy McVeigh would be a staunch tea bagger if he were still alive. He would also be hyperventilating at the images of Obama being caricatured as a clear and present danger to the future of the USA.

When you continuously mock and debase someone with stereotypical attacks on his morals or character, it is not a far stretch in someone's tortured thinking to believe that he could very well be that hero who is called upon to save his country from perceived socialistic tyranny.

The Tea Party makes no pretense of their intense dislike of both Obama and the current congressional makeup.

However, Obama is the laser-like focus of their red-hot animus and part of that hatred is the blather and foam from the incessant tides of their racial phobias.

If you absorb the media's coverage of the tea baggers,

You know that they are crying and yearning for their country to be returned to them. They want their coun-

try back...and they want it back now!

Just a snippet of this hypocrisy is seen in the fact that they have no legitimate claim to even utter such tomfoolery because the people who have the best claim for any reclaiming of their country are the "American Indians".

What a spoof to see white folks demanding back what is not theirs in the first place! Only when you start to see Ottawas and Miamis and Cherokees and Blackfoot and Pueblo and Apache and Navaho and hundreds of other indigenous Indian tribes joining up with the Tea Party, will they get any remote chance of credibility with that spurious claim.

It is the American Indians who should be yelling about wanting their country back...not these pretenders whose ancestors stole, defrauded and murdered the American Indians for their lands and vast mineral wealth from the east coast to the west coast.

The crazed language of the tea partiers reminds me of how the slave owners brainwashed their slaves into thinking that there were simply chattel and of no value

and that they had no rights of which a white person had to respect (remember the case of Dred Scott in which a much earlier U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the black man had no rights of which the white man must respect?).

Well, there is an analogy between that cunning brainwashing done by the slaveholders (very successful I might add); and the verbal bilge that the tea partiers are now uttering about Obama and his "gangsta administration".

When you can reduce Obama and his governance to that of being an outlaw (that is what a gangster is), that gives an unstable person a "license" to hunt down the outlaw for the offered reward.

In this case, the reward is the thanks of a grateful and scorned minority of right wing Republicans who hide behind the screeching rhetoric of Ann Coulter or a Glenn Beck or the tirades of a sadly pathetic Rush Limbaugh.

When you repeatedly debase Obama via lies and distortions and mock him, what you are doing, as the

slaveholders did to their slaves a/k/a. chattel, is to re-image him as a non-entity who is not worthy of belief or credence or respect.

When those character traits are stripped away, as the slaveholders did to their slaves, the slaves became dehumanized and thus were fair game for unimaginable and despicable treatment with no qualms of conscience from the slaveholder since the slave n/k/a. Obama is not human after all and worse yet, is an outlaw illegally residing in the White House!

It makes you wonder, as during the tumultuous Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's...where are the white people of good will. During the 1960's and especially in the South, white southerners who knew better and who could have made a difference in rebuking their white brothers and sisters for their racial antics and vitriol, stood silently by while they witnessed atrocity after atrocity and did not sound the alarm.

Well, when you fast forward to this decade and this comparable analogous situation, where are the white

people of good heart who still maintain a moral compass based upon the Word of God as to the treatment of their fellow human being?

Are they publicly rebuking the excesses of the Tea Party or are they running for cover lest they be associated with Obama & Company and suffer ridicule or social ostracism by their peers and neighbors?

What the country does not need is a horrific "incident" which could have been avoided and then subsequently, we have to witness the hypocritical weeping and gnashing of teeth by all of these suddenly newfound friends of Obama who stood by and watched the fracas when they should have been preventing the fracas.

Let anyone forget their early American history, the original "Tea Party" members were criminal thugs who engaged in criminal activity against property that was not their own and now they are to be exalted and cherished?

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@Juno.com

Advertisement for 'It's Our Time' featuring Dr. Thomas A. Dorsey, Minister Derrick E. Roberts, and Bishop Kenneth H. Moales, Sr. at Indiana Avenue Baptist Church on Wednesday, April 21, 2010.

Advertisement for EOPA Business & Entrepreneurial Development Program, featuring 'B.Y.O.B. Be Your Own Boss in 2010!' and contact information for classes beginning May 11th.

Art Jones: Regionalism, Safety and Fiscal Responsibility

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor



experience. A native Toledoan and Scott High School graduate, Jones spent 31 years with AP Parts Manufacturing becoming active in UAW Local 14. He advanced from union steward to committeeman and vice chairman of the executive committee during his union days – the last 10

“I’m running because of my experience and my middle-of-the-road approach,”

“I’m running because of my experience and my middle-of-the-road approach,” says Art Jones when asked why he is running for the Lucas County Board of Commissioners.

Jones, one of six Democratic candidates vying for their party’s nomination in the upcoming May 4 primary, retired from the City of Toledo in 2004 when then-Mayor Jack Ford exited the scene. Since that time he has been engaged in a number of volunteer projects dear to him such increasing

awareness and public sensitivity to the problem of domestic violence and advocating for the inclusion of minorities in local government construction projects.

Jones most recently led a commission that worked with the county commissioners to monitor the rate of the inclusion of minority contractors and workers on the Lucas County Arena project. “We did a wonderful job in showing that diversity could be part of this community,” he says of that

years spent as a collective bargaining negotiator.

Jones became active in politics in 1990 when he became involved in Jack Ford’s campaign for Toledo City Council and since then has worked on numerous local and state campaigns.

He was appointed to City Council in 2000 to fill a term but lost his bid for election in 2001. He then signed up to work in the Ford administration as a liaison to the Public Works Department.

Through it all, one of Jones’s passions is the work

he does in the community striving to bring awareness of and stop domestic violence. He and his wife of 40 years, Ellen Garrison Jones, lost a daughter to domestic violence in 1992 and Jones is currently the chairman of the board of Bethany House, a shelter for victims of domestic violence.

What are the three key issues that Jones feels he will face if elected to the board of commissioners?

“First is regional growth,” he says. “We have

to know what the future of our community will be like. We can’t be on our own as a city.”

Jones mentions the attention that Mayor Mike Bell has paid to the idea of regionalism, especially during the mayoral campaign last fall as an example of his own approach to the subject.

Jones’s second issue is fiscal responsibility. “The county commissioners have the responsibility over certain agencies and they have to make sure those agencies are spending their money wisely,” says Jones. “And those agencies should have a diversity agenda in place.”

And, thirdly, Jones is concerned about safety.

“In Lucas County, we are

responsible for the safety of nine regions,” he says. “We must go to those regions and make sure that safety is there in all of those regions.”

As a retiree, Jones promises to be a full-time commissioner. What, however, makes him a better candidate than the others on the ballot?

“I don’t want to say I’m a better candidate,” says Jones. “But here’s the thing about Art Jones, he’s been there for the community from day one. I’ve served the community in a way that was beneficial to that community and I have worked harder than anyone else in an effort to serve the community.”

Carol Contrada: Hoping to Add the Experience of the Suburbs to the Board of Commissioners

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

“When I took office the township budget was not in good shape,” says Carol Contrada of the time seven years ago when she started her stint on the Sylvania Township Board of Trustees. “There were no cash reserves and the community was concerned about uncontrolled development.”

Contrada, who is one of six Democratic candidates for Lucas County Commissioner, credits her experience in solving the problems facing Sylvania Township over the past seven years as one of the reasons she is taking on her current campaign.

“I have balanced the budget, established a capital reserve plan, worked with the fire and police departments to establish better labor relations, helped the township maintain a AA + bond rating – the highest rating in Lucas County, passed a police levy, passed a fire levy that resulted in the building of three new fire stations and the refurbishing of a fourth and developed two comprehensive land use plans,” says Contrada of her accomplishments.

The job in Sylvania Township is not complete, she admits, nor will it ever be. “However, I have achieved what I set out to do,” she adds. “Enhanced fire and safety, addressed the issues of land use and established sound fiscal practices.”



Contrada, an attorney with Contrada & Associates who earned her law degree from The University of Toledo, is also vice chairman of the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments and has served on the Lucas County Improvement Corporation, all important experience she says as she prepares to convince the voters of Lucas County to cast their ballots for her in the May 4 Democratic primary.

What are the three key

issues she feels she will be facing as commissioner?

“First, jobs and job creations,” she replies. “I don’t think that government can create jobs but government can get out of the way and facilitate an environment that is business friendly.”

