



The Sojourner's Truth

Volume 18, No.06

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

June 09, 2010



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The Elusive Search for Leadership



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

The decisions that are made about who goes to Stanford and who goes to San Quentin are made outside the control of the black community.
- Walter Allen

The final Toledo Public School Board meeting of this fiscal year ended with a request from board member Brenda Hill for a "do-over" of a policy decision she had previously supported only a month ago. The reason for the change of mind? Hill, apparently from the "co-optation plantation," pleaded a lack of clear understanding of the details and implications of her previous vote and concern over a mutating district budget deficit whose malignancy had grown from \$30 to \$39 million.

Bob Vasquez, Toledo Board president, also responding to the painful pinch of institutional poverty and in, perhaps a sign of district desperation, was on the PR circuit preaching to a small group of influential economic development leaders at the Toledo Club last Tuesday about the need for TPS to obtain expert advice and assistance to help radically change how the district operates, according to The Blade.

What is clear is that despite a shift in the racial composition of the TPS board, the naïve hope that many had for significant impact and change for the district's neediest students has not occurred. Instead, achievement gaps and inequalities in resource distributions have widened as the district teeters on the brink of insolvency even though three blacks and one Hispanic comprise four of the five-member governing board.

What are the "experts" saying and what advice is recommended for TPS and the community?

There appears to be a growing call to rethink the structure of urban education and for models of school governance that are better suited to the challenges of the 21st Century urban context. Contemporary proponents of education reform feel that more accountability, discipline and competence are needed than elected school boards are able to provide and propose to replace these boards with those appointed by mayors.

"Too often school board members are budding politicians, well-intentioned parents determined to help just a single school or neighborhood with an adult-centered agenda, or representatives of the district's employees the board is supposed to oversee. I don't mind telling you that I believe in mayoral control of school boards or having no school board at all and you should craft legislation that enables school board members to be appointed by the mayor and limit the authority of school boards," states Eli Broad who with \$400 million established the Broad Foundation to dramatically improve urban education through better governance, management and labor relations.

With 40 percent of children under age six growing up in abject poverty or marginal socio-economic circumstances education is inextricably linked to health, welfare, housing and other societal issues that can be coalesced around schools, which remain the core institution in the community. Mayors are uniquely situated to lead collaborative efforts involving parents, the private sector, higher education, the government and the community in improving children's health and development.

Also, a board appointed by and under the supervision of "a strong, active and accountable mayor is a promising way to jump-start coherent and sustained school improvement, is less susceptible to narrow demands and better able to summon the

(Continued on Page 3)

Community Calendar

June 11

TPS Adult Education Graduation: "Knowledge Is Power;" Summit Annex; Practical nursing, barber academy, nurse's aide and aviation; 5 pm

June 12

Bereavement Meeting: West Toledo Bereavement Support Ministry; Bethlehem Baptist Church; 10 am: 419-867-2122

Sisters Helping Everyone: Informational Meeting; Kent Branch Library; 1 to 3 pm

Summer Fashion Show: Bethesda Christian Center Cathedral; 6 pm: 419-277-2179

Friends and Family Day: Beulah Baptist; 5 pm; guest preacher Pastor Scott Isham Shelton of Park Church of God

June 13

St. Stephen AME 8th Annual Pew Rally: 3 pm; "Something to Think About;" Men's Group of St. Stephen's: 419-255-1821

Women's Day Celebration and Dance Praise Fest: Bethesda Christian Center Cathedral; 11 am; Speaker Evang. Brenda McFall; Dance Fest at 6 pm: 419-944-0984

June 14

Discussion Circle: Support and sisterly love for women incest, child sexual abuse and rape survivors; 5:30 to 7:30 pm; Elizabeth House; Learn about "The Acceptances, the Promises and Permissions and Trigger Busters;" 419-729-0245

June 14-18

Camel Smith Summer Youth Camp: Free clinic: 419-917-3547

June 18-20

Mt. Sinai's Men's Seminar: "The Perfect Man;" :419-410-0323

June 19

Public Meeting of the New Order Human Rights Organization: Kent Branch Library; 3 to 5 pm: 419-481-3924

June 20

"Walk for Ayan;" Fundraiser for 5-year-old Ayan who has contracted pediatric brain cancer; Walbridge Park at 10 am: 419-481-7249

Family and Friends Day: Bethesda Christian Center Cathedral; 11 am; Closing service at 6 pm: 419-944-0984

June 21-25

Vacation Bible School: Friendship Baptist Church; 6 to 8 pm each evening; Toddlers through adults: 419-531-3242 or 419-536-1251

Vacation Bible School: Historic Third Baptist Church; "Camp Solid Rock;" K-adult; 5:30 to 8:30 pm: 419-248-4623

June 26

Toledo Youth Camp: Hosted by Miami Dolphins' Brandon Fields; 9 am to noon; St. John's Jesuit HS; Non-contact free clinic

June 27

New Prospect MBC: 45th church anniversary; Guest speaker Rev. Floyd Smith of Calvary Baptist: 419-944-2790

June 28

Discussion Circle: Support and sisterly love for women incest, child sexual abuse and rape survivors; 5:30 to 7:30 pm; Elizabeth House; Learn about "The Acceptances, the Promises and Permissions and Trigger Busters;" 419-729-0245



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It Bears Repeating ... More School Board Issues

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq.
Guest Column



With no fear of sounding like a broken record or a scratched and repeating CD, I will say it again and, that is, it bears watching to see the final tally of how the Libbey High School students are parceled out to the other high schools and those being Scott (the "black" school), Waite

(the "mixed" school) and Bowsher (the "white" school).

If the numbers show that the majority of Bulldogs go to the "black" school, someone at the school board is playing the race card in passing out the Cowboys to the other schools.

With the local and state school budgets in chronic financial free fall and with future budget cuts looking somewhat draconian, the local schools are in a firefight to stay adequately funded to keep pace with the local "rich" Catholic and private schools.

The parents of the Libbey students who have been displaced from their home school need to rally and investigate just how these as-

signments were made and by whom.

They should not be a punching bag as a means to simply dole out Libbey students in a willy-nilly fashion but hopefully there was a thoughtful plan behind the allocation of these students other than race being the only factor.