As Contrada views the function of the Board of Commissioners, it is that body’s task to enable businesses to relocate and expand by listening and responding to the

(Continued on Page 6)

**LIUNA
LABORERS LOCAL 500**

The Executive Board of Laborers Local 500
would like to congratulate our
**Business Manager
Phil Copeland**
on his appointment as State Auditor for
Laborers District Council of Ohio

Your commitment to the working families of
Northwestern Ohio is greatly appreciated and we salute
you on this honorable appointment from the Laborers
District Council of Ohio in recognition of your
commitment to working families across
The State of Ohio.

CONGRATULATIONS PHIL!!

Northwest Ohio Black Media Association Announces 2010 Impact Newsmaker Awards

Special to The Truth



Charlene Gilbert



Wanda Butts



Mike Bell and Mark Sobczak



Ed and Avie Dixon

The Northwest Ohio Black Media Association (NOBMA) has announced the group's 2010 Impact Newsmaker Awards. The honorees will be celebrated at the NOBMA 16th annual Impact Awards Dinner, to be held at the Ramada Westgate on Thursday, May 13.

This year's award winners in the individual category are Toledo Mayor Mike Bell, Wanda Jean Butts, Charlene Gilbert and Ed and Avie Dixon.

The winners in the group category are the Toledo Council of Black Nurses and The Source.

Each year, NOBMA also honors a few of those in the local media for their contribu-

tions to journalism. This year's winner for the Media Achievement Award is Doni Miller and for the Lifetime Achievement Award is David Zamichow of ABC13.

Bell, the City of Toledo's second African-American mayor, won election to the post in 2009, his first attempt at elective office, running as an independent. Bell, longtime Toledo Fire Chief and then the State of Ohio Fire Marshal, ran his campaign on his own terms stressing his ability to bring people together and his goal of fostering regionalism.

Butts's 16-year old son, Josh, died in a water accident in 2006. Since then, Wanda Butts' has set out on a mis-

sion to tell the Toledo area and the nation that African-American children need to learn how to swim – the Josh Project. To date, hundreds of students here in Toledo have received free swimming lessons due to Butts's collaboration with the Toledo Aquatic Club and St. Francis de Sales High School. Her project has been featured on Bryant Gumbel's *Real Sports* and the CBS Evening News.

Gilbert, an acclaimed filmmaker is a professor at The University of Toledo's Woman and Gender Studies department and the director of the Eberly Center which exists to support learning, discovery and engagement "enabling women to reach

their highest potential. Last year under Gilbert's guidance, the Center received grants to expand its services beyond the university adding volunteers to tutor girls, assisting at LMHA and the Battered Women's Shelter and holding a High School Day to try to raise girls' interest in math and science. Gilbert also is the chairman of the UT President's Council for Diversity.

Ed and Avie Dixon, retired Toledo Public Schools' teachers both finished their careers at Scott High School. Ed was for 31 years the band director at Scott and Avie taught African-American and world studies as well as being in charge of the band's majorettes, flags

and drum majors.

More recently, the couple has been in the forefront of efforts to preserve the historic Scott building and renovate rather than replace the edifice. Their efforts paid off.

Daisy Smith, Donna Todd and Mary Gregory founded the Toledo Council of Black Nurses in 1980, envisioning a future in which they could positively impact the health and wellness through collaborative efforts with other community groups. They have done that.

Over the past several years, the Council has worked in partnership with groups such as the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., the Committee of the Whole, the Greater Toledo Urban League, Mercy Health Partners, the Alpha Phi Alpha Sorority, Inc, the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the NAACP and the Toledo Club of the National Association of Negro Women's Business and Professional Clubs, Inc to host health fairs for those in underserved communities.

The Source, created by the Lucas County Board of Com-

missioners in 2004 to be a one-stop shop for those seeking employment in the area and businesses looking to fill job vacancies. Headed by Eric Walker since its opening, The Source has formed partnerships with a variety of agencies and institutions in order to fill its mission of reaching the business employment sector to create employment opportunities.

Media Achievement Award winner Doni Miller just completed her fourth year as host of "Bridges," a weekly public affairs program that airs every Sunday on ABC13. Zamichow and Channel 13 are being honored for consistency over the years in both the hiring of on-air minority broadcasters and the airing of shows such as "Bridges" and "Coffee with the Fords."

The NOBMA annual Awards Banquet raises monies for area journalism students. The cost of a ticket is \$45 and a table of eight can be bought for \$320. For more information on NOBMA or the awards dinner, call 419-243-0007

Counties Across Ohio Could All Use a Little Help Move Ohio Forward, Faster



Vote YES on Issue 2



In these tough times, Ohio counties could all use a little help. Voting Yes on Issue 2 changes the location of the Columbus casino to a better site so that the casino will be up and running sooner. Yes on Issue 2 allows every county, major city and public school district in Ohio to receive their share of \$579 million in new annual tax revenue sooner. Issue 2 is supported by business and labor leaders, Democrats and Republicans. **On Tuesday, May 4th Vote Yes on Issue 2. Move Ohio Forward, Faster.**



\$579 MILLION TO OHIO'S CITIES, COUNTIES AND PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Voting Yes on Issue 2 means every major city and every county and public school district in Ohio will get their share of \$579 million in new annual tax revenue sooner. That's revenue that can fund vital services. More police on the beat and modern equipment for a local fire department. That revenue could also go to a job training center or other economic development projects.



5,500 NEW OHIO JOBS SOONER

Voting Yes on Issue 2 jumpstarts construction of the Columbus area casino and helps create 3,500 new Ohio construction jobs and 2,000 new permanent jobs. Issue 2 revitalizes a vacant unused GM/Delphi site and brings hope and economic development to one of the most economically distressed regions in Ohio.



(1) Official Argument for Issue 2 (2) Ohio Department of Taxation OBM Report, 10/2/2009

Dispelling Myths and Misconceptions about Africa and Her People

By Brittany Jones
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Hints of the Motherland transformed the Ingman room of The University of Toledo's Student Union.

The UT African Peoples Association (APA) hosted its third Annual "Unveiling Africa: A Night of Cultural Entertainment" from 6 to 9 p.m. Guests experienced African culture through food, dance, fashion and drama.

With several flags representing African countries hanging on the walls and the rich, earth tones of deep red, brown and golden yellow encompassing the room, the night was filled with honors to Africa and the diverse roots of the traditions.

The point of this event is to expose African culture and demolish stereotypes of African people. APA goes by an African proverb stating: "We are one people, bonded together as one nation, in one love and one destiny. Divided we fall, united we stand strong."

Event coordinator Ulaimatu (Kadie) Jalloh, a senior Respiratory Care ma-

nor, is proud that APA is getting the acknowledgment that it deserves and that it is growing.

"The main thing is that it makes a difference that UT is recognizing the Africans on campus," Jalloh said. "I hope and pray that it gets bigger and does more for the community because this is all for the community. We just want to show our culture."

The opening act of the program presented the APA members performing an African dance where the men were painted and wore grass skirts. The women were in all black with colorful wraps and anklets made of bells. The energetic beat of the drums fed their intensity with the dance with a finale of the letters spelling "Africa" painted on the men's back.

The president of APA, Jean-Yves Tano, gave welcome and thanked people for attending. The audience took a moment of silence for the death of an African student, Faith Amuzu, who died in a car accident on his way back

to The University of Toledo from West Virginia.

As part of his welcome, Tano described the many activities that the association has performed such as their career panel where students from UT and Bowling Green State University discuss how to be an entrepreneur in Africa and the Food Extravaganza that brings African food and culture to the student body of UT.

"You will leave here with an unprecedented desire to be involved with APA activities on campus and learn more about the greatest continent on Earth," he said.

With energetic and entertaining chemistry between the MC's, Ibrahim Kiondo and Anyoh Fombad, the event took off for a night filled with appreciation for "the Motherland."

Lawrence Burns, vice president of both External Affairs and Equity and Diversity, gave a speech about the importance of diversity on campus and the strides that UT is making to sustain and

increase that mixture in the student body.

"When you have an environment that regardless of what you look like, what you believe in or where you come from, you have fair chances to be successful and treated with respect," Burns said. "That's diversity."

Entertainment for the night included a live drum group named Zoumoutchi, from Ann Arbor, that performed traditional and modern African music. Then followed a dance act by the APA girls group. There was also a song performed by APA members, Chiamaka Okwumodu and Paul Okafor, titled "Redemption Song."

Before intermission, the MC's recited a poem with a twist by performing both the French and English versions.

The event could not be complete without the tasting

of West African cuisine – buffet style. There was a range of traditional dishes that were served such as Jollof rice, pof-pof, chicken shawarma, jerk chicken, stewed turkey and fish and plantains.

The second half of the evening was bought in with a skit titled "What not to do with African parents!" The skit was divided into five scenarios: Coming home with a B on report card, pierced ears, pregnant girlfriend, the dealings of a remote control because the parents are not familiar with it and being aware of whom one brings home to meet the parents.

This comical sketch shed light on what is expected of those students studying abroad and the morals within the customs.

The night ended with more entertainment by

Zoumoutchi, the APA guys dance group, the song "360" by Ada and DJ Enoch.

As a special treat, there was a fashion show which displayed garments that reflect the heritage of the African people.

"This organization saved my life in terms of getting me on track with my academic career," Jalloh said. "There are just so many events like the AIDS walk where we raised about \$1,000 to getting involved with other international organizations. We just want to show UT and Toledo what Africa is all about."

The mission of APA is: "to unite all Africans at the University of Toledo and in addition, raise African awareness on the campus. It will therefore promote African culture and dispel any myth or misconception people may hold about Africa."

Carol Contrada

(Continued from Page 4)

needs of companies "quickly and responsibly."

Make it easy for companies to get through the building permit process, she says, get them networked, direct them to resources and show companies the transportation opportunities in the area.

"The commissioners can set the table for business opportunities," says Contrada.

Contrada mentions safety as the second key issue – police, fire and infrastructure. "Roads and bridges need to be navigable."

Contrada says that such issues as police and fire response times and the integrity and vitality of neighborhoods are matters that fall within her definition of safety concerns.

"As commissioner, I would look to overhaul the sheriff's department," she says. "That department has not met its budget for a number of years. Are they delivering service at a reasonable cost? The budget is driving what they do when what they do should be driv-

ing the budget."

And her third key concern as commissioner, as it is with most of the candidates for the position, is regionalism.

Contrada, however, unlike most of her colleagues on the ballot, is not a champion of the "unigov" concept represented by the Indianapolis or Louisville, KY models. She prefers the joint economic development district concept that is represented by the Twin Cities and Rochester, NY models.

"It's a big picture response with real nuts and bolts tasks that makes it achievable," she says of the joint economic development district concept.

In that concept, municipalities work together to bring companies to the area and share the tax revenues that come with such success. The locale where the company eventually settles gets the lion's share of the revenues and the rest split revenues according to percentage of population.

"The challenge is one of having the political willingness," she says of the re-

gional approach. "We have to be absolutely willing to say this is what is best for our region."

Contrada's particular approach to regionalism, she acknowledges, is a result of her suburban orientation. Typically over the last several years, the Board of Commissioners has been top-heavy with Toledoans. She sees a need to preserve community identities at least in part because small governments provide citizens with better access and such interaction improves the relationships between public servants and those they serve.

But she does believe, as do several other candidates, that the time is right for a concerted effort to move to regional cooperation.

"Communities throughout the county are willing to talk about these issues," she says. "More so than before."

As a suburban resident and elected official, Contrada believes her background would provide for outlying communities and their leaders a credibility that may be lacking on the typical Toledo-oriented board.

"I bring a regional voice and the experiences of the suburbs," she says. "The communities surrounding the city have been given short shrift over the years. My experience, ability, background and leadership skills [have brought] knowledge and credibility."

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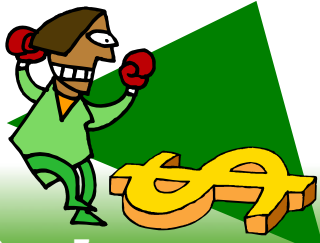
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The Truth ECONOMY

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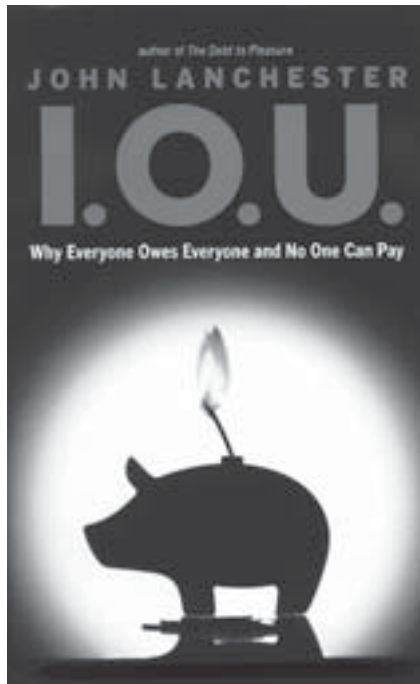
Tackling Tough Times

Book Review

I.O.U.: Why Everyone Owes Everyone and No One Can Pay by John Lanchester

c.2010, Simon & Schuster \$25.00 / \$32.99 Canada 261 pages, includes index

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor



They say that what goes up must come down.

Does that rule apply to gasoline prices, airline fees or the cost of consumer goods? You wonder because, for the past couple years, you've watched everything rise except the amount of your paycheck. Someday, you'd like to see the Law of Gravity meet the Law of Your Bankbook, but you're not holding your breath.

You can point your fin-

gers at banks, CEOs, maybe yourself. But how did we get this way, really? If we know how it happened, maybe we can prevent it from happening again. In the new book *I.O.U.: Why Everyone Owes Everyone and No One Can Pay*, author John Lanchester says that may be impossible.

We all want to make major amounts of money, but you can't do so without involving a certain amount of risk. Invest your cash, and

risk market and investment volatility. Make a bet in Vegas and cross your fingers. Or, at the very basic level, put your money in a high-yielding bank account and let the bank take the risk.

Well run banks, says Lanchester, are money-making machines on which economies depend heavily. If a bank collapses, it's like a bad dominoes game. To avoid problems, checks and balances exist to keep banks from taking bad risks, but anything can happen. Major case in point: giving huge mortgages to people who have little-to-no real possibility of paying them off is an exceedingly bad risk, but for far too long, such risks were all but ignored.

To be fair, the world's economic mess wasn't entirely the banks' fault. Credit was easy and consumers spent wildly. In retrospect, the Federal government's prime interest rate became a problem. Wall Street was on a roll. Too many brazen people were playing with what was, essentially, virtual money and massaged numbers. Enron, one of the most infamous examples, "bought things from itself at made-up prices." And we all forgot, says Lanchester, that "money does not always cost the same."

So how do we ensure that an economic disaster of this magnitude doesn't occur again? It's possible

that we can't, Lanchester indicates. Boom-and-bust happens cyclically, and we always recover...eventually. But, he says, we do need to reassess. Don't we have - haven't we had - enough?

It's a really good thing *I.O.U.* is a hardcover book. Hardcover books can take a beating, and you'll repeatedly throw this one across

the room in anger and frustration at what you'll learn.

In his introduction, author John Lanchester says that the story of the world's current financial situation is interesting. He's right but it's also complicated, though he tries valiantly to make it less so. Despite that your head will swim while you read this book, Lanchester will surely make

you smile with metaphors and blunt language that entertains between the heavy-duty information he ruefully imparts.

If you're inured to the depletion of your dollars but you're still wondering what happened, this may fill in the blanks. For you, *I.O.U.* is a book you'll pick up and won't want to put down.

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National Financial Literacy Month

By Kevin Boyce, Ohio State Treasurer
Guest Column



Let me share a scary thought with you. According to a 2007 survey from the Ohio Credit Union League, only 23 percent of Ohioans make any effort to encourage financial literacy in their families. Fifty-seven percent rated their financial health negatively and very few parents teach their children the financial "facts of life." April is National Financial Literacy month. Together, let's work to change this figure into something more positive. Here at the Ohio Treasury we are working every day to encourage financial literacy.

As the chairman of the Financial Literacy Committee for the National Association

of State Treasurers, I am committed to promoting financial education throughout Ohio and the nation. Understanding your personal finances is critical to improving Ohio's financial health and well being. For you to make confident decisions about your money, you need to receive as much information and guidance as possible. To encourage financial literacy and teach all Ohioans about establishing good financial habits my office offers the following programs:

- **Center for Public Investment Management (CPIM)** is a statutorily-mandated program that provides vital training to Ohio's public finance officials. My office is forging ahead with a 21st Century banking mentality by making Ohio the first state to offer online education courses. CPIM ensures the proper management of Ohio's public funds and that our financial officers are meeting continuing education requirements set by the Ohio Revised Code.
- **Smart Money Choices** is a FREE nine-city financial

education tour. The treasury comes to your backyard with FREE financial education programs, workshops, and conferences to help you understand how to make your finances work for you. Participants can choose workshops on a variety of topics including: Budgeting, Credit and Debt Management, Entrepreneurship, Home Ownership, Insurance, Investments, Advanced Investments, Kids and Money, Retirement Planning and Social Security. Since its inception we've had more than 26,000 people participate in a conference. Last year we visited 11 cities and this year we'll kick-off the tour on May 7 in Cleveland.