Of course, equally tragic and equally stupid is the thought process by which any Libbey student will confess that if they go to Scott, there will be nothing but heartache and fisticuffs awaiting them.

Such high school "tribalism" is a disservice to the educational process and devalues the student who wants to get an education and get on with his or her life.

The nonsense that you will or must fight your way every day to attend school trumps the fact that black kids need to bury the hatchet with each other when it comes to school allegiances that interfere with getting a sound education.

Now is when the parents and local churches and para-community organizations must make themselves visibly and vocally known and put the word out that such bickering and fighting is counterproductive. Such nonsense only serves to produce fresh faces for the insatiable juvenile court system and a spate of out-of-school suspensions. Real smart.

What I find troubling and lacking in Toledo is the fact that the black community allows itself all too often to remain disorganized and voiceless when it comes to important community issues.

Seemingly, we doze off and allow mental midgets and bullies (black or white) in public office to either intimidate people or control the conversation by the output of false or misleading information. We need to do our

own fact checking when it comes to the disbursement of public funds or lack thereof.

The recent media jockeying of Toledo Board of Education members Lisa Sobbecki and President Bob Vasquez, who are posturing to be the saviors of the school system and the "papa and momma bear" of minority kids, should send red-flag warnings throughout the community.

I hope that board member Brenda Hill and the others on the board are not in awe of these two fellow members and will not "stand down" to them when their voices are needed.

Vasquez and Sobbecki should have had enough mother wit

to decline such a divisive "look at me!" interview without the presence of the other board members whom they need to get any agenda completed.

Until we can organize and sustain and fund (yes, you need money to mobilize and fight the powers) our own appointed leaders and action

groups, we will remain in the backwaters of progressive development and wonder why the best of our youth flee Toledo. The current in-place minority leadership may mouth a good game but cannot deliver because, in part, they have no backup when the time comes to produce votes or cough up needed support funding.

Until we finance ourselves and believe in ourselves and reprimand ourselves, we are doomed to be always wondering "what happened and why?"

The days of always blaming, "the white man" for every bruise and bump we suffer is passé.

If "he" or the "system" is at fault, confront it and correct it. If the offense and the offender are found within our midst and faulty mindset and we choose to ignore them, we do so at our common peril and we will be found to be our own worse enemy until we clean house.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com

Elusive

(Continued from Page 2)

focus, patience and unity to support tough-minded reform," states Frederick Hess, of the American Enterprise Institute.

Toledo Mayor Mike Bell indicates that he has not given a great deal of thought about making appointments to the school board, but feels that TPS needs to be more open to recommendations presented by the private sector regarding business operations. "There are plenty of people prepared to help, but the board and district need to be prepared to ask AND accept the help when it's given," says Bell.

Scholar John Portz (2000) feels that mayoral control matters less than whether the mayor is able and willing to provide political backing for reform. Indeed, if a difference is to be made one critical area that must be addressed is the "union factor." Teachers' unions, in their effort to protect and enhance their collective bargaining rights, "have a strong negative impact on academic achievement and are also extremely effective in electing sympathetic board members and officials who help them achieve their contract objectives," states Portz.

Stanford scholar Terry Moe adds "collective bargaining is responsible for black/white achievement gaps and deserves to be taken seriously as a target of reform and has more

negative effects for high-minority schools than for other schools as their restrictive contracts put high-minority schools at a disadvantage in the competition for teachers and resources within districts."

As a result, whoever it is that provides help to TPS must be prepared to go directly to the core issue and declare "Show Me The Money!"

Complex teacher salary systems with built-in cost escalators silently contribute to structural deficits as automatic raises, not from cost of living or wage increases but from reclassifications resulting from added seniority or from taking additional classes or training, kick in while younger, cheaper teachers are laid off leaving the most expensive teachers employed.

Waste is hidden in central administrative budgets, which normally amount to 40 to 60 percent of the district's operating expenditures and is allocated to schools arbitrarily distorting the actual school costs.

Seniority-based placement, salary-cost averaging rather than actual costs

and multiple uncoordinated accounting systems which tracks spending by funding source rather than by actual use all mask financial overcommitment and leave the public blind to unfair resource allocations which often disproportionately penalize inner-city schools. The budgetary impact of unfunded pension and retiree health-care liabilities are often unreflected as well.

Addressing TPS' exigent circumstances will require a new system of governance with the political will to revisit oppressive collective bargaining agreements that reward adults and punish kids, expose hidden district spending patterns and correct inequitable resource distribution. It will also require a sensible plan, commitment and vision that looks beyond the next election.

The time is right for mayoral intervention in Toledo Public Schools.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, D.Min., at dperryman@toledopsd.org



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The Central City Also Has Opportunities to Go Green

By Brittany Jones
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The 1990's brought about the Digital Divide where some people in society do not have easy access to computers or other types of technology...

The 21st Century introduced the Knowledge Divide, which compared those who can research, manage and process knowledge at faster pace due to available technology to those who are impaired in those efforts.

With "Going Green" being the present movement being practiced everywhere, there is a new gap on the rise - the Green Divide.

To bring awareness to this problem and to maintain sustainability, Parker Enterprises hosted the "Urban Green and Sustainability Forum: Bridging the Green Divide" on May 21.

The event was held at the Scott Park Campus of Energy and Innovative Auditorium from 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

"Many of the attendees of the past summit did not have a deep knowledge on green [matters] or have not realized the full potential or impact it could have on their businesses," said Coleena Ali, vice president of Marketing and Business Development of

Parker Enterprises. "From that we decided to hold the forum to educate our community on what green and sustainability means, and to help identify opportunities for our community."

With welcomes and opening remarks from Karl Parker, CEO of Parker Enterprises, and Lawrence Burns, the program began. Burns is the interim vice president for Equity and Diversity and External Affairs at The University of Toledo.

Donnell Cathey, vice president and COO of The InnoTrans Group (a branch of Parker Enterprises), discussed the power of innovation or thinking "outside the box." He talked of how this approach is productive and beneficial to all areas of lifestyles such as schools, medical field and the workplace.