- **Launch into Life** is a financial education program that teaches college students credit and debt management as incoming freshmen and then again as graduating seniors.

- **Real Money, Real World** is a hands-on training for middle and high school students focused on making lifestyle and budget choices similar to those they will make as adults. Students learn how

to write checks, determine tax responsibilities and make selections on housing, food, child care, clothing and entertainment. This real-life simulation raises awareness about the value of planning ahead and investing in education.

- **Seniors & Money** is a two-hour workshop about protecting your financial health, including identity theft and avoiding financial scams.

- **Nuestro Dinero** is a program for our growing Latino population, and we are reaching out to them to provide them with additional tools to become financially successful. This program provides practical information on personal finances

taught in both English and Spanish.

- **Veterans/Military Families & Money** provides Ohio's military (active duty and retired) personnel and their families, military-specific financial information.

- **SaveNow** is an innovative program that gives Ohioans an opportunity to receive a 3.25 percent interest bonus on savings accounts up to \$5,000. To receive the benefit participants must complete one year of financial education. Through SaveNow, the Treasury encourages Ohioans to save money and establish smart fiscal habits to help them build a stronger more prosperous financial future.

- **Teacher's Academy** was created to provide educators

with materials and instructions to introduce financial education to their students in a meaningful way. Ohio Senate Bill 311 requires all Ohio school districts to incorporate personal finance education into school curriculum beginning in the fall of 2010.

By sharing the Treasury's financial expertise and resources, we can empower Ohioans to make confident, informed decisions about their personal finances. For additional information about these programs, please visit the Ohio Treasury's Web site at <http://www.ohiotreasurer.gov> or call toll-free at 1-800-228-1102.

Our Renewable Energy Industrial Cluster Needs Your Vote on May 4

By Rubin Patterson, Ph.D.
Guest Column



As the saying goes, "There's nothing more powerful than an idea whose time has come." There is truth in that statement, but entrenched interests in support of an old, destructive idea are pretty powerful, too.

Consider the current issue of renewable energy. Overcoming fossil fuel in-

dustries' opposition to achieving renewable energy advancements requires politicians who have access to the levers of power and knows how to maneuver them. Representative Edna Brown – a candidate in the race for Ohio Senator from District 11 – is one of many politicians in the state who is advocating for renewable energy on behalf of jobs and business opportunities.

During my conversation with Edna Brown last week, she made it abundantly clear that she is focused on helping Toledo gain a growing and sustainable niche in the global economy. Rep. Brown and I spoke on April 11, just three days after the World Bank approved a \$3.75 billion loan to South

Africa to help enhance the country's energy portfolio.


The uninformed observer may wonder what does a \$3.75 billion World Bank loan to South Africa have to do with Toledo. It turns out that renewable energy-related institutions in the region could potentially benefit from the loan's \$260 million allocation for the development of 100 megawatts of concentrating solar (or solar thermal) power and the development of a 100 megawatt wind power facility, as well as \$450 million earmarked for the development of low-carbon energy efficiency components.

As a member of the delegation that accompanied *(Continued on Page 9)*


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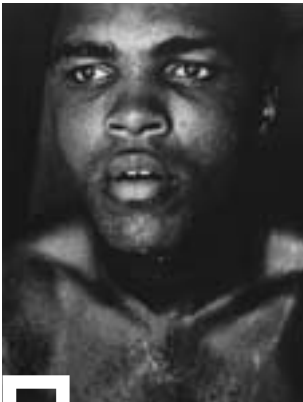


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Gordon Parks, "Muhammad Ali," c.1970. Gelatin silver print, 24 x 20 inches. Lent by The Capital Group Foundation, 2002.47 © 2006 The Gordon Parks Foundation. *Bare Witness: Photographs by Gordon Parks* was organized by the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Center for Visual Arts at Stanford University. The exhibition and its accompanying catalogue are made possible by generous support from The Capital Group Foundation, the Cantor Arts Center's Horbach Family Fund and the Cantor Arts Center's members.

Your Vote

(Continued from Page 8)

me to South Africa last summer, Brown met with several of the nation's energy officials. She also visited the office representing the Ohio Department of Development near Johannesburg. That office reported on a number of programs underway to expand trade between Ohio and South Africa, including renewable energy.

Brown is the second most senior member in the House Democratic Caucus. If she wins the May 4 primary and goes on to win the general election in the fall, she would then be a freshman senator. However, after serving nine years as a legislator in Columbus and previously serving on the key Economic Development Committee, she would be capable of effecting consequential outcomes for the region's renewable energy industry.

Bear in mind that Toledo's celebrated industrial cluster of renewable energy firms would never have gotten off the ground the way it has if it had not been for substantial aid from the Ohio Department of Development. For the last several years, Brown has



Representative Edna Brown is one of many politicians in the state who is advocating for renewable energy on behalf of jobs and business opportunities.

worked with the Ohio Department of Development to support the emergence of renewable energy activities in the region. She is also capable of helping local institutions engage

collaboratively with the Ohio development office in work related to international projects such as the aforementioned 100-megawatt solar and wind projects.

As a person involved

with both southern African affairs and renewable energy, I was delighted to learn about this aspect of the World Bank loan. However, most of the loan, just over \$3 billion, will also help with the construction of what will be one of the world's largest coal-fired electric facilities. This is the dreaded downside of the loan. If not one single additional coal-fired facility were to be built anywhere on the planet, not only would I be happy, but the overall environment would be a lot more stable.

Although South Africa has not built a major new power plant of any variety in nearly 20 years, Eskom, the country's monopoly electric power company, has expanded access to electricity from 34 percent to 81 percent of the population in the post-apartheid period. With its existing energy portfolio, Eskom is incapable of ramping up the energy needed to power the requisite economic growth so that the 25-plus percent of the population who are unemployed and suffering in one of the most inequitable societies in the world can

experience significant relief. Nevertheless, many who recognize our collective necessity of moving "beyond coal" advocated against the loan.

As James Speth (dean of the Yale University's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and co-founder of the Natural Resources Defense Council) put it: "To reduce environmental impacts faster than the economy is growing requires rapid technological change." South Africa's economy will grow much faster as a result of the 4,800-megawatt Medupi coal-fired plant, but it will also cause significant environmental damage.

In order for this environmental damage to be reduced as the economy grows, renewable energy technologies have to be developed and commercialized much faster than they are now. As it turns out, the World Bank loans facilitate that process.

For instance, the South African solar energy project will be a pioneering undertaking since it will be the largest solar thermal project

with storage and the largest central receiver-type solar power project in the world. The project pushes the envelope and will be the world's benchmark for large-scale grid-connected solar thermal power.

It is in Toledo's economic interest for The University of Toledo and regional renewable energy companies to engage South Africa's new energy endeavors. Brown is keen on this fact and is eager to make these connections if she is elevated to the senate. Her engaging the Ohio Department of Development in supporting local institutions so that they can compete to help expand renewable energy applications in South Africa and other parts of the world can contribute to economic growth in Toledo and the global environment.

On May 4, you might want to have those facts upmost in mind as you go to the polls to elect our next state senator.

Rubin Patterson, Ph.D., is professor of Sociology and the interim director of Africana Studies at The University of Toledo.

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ASK YVON

By S. Yvon Harper, CEO
Focus on Finance, LLC



Peer-to-Peer Lending in the New Economy

Most people have heard that in this present economy banks are not lending. Both business and individual borrowers alike have been impacted by the lack of financial resources available. In fact, many credit card users have experienced unprovoked increases in interest rates, decreases in credit limits, even when their payment history has been stellar and there are significantly lower viable credit offers in our mailboxes. Unfortunately, recent reports

do not show this trend ending soon. Welcome to the new lending economy.

The real problem is that financial resources are still necessary for our economy to rebound by both the business person and the individual. So where does one turn to when the banks have all but shuttered their lending doors? Many are turning to peer-to-peer (P2P) lending as an alternative-lending source.

How does it work?

P2P lending is a non-traditional financial solution for borrowers who are looking to fund their projects. In most cases a borrower can request a loan of between \$100 and \$25,000, and in some cases specify the maximum interest rate they're willing to pay. The ones that I found are available online and loan requests are submitted electronically. Lending criteria through the P2P site allows a potential lender to evaluate hundreds of borrowers, who

explain why they need a loan, and provide a credit history and a debt-to-income ratio.

The borrower's full personal and financial information however is shielded from view.

Who can apply?

Anyone can apply as long as you meet minimum application requirements. Borrowers seek loans for a variety of reasons, such as opening businesses, paying off hospital bills or even funding medical procedures like braces for a child. Presenting a solid case for the loan request by telling your story is important in getting funded.

What are the benefits?

For many individuals in this present economy P2P lending allows the opportunity to find financing where they would have otherwise been turned down by traditional lenders. It allows the borrower to interact with real people who lend for a range of reasons other than just for profit. It can also assist po-

tential borrowers in building a credit history for the future.

Where can I find peer-to-peer lenders?

Prosper Marketplace is one of the first and the largest P2P lenders, it has been in business since 2006, has over 950,000 members and to date has funded more than \$194,000,000 in P2P loans starting at \$1,000. Prosper pioneered peer-to-peer lending, which allows people to invest in each other in a way that is socially and financially rewarding. Prosper uses an auction type model that allows potential lenders to bid against others to fund your loan.

Prosper also offers investment opportunities for lend-

ers to build an investment portfolio that could potentially earn six percent to 16 percent based on investment risk. This is in addition to the lender's ability to bid on individual loans and trade loan notes that they may already hold. New lenders can get started with Prosper and P2P lending with as little as \$25. As always be sure to do your due diligence before making any investment. Go to www.Prosper.com for more information.

Bottom line, if you have been turned down by traditional lenders or are looking for an alternative to approaching banks for financing your next project you may want to consider P2P lend-

ers. In this new economy you may find that peer-to-peer lending is the new tradition in loan funding.

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www.FocusOnFinanceOnline.com for help in getting personal with finances. Listen online at www.BlogTalkRadio.com/YvonSpeaks. Readers are strongly urged to consult with a qualified legal or tax advisor to analyze your specific financial situation before application of any advice from this column.

Rodney Eason Promoted at Fifth Third

Special to The Truth



Rodney L. Eason, Jr. has been promoted to assistant vice president and Retail Recruiting Team Lead for the Ohio and Pittsburgh market, Human Resources Department, at Fifth Third Bank, accord-

ing to Robert W. LaClair, president and chief executive officer, Fifth Third Bank (Northwestern Ohio).

Eason, a corporate recruiter for nearly five years, is responsible for

recruiting, screening, testing and interviewing applicants for non-exempt and exempt professional level positions at Fifth Third in Ohio and Pittsburgh. He is located at Fifth Third Center at One SeaGate, Toledo. Eason joined Fifth Third Bank in 2005 and has 11 years of corporate recruiting experience.

He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing and Management from the University of Cincinnati and an MBA from Heidelberg University. He resides with his family in South Toledo. In the community, he is a 2007 Leadership Toledo graduate and current board member.

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Predators in Our Midst

By Rodney Neely
Real Estate Contributor



It's no secret that minority communities and poor areas across this country are often the targets of commercial and business predators. Due to the collapse of the economy and the bursting of the real estate market balloon, the United States government, in a fit of conscience, has decided to come down hard on the predatory lenders in the housing sector of financing and banking.

After years of unscrupulous practices by lenders who structure barely legal corporations that perform funding of purchases based on the thinnest of underwriting support, finally something is being done about it.

In past years, if you were a person with absolutely terrible credit, no real history of employment and no down payment, how was it possible to get a bank loan? Sometimes these loans, to what's known as un-banked applicants, would be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Well, it's simple. You were a link in a chain of a fraudulent scheme to line the pockets of the bankers. It was a financial "hot potato" and who would get stuck with the worthless mortgage note was the game.

Here's how it worked. You want a home (probably one you couldn't really afford), but the mortgage company says, "I got you. Pick out whatever home you like and I will get it funded." You do and they do!

That loan is sold as part of a grouping of loans into what is known as the secondary market. That group was then bought by Wall Street investors to try to get better returns for their shareholders, but that purchase was based

on the fraudulent documents prepared on the front end by the greedy mortgage brokers.

Eventually the loans went bad because very few lenders could pay the mortgages on their homes. Once the situation got so bad the "hot potato" was dropped but wait... the federal government was there to catch it. That's where we got the bail out and the later the stimulus package.

Are you with me? OK. Keep up, now. Everything's just perfect now, right? Well no.

The same thing is happening all over again, but in different sectors. Everybody knows that the credit card companies are robbing the American people without a gun. As soon as President Obama pushed through legal changes in their practices, they simply adjust the sleazy way they do business and stick it to us another way. Jacking up the fees without notice, changing the due date of payments to get more late fee income, maximizing interest rates to ridiculous levels,

all to line the pockets of billionaire CEO's.

Just as water will always seek its lowest level no matter where it's spilled, these scumbags will always seek the lowest level to find away to rob us blind no matter what laws are passed and regulations are put in place. They are not alone. Similarly, there are auto lenders that take advantage of those who need help the most.

In northwest Ohio we have what is termed, "high-risk" lenders for auto loans. Translation, "we have the right to take advantage of you auto loans."

There are a number of these dealerships that also provide this type of financing.

Let me first say, many people need an opportunity to re-establish credit. Sometimes after a divorce or medical situation personal credit can be decimated and you need transportation to get to work and/or school, but be very cautious before you go to a predatory business.

The first problem is that

customers are often charged as much as twice the actual value of for the car being purchased. Next, the "high risk" interest rate often exceeds the usury limits set by law, when you add in all the down payments and fees. This financing scheme is made even worse by the way the loans are amortized over such a long period of time in an attempt to keep the monthly payments in a reasonable range. Because of these factors many people often default on these kinds of loans. Don't believe me; let's do some math!

Lets just say you buy a car, a 2003 Chevy Impala, that the Kelly Blue Book says is worth about \$6000- \$7500 dollars depending on its condition. Because you are in a "high risk" dealership your price is \$11000-\$12000 dollars. I know, damn!

That's not all; you also get to pay over (20 percent) interest on that money over a (36) month period of time. This means that you have the pleasure of not only over paying for the vehicle, but by the end of the loan term you have paid approximately \$20,000 for that car.

Again, I realize that there are times when we have to do what we have to do, but who protects us from this kind of predatory behavior. Where is the NAACP? Or our city and state officials? Where is

the outrage on these kinds of unscrupulous business practices? Do we have to wait until we have a crisis like the magnitude of the real estate crisis before anyone is interested? Or do you believe like I do, that people of good conscience will see that vultures are preying upon the citizens of our cities.

As always, when it's the poorest people, those who have become professional victims of the predators in our midst, the movement to force out those who practice these abuses has to come from within. Although these companies painstakingly struggle to remain within the law as they take advantage of us for profit, it doesn't make it right.

Just as the legal separation of the appraisers, lenders, brokers of real property are regulated by state law to protect the consumer, to at least prevent the appearance of impropriety, we should remain diligent with these others sources of lending to keep them honest as well.

If you believe you have been a victim of these types of abuses, please contact me at Rodney.neely@gtul.org. Those who don't know the history of how the financial crisis in this country began are doomed to repeat it.

Always remember that in life success is the greatest revenge...

Root Learning to Present Lifeplan: A Journey of Choices, Decisions and Consequences.

Special to The Truth

John Henry Livingston, founder of Whirlwind U Motivational Institute (www.whirlwindu.com), will host a half-day conference at the Dana Conference Center on leadership for high school and college students, April 21, 2010, from 8:30a-12:30p. The purpose of the event is to engage high school and college students on what it takes to be a leader today.