A treat for the program was special guest Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (Dem. OH). She spoke of the conditions facing other regions of the nation and how people, in this area, are lucky to live here.

"While the West is becoming more arid, we live on the largest watershed and we take that for granted," Kaptur said. "With what our country is enduring and especially our re-



Megan Reichert-Kral, Congresswoman
Marcy Kaptur, Coleena Ali

gion, we need your creativity and ideas in order to help form a stronger future."

For a view of what urban communities are doing in Cleveland, Gigi Tradore, a Green For All fellow and executive director of Power Network, gave the perspective of the green movement from people of color, the urban community and the inner city. A video was shown of the current efforts being done to ensure there is no "green divide."

Businesses are not immune to the divide, no matter what size. Gale Tedhams, director

of Sustainability of Owens Coming and Icy Williams, chairman of the National Sustainability Coalition and vice president of Development for the Diverse Manufacturing Supply Chain Alliance, represented the corporate side of sustainability.

Both explained that businesses need to concentrate on three elements in order to be productive in the green economy: environment, social and economics.

"If we are going to do sustainability right in this country, we have to pull these together because one out of balance will cause injustice to another area," Williams explained.

For a look at the local endeavors, Lynne Hamer, Ph.D., Jim Johns and E. Michelle Mickens, spoke of their projects.

Hamer is an associate professor of Educational Theory and Social Foundations of Education. She is the co-director of Padua Alliance and Peace Education Coordinator for Padua Possibilities, a collaboration with Toledo Public Schools, Pickett Academy and Padua Center that offers an alternative to suspension.

She discussed that in order for this movement to thrive, the children need to be educated on its importance and what they can do to help.

Johns, founder of EarthScience Foundation, took recycling and material recovery to another level by taking trash from business and using it in different ways to help the community. On the other hand, Mickens, executive director of Toledo Community Development Corporation (CDC), formulated a project for a community garden on Norwood. This is one of the many projects meant to improve conditions in the community.

Director of Incubation at UT, Megan Reichert-Kral, shared the many opportunities within the areas of the green market like installers, manufacturers, and electricians. The talk of money came

about with Paul Toth, president and CEO of the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority.

He brought information of the Department of Energy advanced energy grants available for minority contractors and for those who are having trouble finding money, there is a minority business account offered.

Environmental justice is needed in order to guarantee equal opportunity in the movement and inform citizens of their rights under the law. This is where Morris Jenkins, associate professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Rubin Patterson, professor of Sociology and Interim Director of Africana Studies, shared their expertise.

For contractors, the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) offers green training. Robert Colgan, executive director of Marketing and Todd Michaelson, chapter manager, invited minorities to join the organization and take advantage of the training to be prepared for opportunities in the 'green' field.

To wrap up the summit, Parker thanked sponsors and the participants. Ali also thanked the sponsors.

"Left to right thinking is incremental," Parker said. "Right to left thinking is the future."

Advertisement for dentalcenter of northwest ohio. Includes logo, address (2138 Madison Avenue, Toledo, OH 43604), phone number (419-241-6215), and a list of patient eligibility criteria and fees.

Advertisement for Mt Nebo's 17th Pastoral Anniversary. Includes a photo of Pastor Cedric Brock and First Lady Debra Briock, and text describing the anniversary celebration at Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church.

Secretary of State Candidate O'Shaughnessy Tours Toledo Area

By Brittany Jones
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The love for a home state can inspire anyone to give back and make the state a better place to live for all. This is, according to the candidate herself, what motivated Maryellen O'Shaughnessy to run for Secretary of State in her first state-wide race.

When first elected to Columbus City Council, she drove across state towards Steubenville to visit a friend. On the way, the beauty of Ohio got her thinking of how to find out more about the Buckeye State.

"I just love my state and I would love to get to know it better," O'Shaughnessy said. "If I ever have an opportunity to run state-wide then I am going to do it because there's no better way to get to know the people throughout Ohio."

Public service is a virtual heritage of the O'Shaughnessy family beginning with her great-grandfather who first ran for office in 1910. Family members have served in an assortment of elected roles from the state legislature to the Columbus City Council. Her father has served as a state senator.

The position of the Secretary of State is a critical position because "it is about our precious right to vote," said



O'Shaughnessy. Two main duties of the Secretary of State are serving as the chief elections officer and running the Business Services Division.

As the chief elections officer, the Secretary of State manages the election process and appoints members to the Board of Elections in 88 of Ohio's counties.

O'Shaughnessy commented on the need to continue the work that the current Secretary of State, Jennifer Brunner, has accomplished to ensure a smooth and fair election process in the fu-

ture. "We must make sure that we have smooth elections, make advances to the next step and look at easier ways for voting and circulating petitions without compromising security," she said.

"Making voting secure, making every vote count and making sure that we have ease of access to the counting is essential to do that."

As the Secretary of State, O'Shaughnessy plans to increase voter participation by making registration effortless in person and on the Internet and by continuing

the Early Voting Center. She also would like to increase young voter participation by working with teachers to implement a curriculum showing students, first-hand, those who have fought for our right to vote.

The Business Services Division grants permission to Ohio and out-of-state corporations to do business in Ohio. The division approves and keeps documentation of all businesses' information.

"The SOS office is the repository of all the information on all the paper that is generated by the Ohio General Assembly," she said. "We make sure it is [Business Services] going to the next level and is an asset to job development in Ohio."

As with any political position, there are controversies and problems that need to be corrected after one takes office. It is no different for the Secretary of State.

One thing O'Shaughnessy sees that needs improvement is the partnership with the Board of Elections.

"We have to make sure we're not putting out directives that do not hinder their business, but are instead an asset," she said. "We have to make sure that every vote is counted and does count because people who think their vote matters tend to not participate."

Another issue facing the Secretary of State's office is the crowding of polling places due to the lack of working polling machines like in the 2000 and 2004 elections. This would be solved by working with the Board of Elections to assess their needs and making certain they have the resources to be at their best. In addition, she feels that every county needs a backup measure—a paper ballot backup measure designed to keep the election efficient.