To help students understand the kind of tough decisions leaders are faced with, Root Learning's Carl Wagner

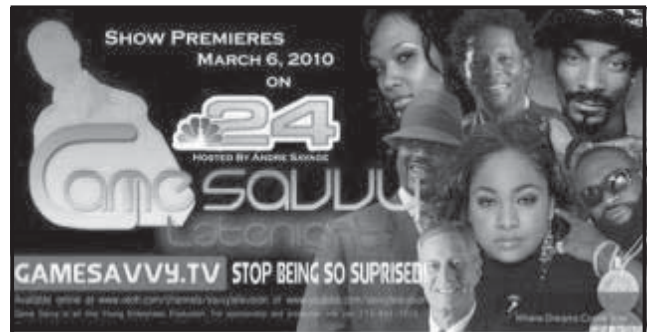
will take teens through Lifeplan: A Journey of Choices, Decisions and Consequences. Lifeplan is a nine module mentoring program developed by Root Learning (www.rootlearning.com) for the Lifeplan Institute (California Mentoring Foundation) of Tiburon, California (www.lifeplaninstitute.org). While students go through Lifeplan, Root Learning's Robin Klein will take sponsoring executives of the event through some leadership exercises, such as The Canyon

and a version of Lifeplan for leaders.

"Root Learning really helped me accomplish my goal of providing sponsors with more than just signage and thank you by doing something at the conference that would empower them as well," said John Livingston, conference host.

Robert LaClair, president of Fifth Third Bank, will open the conference as the morning keynote speaker and Mark Chastang, vice presi

(Continued on Page 16)



Interview with Tracy The Rarebreed Haynes

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture



I see a lot of local artists grinding. I see a lot of local artists approaching this business the wrong way. But when I see someone making quality music, applying professional principles and building more bridges than they burn, that's when I take notice.

Tracy has united the city behind him because he's talented, likeable and about his business. Over the years, we have formed a friendship and so any move he makes I support him. His moves lately, we all need to watch. I sat down to chop it up with him and this is how it went.

Michael:

Tracy, a lot has been going on since the last time we sat down. Tell our readers how the music game has been treating you since your album came out last June.

Tracy:

Since the album dropped, everything has been good. Started out slow, it was an independent release but it started to pick up. I might have sold my first batch overseas, a distributor in London picked up a substantial amount at wholesale so now I have a growing fan base in Europe.

Michael:

That's amazing. Seems like male R&B is hitting big with Trey Songz, but missing the mark with some artists. What has been the response to the creative direction you took on your album?

Tracy:

Nothing but love. Some well-known established people have had nothing but good things to say. I definitely turned some heads, especially with Violator Management hitting me up.

Michael:

Outside of music, you have taken on a role of organizing community events. Dunkin For Donations was one of the best examples I've ever seen of giving back to the people, can you explain your motivation to give back.

Tracy:

Well... lilD, Spade and I all

came up with the branding for the event.

She helped by writing the press release, Shy hooked up the flyers and t-shirts we gave away, Damon came through as a sponsor, and obviously Gutta Dave came through and we moved as a team. The city just jumped on it. The camaraderie was overwhelming.

We seen on the news one night that a lot of charities weren't financially able to give to needy children in the area due to the failing economy, so I was inspired to try and make a difference. Since it was the holidays, I thought since I've always had a nice Christmas and my family has as well, then I wanted to do my part to make sure other families could enjoy the same. Plus, it's now going to be an annual event.

So look out for Dunkin For Donations 2010.

Michael:

I spoke to you right after the New Year and musically you were already inspired to release new material, can you explain what brought that about?

Tracy:

Much of my album was material that was actually three or four years old.

Which is a double-edged sword, because people liked the music but for me I needed to create new music and that's where "Showoff" came from.

I got that track and actually just slept on it for a while. Once I had a hook it was on.

I'm random with music, stuff comes to me out of nowhere. I can be brushing my teeth and listening to a beat and come up with something.

After taking lilD's advice, I submitted "Pullin' Her Hair" to the battle of the beats on the Juice and it did three weeks.

Michael:

You've had a lot going on besides just your imprint on the local music scene, tell our readers about what else you've been to.

Tracy:

I went back to school, majoring in business management which expands my options overall. Also, I was on Twitter and found out about a singing competition on blogtalkradio hosted by a well known adult film star. I submitted my material, and that led me to Track Boyz, the producers behind such hits as Nelly's "Air Force Ones" and J'Kwon's "Tippy." I got great feedback from them, and they said they would work with me. Then there's Showtime at the Apollo. I was just there two weeks ago, waiting in line House of Adonis (shout out

to them) and it was good to see Toledoreppin in New York. Being able to sing in the famed Apollo Theatre where such greats as Michael Jackson, Sam Cooke and Marvin Gaye was a truly humbling experience. At this point, I'm just waiting on my date to return.

Michael:

But you still need to tell everyone about the Steve Harvey contest, bro.

Tracy:

This is an interesting story. It's a situation where you have to call in and sing over the air on Steve Harvey's radio show. I couldn't get through for nothing. I tried calling with two phones at once, and couldn't get through. Then I tried calling on three separate phones all at the same time. One of the phones was a minute phone with only 60 minutes left and that's the phone I ended up getting through on but then they kept me on hold for over 40 minutes and I still hadn't sang yet. But once I got through, I sang for them and all my supporters voted online for me and now I'm in the next round.

I have to thank 107.3 The Juice because they helped get the city behind me, so major thanks to the whole staff.

Michael:

Looks like the sky is the limit for you, sir.

What does the future hold for Tracy?

Tracy:

This summer is going to be really hot for me, I'm featured on a hook for this song called "Cuffin'" which is The Ohio Boyz featuring Too Short and it's already getting spins in various markets. I'm putting together a promotional tour,

and any readers you may have in the Sandusky area I'm gonna be opening for Lil Flip this Saturday. Also we have an event called "A Woman's Worth," which is focused on building up self esteem and giving young girls an outlet to express their frustrations constructively.

Michael:

What message do you have for any other Toledo-based artists.

Tracy:

I have a saying I like to use: "we ain't never gonna get out of here if we don't get out here." I work hard. I strategize everyday on

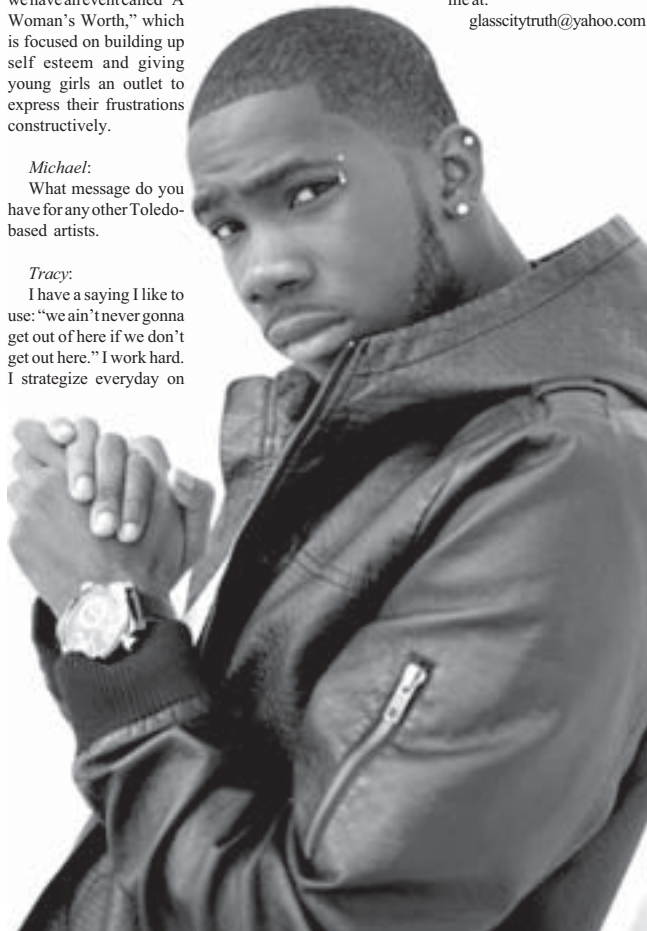
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Steve Perry, Ed.D, Keynote Speaker for the "Restoration of the Village" Conference

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The first annual "Restoration of the Village" conference will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn from Wednesday, April 28 to Saturday, May 1, 2010. Saturday's closing session, a luncheon, will feature keynote speaker Steve Perry, Ed.D., founder and principal of Capital Preparatory Magnet School.

Perry, born and reared in the housing projects of Middletown, Connecticut, earned his undergraduate degree in political science

from the University of Rhode Island, a masters in social work from the University of Pennsylvania and a doctorate in education from the University of Hartford before returning to his hometown to serve as the director of a homeless shelter.

Six years ago, Perry founded the Capital Preparatory Magnet School in Hartford, CN and during that time, the school has maintained a 100 percent acceptance record and has been rated

one of the most successful schools in the nation.