During Republican Ken Blackwell's term as Secretary of State, the office was perceived as being notoriously partisan in some of its decisions. O'Shaughnessy says that she will not be endorsing or advancing any is-

sue or candidate during her term. She wants to be a "fair and practical referee."

Currently, O'Shaughnessy serves as Clerk of the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas. She oversees a vast system of county records, a staff of 231 and a budget of \$12.5 million.

"I have the local, legislative and administrative experience," she said. "What I do at Clerk of Courts is very similar to what Secretary of State does when it comes to document management. The public needs someone who understands the job directly."

The next step for the potential Secretary of State is to run for re-election because she feels that there is no other position of any interest.

"I want to make sure that our Democracy works and give the people the representation they need to make things go in their community," she said. "It's just critically important and I am anxious to get there to do the work as the Secretary of State."

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A Few of the Best and the Brightest

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

Just about every year, we select a few outstanding scholars to spotlight and, just about every year, we have to omit many, many more of equal ability and accomplishment because we simply

don't have the room to give all of the area's best and brightest their due.

This year we chose the following six young men and women to highlight from a list of about two dozen com-

pile by looking at various organizations' scholarship awards – groups such as 50 Men & Women, The Toledo EXCEL program, the Toledo Public Schools Foundations, the Toledo Community

Anthony Miller Modern Renaissance Man



It's been an astonishing ride so far for Anthony Miller, Jr. during his high school years at St. Francis de Sales and, in the fall, the ride continues at the prestigious Pratt Institute in New York City where Miller will study film with an eye on becoming an animator.

"Anthony is ever passionate about creating art and learning all he can about various artists, media and processes. His enthusiasm for art is contagious and he creates from deep within," wrote Miller's art teacher, Jeanne

Erickson, in her letter of recommendation to The Pratt Institute.

"When I think of Anthony, I think of a modern Renaissance man," wrote another. "He is a fine student who does well in math and science, but is also a gifted artist and an appreciator of the fine arts."

And while adults speak of just about every virtue to describe Miller, his appreciation for those who have inspired him is just as deeply felt.

"My mom and dad demand excellence," he says. "I want to do my best to make sure they are proud. My mom especially has been a rock and I don't want to let her down. My grandmother is the sweetest, nicest woman I know – not a day goes by when I wouldn't want to make her smile."

And whom does Miller single out amongst the St. Francis faculty?

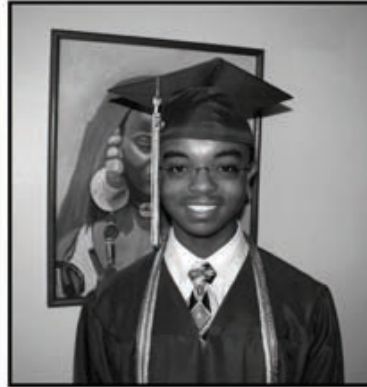
"Dawn Dempsey, my sophomore math teacher, is the greatest teacher to ever exist in history," says a beaming Miller. "She's awesome." That certainly didn't take much prompting.

So what does Miller's future hold – after Pratt? Where will he be in 10 years.

"Owning my own animation studio ... a TV series ... a few feature films completed ... married."

Keep an eye on those credits, folks!

Matthew Boyd – Outstanding Scholar, Outstanding Musician



Matthew Boyd will be attending Maine's Bowdoin College where he will work towards a double major of music and biology as he starts his march to medical school and a career as a physician.

Just a few quick facts explain Boyd's dual accomplishments at a scholar and a musician. He graduated with a 4.25 cumulative grade point average and was a member of the National honor society and Venture Scholars and, as a pianist, he is the recipient of the Trinity College of London-Piano Award Medal of Honor. He has been studying classical piano with Trinity College for 12 years.

Boyd did not just study and play piano during all these years, however. Spanish Club, Art Club, Youth Advocates, Student Council, Toledo EXCEL, church activities, volunteer activities, conferences for Aspiring Minority Youth, and so forth.

Ten years from now, Boyd will be serving a residency somewhere in the country in either anesthesiology or dermatology. As an anesthesiologist, he can be "part of the surgical process without being a surgeon" and as a dermatologist, he can have a "hands-on approach" in working with patients.

He spent the summer between his junior and senior year working as an intern at the University of Toledo Medical Center getting a clear idea of what medical fields appealed to him.

Linda and Michael Boyd are the parents who supplied much of his inspiration and who pushed him to accomplish all that he has but, make no mistake, Boyd is "self-driven" to excel. That drive will continue this fall in Maine at Bowdoin and then, after Bowdoin, at medical school.

Charles Jacob Green, III – Scott's Salutatorian



If Toledo is fortunate, in 10 years or so Charles Green will be back in his hometown practicing criminal law. Back, that is, after sojourns at Jackson State University where he will major in criminal justice and then at whichever law school he attends after earning his undergraduate degree.

Green, this year's salutatorian at Scott High School, decided to attend Jackson State because he was impressed with the academic program to be sure – "it's strong emphasis on education."

However, he also expects to find time to join the band – as he did at Scott – and play the French horn, sax and trumpet. He not only played in the Scott band, he served as the band's president and also as president of the National Honor society.

During his Scott days, Green also was in orchestra, the art club and the tennis team. Away from school, he served as a Youth to Youth member and volunteered at Kent Branch Library.

Who inspired Green to work so hard in his push to succeed?

"Family, friends and teachers," he says acknowledging so many who helped him along the way, ticking off virtually every member of his family.

One teacher he singles out for praise is Dianne Saevig who provided Green with inspiration as a math teacher during each of his four years in school. Saevig's guidance helped provide Green with confidence in his math and science abilities. A confidence he will be taking to Mississippi in the fall!

William Lucas
also known as KING KEYSER
www.kingschampions.com

A Few of the Best and the Brightest

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

Foundation, along with the scholarship selections of the area's sororities and fraternities.

We apologize for not having the ability to write extensively about all of them, all

of the young men and women who made the decision to excel.

But here are just a few of the class of 2010's best and brightest – a future doctor, a few lawyers, a hospital ad-

ministrator, a computer engineer and a film-maker. If you track what's happening in education on a year-round basis, you know that this is the most wonderful time of the year.

Santoria Marie Sawyer – Waite's Valedictorian



Exactly who or what has provided Santoria Sawyer with her motivation to succeed? Family, friends, teachers?

"Not any one person ... God is our model," says Sawyer, valedictorian of Waite High School's Class of 2010. "But all of it together inspires me. Every day I wake up and I find something to inspire me – all the people and great leaders I have met makes me want to do as well as they have done."

That's the "who." As for the "what?"

"The places I've gone have inspired me – Atlanta and the Coca Cola headquarters, Nashville and the Grand Ole Opry hotel, Washington D.c. and the White House – these are big motivations to see the world," she says reminiscing about trips she was able to take as a student representative during her high school years.

Her very next trip will be a little closer to home – Columbus, OH, in fact, to attend The Ohio State University where she plans to study business administration. In the long term she wants to become either a corporate lawyer or a human resources executive with a large corporation.

Sawyer did manage to fit in a few other activities when she was not studying. She was the Toledo Area Afro Ball Queen, a student ambassador for TRIO's National Student Leadership Conference, a member of the National Honor Society, student representative for the Lourdes College Upward Bound group, a member of the volleyball team, a tutor, a camp counselor, a volunteer with several groups and president of the drama and Spanish clubs ... to name just a few.

Sawyer also participated in the Cotillion this year as a Debutante and finished as first runner up.

We have a feeling that she is going to find a lot to keep her inspired down in Columbus!

Tessa Scott – Miss Debutante 2010



"My mom, Teresa Scott, was always on me and my brother about school," says Tessa Scott about the person who provided perhaps the most inspiration for her to succeed. "She wanted the best for us because she never finished college. I thought at times she was stressing me out, but she helped pick all the right paths to go on."

There were actually a number of such paths.

Scott attended St. Ursula's ... "my mom insisted." During her freshman year at St. Ursula's, she started off well enough academically – mostly B's, a handful of A's and two C's. But then, with each year, her grades improved, until the dramatic report of all A's in the first half of her senior year.

In addition to her academic accomplishments, the breadth and depth of her extracurricular activities are nothing short of amazing – bowling, tennis, church clubs, choir, tutor, volunteer, organizer and on and on.

In her junior year, at mom's urging, of course, Scott entered the Debutante Cotillion as a Deb-in-Waiting and then, just a few weeks ago, as a debutante, she won it all - Miss Debutante 2010. Along the way, she won the talent portion of the event and was voted by her peers as Miss Congeniality.

This fall, Scott will attend Ohio University to study computer science and, 10 years from now, she expects to be working for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital as a computer engineer fulfilling her goal of finding creative ways to help others, particularly kids, in the medical field.

She says of her teachers at St. Ursula's that "they all inspired me!" She will find such inspiration starting this fall as a newly-minted Bobcat.

Sierra Monique Flowers – Scott's Valedictorian



"I was motivated to be successful and to be the best that I can be," explains Sierra Flowers on how she found the inspiration to put in such hard work over the years and become valedictorian of the Scott High School class of 2010. "And I'm not done yet!"

Flowers, who will attend Penn State University in the fall and focus her considerable energies on a major in health administration, knows exactly where she is headed in the future – a career in hospital administration.

"I like the fast-paced work and I like being a leader," she says. "And I like the health field," says the student who was enrolled in the Scott Allied Health Small School.

In addition to all that hard work she put in to become valedictorian, Flowers was also a cheerleader and a member of the school's choir. Outside of school, she was involved with the Red Cross and Expedition Inside Culture (EIC) and a volunteers at area nursing home.

She is self-motivated, to be sure, but quick to point others who provided a good deal of inspiration. Topping that list within her family is her grandfather, Porter King, who passed away recently and who was, unfortunately, not able to see his granddaughter graduate. "He did a lot of good stuff in high school," says Flowers of the 1949 graduate of Scott. Such good stuff, in fact, that he was selected to the Scott Hall of Fame.

Flowers mentions several teachers who were sources of inspiration, including Joan Perry-Szafarowicz, who taught her social studies, American government and sociology, and Stephanie Vaez, who instructed her in algebra and pre-calculus.

Now, her high school successes a thing of the past, Flowers moves on to Happy Valley. She's certainly not done yet!

Free Youth Football Camp 2010

Monday June 14 through Friday June 18, the Eighth Annual Carnel Smith Youth Football Camp will be held at Libbey High School from 11 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. each day. Registration will begin promptly at 10 am on Monday.



Camp is free and open to boys in grades three through eight.

Football fundamentals and social skills for the first 100 registrants. Parent or guardian with insurance information must accompany all participants.

For more information, call Carnel Smith at 419-917-3547

St. Francis de Sales High School Held Its 2010 Commencement

Special to The Truth

The 2010 commencement of St. Francis de Sales High School was held May 29 at the Toledo Museum of Art Peristyle. It is worth noting that among the many achievements and honors bestowed on this class of 139 seniors, 100 percent have been accepted into one or more colleges of choice, with total acceptances to more than 100 schools.

One-hundred seventeen students or 85 percent of the class have been awarded more than \$13.8 million in academic and athletic scholarships. One hundred and three students took 370 Advanced Placement examinations in 19 subject areas, one student is a National Merit Finalist, and four students are National Merit Commended Scholars.

Sixty-five seniors are All-Academic Athletes with many of them playing in more than one varsity sport. One student has been appointed to the U.S. Air Force Academy and two students have received appointments to the U.S. Naval Academy.



The class has 51 Honor Students and 24 seniors are members of the National Honor Society. This class has contributed more than 15,000 hours in community service

to 115 local organizations, in Appalachia and U.S. inner cities. Congratulations to the following graduates.

Christopher Castro plans to attend the University of

Toledo and was awarded a Rocket Scholars Award. Castro was a 2010 Track and Field District Champion in the long jump at 21'11¼".

Dwayne Dotson plans to attend the University of Toledo and was awarded a Rocket Scholars Award.

Dotson served as president of the Afro-American Club.

Kent Goldsmith plans to attend Adrian College. Goldsmith was a three year starter on the Knights' varsity basketball team and helped lead the team his senior year to the city championship game and

the district semi-finals.