Perry, however, has become noted for more than his educational efforts. A best-selling author of four books, Perry is a much sought after public speaker and a regular contributor on education for CNN, MSNBC and Fox. His latest book, *Raggedy Schools The Untold Truth*, presents a critical look at public education and offers a challenge to teachers' union, parents, students, urban ra-

dio and the institution of marriage within the black community.

"I think if you love children and you love education, you can't join a teachers' union because they are working literally against our children and our families and our communities," said Perry during an interview recently with a group called Teachers' of Color. "Specifically, they fight every single form of school reform that there is."

Perry started the Capital Preparatory Magnet School because he was tired of "seeing our children languishing in raggedy schools." The school has achieved its stunning success so quickly in spite of the fact that it does not cherry pick from its pool of applicants for the best and the brightest. The school receives over 2,000 applicants a year and selects its students by lottery.

Prior to *Raggedy Schools*, Perry published a book de-

nouncing the delinquency that pervades the black community, titled *Man Up! Nobody's coming to Save Us* in which he espouses the philosophy promoted by the Marcus Garvey statement: "The character of a man is defined by never depending upon others to do for him what he ought to do for himself."

For more information on the "Restoration of the Village" conference, call 419-810-3874

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CLASSIFIEDS

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April 21, 2010

INTERESTED BIDDERS: TOLEDO PUBLIC SCHOOLS – MCKINLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Sealed bids will be accepted by the Board of Education of the Toledo Public School District until **1:00 pm May 18, 2010**, at the Toledo Public Schools Treasurers' Room, 420 E. Manhattan Blvd., Toledo, Ohio 43608, for all labor, material and supervision necessary for the **McKinley Elementary School**, as more fully described in the drawings and specifications for the project prepared by Munger Munger + Associates Architects Inc. and will be opened publicly and read immediately thereafter.

Bid Documents for the project may be examined at the F.W. Dodge plan room in Columbus, Builders Exchange in Toledo, University of Toledo – Capacity Building, E.O.P.A. – Hamilton Building, Northwest Ohio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and The Plan Room in Ann Arbor, Construction Association of Michigan, Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce and Ohio Construction News.

Bidders may obtain copies of the documents starting **April 21, 2010 which can be purchased from Toledo Blueprint, 6964 McNerney Road, Northwood, Ohio 43619, phone: (419) 661-9841. Drawings may be obtained on CD-ROM for no cost with the purchase of the specifications.**

A **Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting** will be held on **May 3, 2010 at 2:00 pm** at Toledo Public Schools Board Room, 420 E. Manhattan Blvd, Toledo, Ohio 43608.

If you have any questions or a need for additional information, please direct all questions in writing to **LeShay.Hadley@lgb-llc.com**, by phone at (419) 776-5600, or (fax) (877) 281-0784.

Sealed bids will be received for:	Estimates
Bid Item No. 1 – Site Work	\$478,067.00
Bid Item No. 2 – Concrete Paving and Curbs	\$162,008.00
Bid Item No. 3 – Asphalt	\$151,754.00
Bid Item No. 4 – Landscaping and Grass	\$56,100.00
Bid Item No. 5 – General Trades	\$3,360,879.00
Bid Item No. 6 – Metal Studs and Drywall	\$315,622.00
Bid Item No. 7 – Acoustical Ceilings	\$61,968.00
Bid Item No. 8 – Painting	\$55,802.00
Bid Item No. 9 – Flooring	\$139,000.00
Bid Item No. 10 – Fire Protection	\$91,200.00
Bid Item No. 11 – Plumbing	\$341,000.00
Bid Item No. 12 – HVAC	\$1,348,800.00
Bid Item No. 13 – Electrical	\$777,500.00
Bid Item No. 14 – Technology	\$509,958.00
Total	\$7,849,658.00

Notice to Bidders: Inquiry # FY10-118,

(Project # 5004-09-1462) for University Medical Center Third Floor ICU Renovation for the University of Toledo Health Science Campus. Sealed bids for this project must be clearly marked with the project number on all inner and outer envelopes and/or shipping containers. Bids must be addressed and delivered to the University of Toledo, Main Campus, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 **before 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 12, 2010 Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 3:05 p.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000.** Copies of Plans, Specifications, and Bid Forms may be obtained from City Blueprint of Toledo - Richard Nagy, 2010 Madison Ave, Toledo, Ohio 43024. Call 419-243-4881 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of \$150.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Ron Herzog of Harley Ellis Devereaux at 248-262-1519. **One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Wednesday, May 5, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. in the Dana Conference Center, (The room will be on the electrical sign as you enter) 1325 Conference Center Drive, Toledo, Ohio 43614,** at the University of Toledo, Health Science Campus, 3000 Arlington Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43614. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 5%. Project Estimate: \$2,850,000.00; Breakdown: General Const: \$1,300,000.00; Plumbing: \$410,000.00; Fire Protection: \$44,000.00; HVAC: \$437,000.00 & Electrical: \$659,000.00.

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Notice to Bidders: Inquiry # FY10-115,

(Project # 5004-10-1533) for University Medical Center Nuclear Med Renovation - Phase 2 for the University of Toledo Health Science Campus. Sealed bids for this project must be clearly marked with the project number on all inner and outer envelopes and/or shipping containers. Bids must be addressed and delivered to the University of Toledo, Main Campus, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 **before 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 12, 2010 Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 2:05 p.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000.** Copies of Plans, Specifications, and Bid Forms may be obtained from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Road, Toledo, Ohio 43615. Call 419-385-5303 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of \$40.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Julie Cavese of Meyer + Bates Associates at 419-873-8450. **One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Wednesday, May 5, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. in the Dana Conference Center, (Room location posted inside main entrance) 1325 Conference Center Drive, Toledo, Ohio 43614,** at the University of Toledo, Health Science Campus, 3000 Arlington Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43614. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 5%. Project Estimate: \$216,750.00; Breakdown: General Const: \$63,250.00; Plumbing & Fire Protection: \$41,000.00; HVAC: \$46,300.00; & Electrical: \$66,200.00.

Attention All Vendors

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CLASSIFIEDS

April 21, 2010

Page 15

Doves Manor Apartments Now Accepting Applications

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Applications are accepted Monday - Friday from 9:30AM to 12:30PM. Call (419) 389-9999 for details.



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Preferred Properties, Inc. is accepting applications for a 1 bedroom (\$365) and 2 bedroom (\$415) apartments with a gas allowance. Section 8 vouchers accepted.

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Masters degree in Accounting or Finance preferred. Experience required in one of the following four scenarios: 5 or more years experience in higher education accounting OR 8 or more years experience in governmental/non-profit accounting OR 5 or more years experience as an auditor in the higher education/governmental sector OR a combination of at least 8 years between the 3 above scenarios. CPA eligibility or full CPA preferred. **Starting salary is \$71,060 - \$89,000. Applications without salary history completed will not be considered. Completed application materials include application, resume and scanned copies of transcripts required. To complete an Owens Community College application go to <https://jobs.owens.edu>.**

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INTERESTED BIDDERS: TOLEDO PUBLIC SCHOOLS NEW BIRMINGHAM K-8 SCHOOL PAINTING RE-BID

Sealed bids will be accepted by the Board of Education of the Toledo Public School District until **1:00 p.m. on May 18th, 2010**, at the Toledo Public Schools Treasurers' Room, 420 E. Manhattan Blvd., Toledo, Ohio 43608, for all labor, material and supervision necessary for the **New Birmingham K-8 School Painting Re-bid**, as more fully described in the drawings and specifications for the project prepared by Munger, Munger & Associates, Inc and will be opened publicly and read immediately thereafter.

Bid Documents for the project may be examined at the F.W. Dodge plan rooms in Columbus, Builders Exchange in Toledo, University of Toledo - Capacity Building, E.O.P.A. - Hamilton Building, Northwest Ohio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and The Plan Room in Ann Arbor, Construction Association of Michigan, Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce and Ohio Construction News.

Bidders may obtain copies of the documents starting **April 21st, 2010** which can be purchased from **Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Road, Toledo, Ohio 43615, phone: (419) 385-5303. Drawings may be obtained on CD-ROM for no cost with the purchase of the specifications.**

A **MANDATORY PREBID CONFERENCE** is scheduled for **May 3rd, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.** at Toledo Public Schools, 420 E. Manhattan Blvd., Toledo, Ohio 43608

If you have any questions or a need for additional information, please direct all questions in writing to **Jessica.Dandino@lgb-llc.com**, by phone at (419) 776-5600, or (fax) (877) 281-0784.