Stephen Houston, Jr. plans to attend the University of Charleston and was awarded a Leadership and Involvement Merit Award. Houston served as the vice president of the Afro-American Club.

Kendall Layson plans to attend Owens Community College.

Matthew Marshall plans to attend Albion College. Marshall was a member of the 2009-10 District Championship Swimming and Diving Team excelling in freestyle.

Anthony Miller, Jr. graduated with high honors having a grade point average of at least a 4.0 and was a member of the National Honor Society. Miller plans to attend the Pratt Institute and was awarded an Academic Scholarship. Miller received the award of excellence for outstanding Art student at graduation.

Robert Ruiz-Krause plans to attend the University of Toledo.

Emanuel White plans to attend the University of Mississippi.

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2010 SUMMER READING CLUBS for All Ages Begins THIS WEEK! (June 7-August 7) Ask a Librarian How to Join!

Make a Splash Read! – Preschool through Fifth Grade * Make Waves at Your Library – Sixth-12th Grade * Water Your Mind Read – Adults

Special to The Truth

The Toledo-Lucas County Public Library invites you to dive in head-first and join one of our great Summer Reading Clubs (SRC). You'll have a chance to win some very cool prizes! As a librarian to help get you started this week . . . *C'mon in! The reading's fine!*

This summer is the perfect time to participate in the Library's 2010 Summer Reading Clubs beginning **THIS WEEK, June 7 through August 7** with **Make a Splash Read!** (Preschool-Fifth Grade); **Make Waves at Your Library** (Sixth-12th Grade), and **Water Your Mind Read** (Adults).

For younger readers, school is either out or almost coming to a close and consistent warm weather is here, so become an SRC participant beginning this week, June 7! You'll have fun the entire summer by joining the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library's SRC, so ask a librarian about upcoming programs to help you get started . . . and remember to have fun!

This year's water theme encourages all ages to beat those dry summertime blues by coming to your library to cool off and read a new book and participate in your neighborhood branch library's many offerings this summer, including SRC!

Nancy Eames, Toledo-Lucas County Public Library Youth Services Coordinator, says

SRC participants can "Make a Splash" through reading books - youth and adults alike can open the door to new worlds and interests.

"Summer Reading Club has something for everyone. Summer reading is all about reading for fun and everyone from children to adults can earn great prizes just for reading," said Eames.

The 2010 SRC features the following three divisions:

Juvenile Club – Preschoolers and children entering K-fifth are encouraged

to read at least 15 minutes a day, and are awarded prizes after reading one, two, four, eight and 12 hours. Every child who reads 12 hours will win a Beach Ball! As children reach the 20, 30, 40 or 50 hour and higher levels, they can enter to win system prizes provided by the Library Legacy Foundation such as gift cards for the Toledo Mud Hens, Barnes and Noble, and Toys R Us. (Note: Preschoolers may become SRC members by having someone read to them)

Teen Club – These middle school and high school-aged youth fill out an entry form for

each book read and place it in a marked box at any branch location or at Main Library for drawings, which will be held throughout the summer. A grand prize drawing for prizes such as movie gift cards, Cedar Point tickets, a Kindle, a Wii game system and a digital camera will be held at the end of SRC.

Adult Club – Adults fill out an entry form for each book read and drawings will be held throughout the summer for prizes. Adults may win book bags, Authors! Authors! tickets and more.

Last year's SRC saw nearly 20,000 youth and adult participants! TARTA has offered free transportation to Preschool through 12th grade SRC participants. Youth members of the 2010 SRC need only show their SRC hang tag for free transportation to and from their favorite library in Lucas

(Continued on Page 10)



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First Class of Teacher LEADERS to Be Announced

Special to The Truth



A dozen teachers from Toledo Public Schools and the Catholic Diocese of Toledo will go back to school this summer to

study the latest in alternative energy and learn creative ways to teach their students about the growing industry.

The teachers, along with a couple principals and administrators, are the first class to participate in the federally-funded research program Leadership for Educators: Academy for Driving Economic Revitalization in Science, or LEADERS.

The participants will be announced at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 9 at the Imagination Station in downtown Toledo.

The goal of the LEADERS partnership, which is funded by a \$5 million grant from the National Science Foundation, is to improve K-12 science education with Project-Based Science linked to the alternative energy and the

(Continued on Page 14)

Free Summer Tutoring Program for Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Graders



Peggy Harris

Peggy Harris and Mt. Nebo Baptist church are collaborating this summer to offer an eight-week tutoring program for middle schoolers. The free reading, math and science tutorial will start on June 21 and continue through August 12 and will take place on Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Daily.

"Achievement matters," said Harris who is conducting the program - funded by EOPA - for the second year. "In order for students to achieve, it takes more than the classroom - it takes

churches, parents and advocates to give children the support they need to develop the potential they have. And it's up to adults and caregivers to help bring it out."

Harris and Mt. Nebo pastor, Rev. Cedric Brock, anticipate that about 40 students will participate in the summer classes. Harris will be assisted by four teachers and three peer tutors - two 16-year olds from Bowsher and a 19-year old graduate of Start.

"It's important that our students learn that summer

school can be vital to success," said Brock. "Due to [public schools] budget cuts, it's a shame that students have to inherit these problems - even 10 years after the

problems started. But we still need to position our students to succeed."

To register for the program, call 419-754-1898 or 419-320-0474.

Summer Reading Clubs

(Continued from Page 9)

County.

A special Web page for SRC will be available the week of June 7 by logging on to toledolibrary.org. The Web site's SRC section will link to SRC information, prize lists, a drawing of the week, and more.

Visit any Toledo-Lucas County Public Library location for an SRC folder or entry form and sign-up beginning THIS WEEK!

The Toledo-Lucas County Public Library would like to thank its

2010 Summer Reading Clubs

sponsors:

The Blade, Buckeye CableSystem, Friends of the Library, The Library Legacy Foundation, Directions Credit Union, Splash Bay Indoor Water Park, WTOL 11, Burger King, The Butterfly House, Marco's Pizza, Dorothy MacKenzie Price, Quizno's, Rally's, Subway, Taco Bell, Chipotle, and TARTA.

For more details, call 419.259.5207, visit any Toledo-Lucas County Public Library branch location or log on to toledolibrary.org

Toledo-Lucas County Public Library

Summer Reading Clubs

THREE fun reading clubs from preschool to adult. Begins June 7!

Make a SPLASH READ!
Preschool - 5th Grade

Make Waves at Your Library
6th - 12th Grade

Water Your Mind READ
Adult

Kids: Show your SRC "reading toy" and catch a ride to the Library on TARTA for FREE this summer!

THE BLADE | Toledo-Lucas County Public Library | Directions Credit Union | TARTA | WTOL 11 | Quizno's | Rally's | Subway | Taco Bell | Burger King | The Butterfly House | Chipotle | Marco's | Dorothy MacKenzie Price

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Computer-based Credit Recovery Eliminates Summer School Hassle

Special to The Truth

This summer, students in the Toledo area will be able to recover lost credits without upsetting their summer plans. Phoenix Academy's computer-based program lets students recover graduation credits by studying on their home computer at their convenience.

This revolution in teaching technology eliminates hours of summer boredom for students who otherwise would have to study in a hot classroom while friends enjoy the summer break. Students now have the flex-

ibility to recover credits so that they can graduate with their class while holding a summer job or spending time with friends or at the pool.

Toledo's Phoenix Academy, a nationally recognized leader in the field of computer-based learning, offers a unique program that empowers students in grades nine-12 to recover credits from home, at their convenience 24/7. Coursework is available on the family computer—or at any of the four Credit Recovery Outreach Centers.

Even more remarkably, teacher support by e-mail is available to Phoenix Academy students seven days a week.

Suburban districts as well as Toledo Public Schools recognize and respect the Phoenix Academy curriculum. Students from neighboring communities in northwest Ohio including Ottawa Hills, Sylvania, Rossford and Perrysburg benefit from the Phoenix program.

Traditional schools trust the Phoenix Academy program because it ensures in-

tegrity. Classes are comprised of modules, which are similar to chapters in a textbook. Most begin with a pre-test, which checks knowledge of the topic. After completion of all modules in the class section, students visit a Phoe-

nix Academy credit recovery center to take a final exam. Their identity is verified by photo ID.

Students without access to a home computer can study in fully equipped computer labs located in Phoenix's new downtown

home at the corner of Jefferson and 16th street or suburban Credit Recovery Outreach Centers on Alexis Road, McCord Road or in the East Toledo Family Center.

Enrollment for Phoenix Academy's online summer credit recovery program is Monday, June 7 through Wednesday, June 9, 9:00 a.m. – noon at all four Phoenix Academy locations. Fees are \$100 per semester credit for Toledo Public School students and \$125 per credit for non-TPS students. Courses begin Monday, June 14.

Complete information about course offerings is available at www.phoenixtoledo.org. Click on Credit Recovery Program. Telephone 419-720-4505.



The Library's Reading Selection of the Month – JUNE, 2010

By Toledo-Lucas County Public Library Staff

Are you a teen? If so, sign up for Summer Reading Clubs 2010 at any Toledo-Lucas County Public Library branch location and get started on a fun journey of warm weather reading with this stirring story of a modern-day boy who remembers himself as a 14-year-old slave named 47, living in Georgia in 1832.

In his first youth book, titled *47*, acclaimed mystery writer **Walter Mosley**, combines escape from slavery and African-American myth with the realism of plantation brutality and the courage of resistance.

The boy recalls being chained, branded, and whipped until the runaway Tall John inspires him to fulfill his destiny and lead his people to freedom.

Like the mythical figure High John the Conqueror, the runaway comes from "beyond Africa," and he shows the boy the secrets of the universe. Above all, *47* takes in Tall John's repeated lesson, which is finally what sets him free.

The magical realism allows for some plot contrivance, but Mosley brings the harsh facts and anguish very close, and the first-person narrative shows and tells how "slavery is the most unbelievable part of this whole story."

47 is recommended for grades seven-10. Sign up for the teen Summer Reading Club, *Make Waves @ Your Library!*, today. It's



free and fun, and you could win amazing prizes such as a Wii gaming system and more! For more information, please call

419.259.5207. **Source: Hazel Rochman**
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Students in grades 7-12 who are enrolled in a traditional high school can earn credits – without disturbing summer job schedules – through the Phoenix Academy Outreach Program. Students study on their home computer or at one of our four computer labs. Classes are comprised of modules, which are similar to textbook chapters. After completion of each module, students take an exam at a Phoenix Credit Recovery Outreach Center. Our computer-based curriculum offers the benefits students prefer:

- 24/7 access to lessons on your home computer
- A downtown computer lab and 3 convenient neighborhood computer labs with hours that accommodate individual schedules
- One-on-one live teacher support is available in our labs. Teacher support by e-mail is available 7 days a week.
- A clearly-defined discipline code and a safe, secure environment

Take charge of your education at Phoenix Academy. For more information and a list of available courses visit www.phoenixtoledo.org and click on Credit Recovery Program.

COURSES BEGIN JUNE 14
REGISTER AT ANY OF OUR FOUR LOCATIONS
MON., JUNE 7 – WED., JUNE 9, 9 AM – 12 NOON

1505 Jefferson Avenue
Toledo, OH 43604
Phone: 419.720.4500

Neighborhood Credit Recovery Outreach Centers
3055 W. Alexis Rd. 1100 N. McCord Rd. 1020 Garland Ave.

www.phoenixtoledo.org

Congratulations to the class of 2010!



Pictured From the left, front row: William Christian Scharer, Katherine Michelle Gaskill, Shonn A. Monday, Santoria Marie Sawyer, Charles William Colony, Christina Marie-Rizzo Casano, Alyssa Nikole Rocha, Sierra Monique Flowers, Drew Joseph LeGendre. From the left, back row: Nicholas James Francis, Gary Thomas Strain, Veronica Nicole Merritt, Charlotte Rose Strickland, Laura Anne Zielinski, Jasmine Shea Townsend, Sierra Renee Lawson, Charles Jacob Green, III, Grace Louise Mauk

Congratulations to the Top 10 students from each of our high schools. These students have achieved academic excellence and are sure to be successful in their future endeavors. The entire class of 2010 is a shining credit to their families, their teachers, their community and to Toledo Public Schools.