Sealed bids will be received for: Estimates
Bid Item No. 8 - Painting **\$105,023.00**
Total **\$105,023.00**

PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF TOLEDO

SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE 2009-2010 ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN

To all interested agencies, groups, and persons:

The City of Toledo is seeking comments on a proposed substantial amendment to its One-Year Action Plan, which is a part of the 2005-2010 Five-Year Consolidated Plan, for the submittal of a Section 108 Loan and Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) Grant to the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The Substantial Amendment includes a description of the proposed renovation project and funding for the "Fiberglass Tower" located at 200 North St. Clair Street, Toledo, including detail on job creation, national objectives, and eligibility.

The draft Substantial Amendment to the 2009-2010 One-Year Action Plan will be available for review and comments beginning Monday, April 26, 2010, at the following locations:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1) Department of Neighborhoods
One Government Center, 18 th Floor
Downtown Toledo, Jackson & Erie | 4) All local branches of the Toledo-Lucas
County Public Library
(Refer to local telephone directory or
toledolibrary.org for locations) | 7) Lucas Metropolitan Housing
Authority
435 Nebraska Avenue
Toledo, Ohio |
| 2) Department of Development
One Government Center, 22 nd Floor
Downtown Toledo, Jackson & Erie | 5) The Ability Center of Greater Toledo
5605 Monroe Street
Sylvania, Ohio | 8) Toledo Lucas County Homelessness
Board
1946 N. 13 th Street, Suite 437
Toledo, Ohio |
| 3) Clerk of Council
One Government Center, 21 st Floor
Downtown Toledo, Jackson & Erie | 6) The Fair Housing Center
432 N. Superior Street
Toledo, Ohio | |

A public hearing on the substantial amendment to the 2009-2010 One-Year Action Plan is scheduled for Monday, May 3, 2010, at 11:00 a.m. in City Council Chambers. The City of Toledo will receive comments from the public, in writing, until Tuesday, May 25, 2010, at the following address:

CITY OF TOLEDO DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOODS
SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE 2009-2010 ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN
ONE GOVERNMENT CENTER, SUITE 1800
TOLEDO, OHIO 43604
(419) 245-1400/FAX: (419) 245-1413

Comments received during the 30-day comment period will be included in the substantial amendment submitted to HUD.

* Reasonable accommodations will be available upon request.

Center of Hope Family Services Presents "GLAM 2010" Spring Luncheon and Style Show: Supporting its Children's Defense Fund Freedom School

Special to The Truth

On Saturday, April 24, 2010, Center of Hope Family Services (CHFS) will present "GLAM" 2010: a luncheon and style show to support its Children's Defense Fund Freedom School, which has operated in Toledo since 2007. The Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools is a well researched, national educational enrichment model that improves child literacy through providing an enriching, literacy focused, summer and after-school curriculum. The curriculum supports children and families around five essential components: high quality academic enrichment; parent and family involvement; social action and civic engagement; intergenerational servant leadership development; and nutrition, health and mental health.

With support from the Toledo Community Foundation, the Stranahan Foundation, the University of Toledo Foundation, and the



Tracee Perryman-Stewart

Lucas County Workforce Investment Board, Center of Hope has successfully delivered the Freedom School to 150 young people, ages five years to 14 years. All participants were below 300 percent of the poverty level, many with reading and math skills below grade level and from distressed home situations.

Tracee Perryman-Stewart, Executive Director

of CHFS, identifies four key reasons for supporting their Freedom Schools program:

1. The comprehensive nature of the Freedom Schools model brings efficiency to youth services, thus offering the potential to reduce duplicated and fragmented youth services. The Children's Defense Fund Freedom School model fo-

cuses on education and literacy, through using a comprehensive approach that addresses the rapidly changing needs of children and families in this 21st Century context. CHFS and the Children's Defense Fund understand that children do not exist in a "vacuum," and that their lives are greatly impacted by the challenges faced by their parents or caregivers, as well as other the macro systemic factors such as access to quality education, occupation, and other resources. The Children's Defense Fund accounts for barriers to educational achievement, and offers a social justice component that teaches children, families, and staff members to actively advocate for changes in social conditions necessary to make educational achievement relevant to children from various cultural, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

2. Only 14 percent of black, 17 percent of Latino, and 42 percent of white fourth graders are reading at grade level, thus calling for more attention towards, and resources allocated to literacy focused models. National research indicates that middle income children are not performing sufficiently in academic settings to successfully prepare them for work in the 21st Century. Research supports literacy focused interventions for addressing academic achievement problems, in order to prevent economic "dead zones," where clusters of Americans are largely unable to participate in the greater economy because of high unemployment, high incarceration rates, and low skills (McKenzie & Co, 2009). Scholarly sources have established that increasing

of literacy skills among targeted populations will reduce probabilities of incarceration, and will slow neighborhood decline. One critical component of any educational achievement initiative must be cultural relevance and sensitivity if students are to be motivated to learn and retain information. The Freedom School model offers a diverse cultural learning experience for children of all races, ethnicities, and cultural backgrounds, and thus has a high success and retention rate among youth participants.

3. The Freedom School offers intergenerational mentorship and servant leader development. CHFS stands strongly behind the Freedom School model, because there are opportunities to make a difference in the lives of children, as well as young adults. Through the use of college students, the Freedom Schools prepare young adults for successful transition into the 21st Century workplace, while allowing children to see examples of young adults in college, and establishing themselves as working individuals. The *Employer's Perspectives on Basic Knowledge and Applied Skills of New Entrants to the 21st Century U.S. Workforce* identified these applied skills as being deficient among high school graduates, college students, and college graduates: written communication; leadership; critical thinking/problem solving; lifelong learning/self direction; oral communications; and ethics/social responsibility. Through participation in the Freedom School program, CHFS staff members afford college students the opportunity to mentor children in the classroom, while receiving

mentorship, feedback, and guidance.

4. The Freedom School model has been proven to work! The *Freedom Schools* is the recipient of the **Johns Hopkins University's first Excellence in Summer Learning Award**. An evaluation of CDF Freedom Schools program conducted by the prestigious **Philliber Research Associates** funded by the E.M. Kauffman Foundation indicated that:

Children who attend CDF Freedom Schools programs score significantly higher on standardized reading achievement tests than children who attend other summer enrichment programs. African American middle schools boys made the greatest gains of all.

Students enrolled in the CDF Freedom Schools program improved their reading skills more than students not enrolled in the CDF Freedom Schools program.

Parents of CDF Freedom Schools students reported their children had a greater love of learning, better conflict resolution skills and more involvement in the community after participating in the program.

CDF Freedom Schools programs help parents do a better job supporting their children's academic development by exposing them to fun, high-energy teaching methodologies and imparting a greater understanding of children's development and learning styles.

The cost of tickets for the "GLAM" 2010 luncheon are \$100. To purchase a ticket, or to make a donation, please contact Center of Hope Family Services at 419.241.4345, or make payments on line at www.chofs.org.

Church's Chicken
Special Meals for any Family!

Feed 4 8 PC MIXED \$13.99
3 Corn, 1 Lg. Mashed Potatoes & 4 Biscuits

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Feed 8 16 PC MIXED \$23.99
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Offer good for Church's Chicken at
2124 Franklin Avenue, Toledo, Ohio

Root Learning

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dent of The University of Toledo Medical Center, will be the closing keynote speaker.

During a working lunch, students will be teamed with corporate executives to come up with their own Lifeplan Leadership principals learned at the conference and then present their case before a real judge (C. Allen McConnell scheduled) and jury as to why their findings are principles other young leaders can

follow.

High school junior and senior students, school administrators and college students from UT's Blue and Gold Scholarship program have been invited. Schools invited include Central Catholic, St. Johns, St. Francis, Toledo Christian, Maumee Valley, Notre Dame Academy, Sylvania Northview, Sylvania Southview, Genoa, Anthony Wayne and some TPS and charter schools.

Other speakers include

Diana Patton, health coach and co-owner of FITatudes, Derick Gant, president of Gant Financial Services and COMEX Consulting, John C. Jones, president of Greater Toledo Urban League, Rodney L. Eason, AVP Fifth Third Bank, Lawrence Burns, vice president of The University of Toledo.

Contact John Henry Livingston at: 419.283.7170 for more details.