Bowsher High School: Drew Joseph LeGendre, Grace Louise Mauk, Rosaria Ann Tirone, Cathryn Grace Lieser, Jessica Dayle Pever, Paul Michael Seabold, Joann Catherine Latham, Kaelynn Mackenzie Lohmeyer, Nicholas Michael Seay, Alyssa Marie Ansted

Libbey High School: Alyssa Nikole Rocha, Sierra Renee Lawson, William Hines, Jerrika Elaine Jones, Mercedes Capps, Adrian C. Mathis, Byron Harris, Jr., Taishia Janay Loveless, Leondre' Hawkins, Maxwell Gregory Barnt

Rogers High School: Katherine Michelle Gaskill, Gary Thomas Strain, Justin Allen Warner, Brittney Ann Conklin, Samantha D. Michalak, Keith Allen Johnson, Jr., Carol Jeanne Jagodzinski, Christine Marie Schriefer, Kasey Noelle Smith, Jamieson C. Williams

Scott High School: Sierra Monique Flowers, Charles Jacob Green, III, Ahvian Da'Sawn Williams, Jabalena Caprice Thompson, Malcolm Deshawn Daniels, Cirea Coltrane, Breana Lynn Ziemann, Shominique Shave Chenault, Trenton Arlon Jackson, Nicole Renee' Burns

Start High School: Charles William Colony, Laura Anne Zielinski, Sarah Elizabeth Scisson, Jessica Paige Bajas, Stephanie Spencer, Laura Elizabeth Beck, Elizabeth Hastings Chow, D'Ann Ester Abreu, Betty Q. Jalal, Andrew D. Monnett

Toledo Early College High School: Christina Marie-Rizzo Casano, Jasmine Shea Townsend, Caitlin Jean Cundick, Breanna M. Hauri, Nathan Edwin Jacobs, Amanda Marie Hibbs, Tyler James Ewsuk, Boyce L. Swift, Chelsea Jo'Nae Catchings, Steven Timothy Klepacz

Toledo Technology Academy (TTA): William Christian Scharer, Nicholas James Francis, Taylor Allayna Rayan Allman, Tyler James Wood, Nathan Alan Spieldenner, Travis Chase, Nicholas David Burmeister, Amanda Lee Jozwiak, Jonathan Pym, Ariana E. Newton

Waite High School: Santoria Marie Sawyer, Charlotte Rose Strickland, Christine Marie Smith, Erica Iren Nickels, Nicole Marie Avila, Anthony Kyle DeLeon, Hallandra Lin Johnson, Courtney J. Bublick, Brandon Michael Harris, Jordan Mychal Rios

Woodward High School: Shonn A. Monday, Veronica Nicole Merritt, Tiffani Jean Jahns, Danielle Sherelle Mayes, Tabitha Jane Jahns, Rashunn D. Waites, Leslyann Marie Blevins, Cameron Leonardus Hych, Regina Dean, Ke'ana Finesse Walker

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Do You Celebrate June as Black Music Month?

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture



My mother is a dance instructor, my father a percussionist/drummer.

My childhood in the 80s/90s left me with many memories of June as a busy month. Our family's African dance troupe, Creative Impulse, would constantly have performances around the area especially during the so-called

Black Music Month.

Having my own label years later, my singers would perform at some of these events and Toledo would actually feel alive with celebrations of rhythm and sound catered to African-American traditions of soul, funk, jazz and R&B (occasionally some hip-hop).

But what is black music? Does it really need its own month? Are black people even the ones appreciating 'black' music? Is it another undeserved moment of special recognition?

Oh, don't get it twisted... I encounter black and white people on a routine basis who feel that NOW since we have a black president (not to mention Oprah) that we no longer have a need to address our own identity in a nation where our identity has never been rightfully acknowledged.

But if we are going to receive recognition for our music, what should we do with it?

WHY IS BLACK MUSIC IMPORTANT?

Well, those hundreds of years bringing Africans to this country and forcing them to the crushing degradation of slavery created two Americas.

Which is why there's a national anthem (which I rarely recite) and also a Black National Anthem – not to celebrate division, but to acknowledge we were brought here divided from all that this country was supposed to be.

When black slaves were forced to adopt their masters' religious views, we carried over that "call & response" from our native land and made it a backbone of our new spiritual ritual in the beginning of the black church.

The black church gave birth to much of the music you hear today.

From Negro spirituals and hymns to the chord structure and slow tempos of blues music to rock n roll (hope I'm not moving too fast, if you're still reading I assume you know most of this).

Jazz music escapes exact textbook definition but one thing for certain, it's original and native to this country and it has our fingerprints all over it.

Without black music, there would be no Rolling Stones, The Beatles or Elvis Presley. Without black music, the sad stories of country music would never have been popular enough to become a genre. Rock would have never evolved and all of the political stances from artists like Johnny Cash to Public Enemy wouldn't have been as useful in the medium of popular music.

Personally, since I suck at drawing, music has been my expression since, well... considering my parents, since before I was born.

Music itself takes every-

thing inside, and illustrates it for the world to hear. Your day, your life, your problems, your pain, your joy, your issues, your desires. Whatever is in you, music is the most compelling art form to get it out and appreciated by the masses.

DO WE APPRECIATE BLACK MUSIC?

Black teenagers dress like 80's punk rockers and white singers like Adam Levine, Joss Stone, Natasha Beddingfield and even our own Mama Sox regularly sing with more passion and soul than many black singers.

As B.I.G. said, "Things Done Changed"

Yet, the topsy-turvy times in which we live are full of possibility, the problem is that young black people are THE LAST ones to truly study and appreciate music and black music.

Let me tell you how bad it really is.

Earlier this decade I won a few poetry contests with a poem containing this line: "the essence of ebony is the source of the vibe."

It was a play on words alluding to the fact that we are in control of our own media (in a way) and it's our music and influence that is ruling the cultural landscape.

But even since the days I wrote that there has been a decline in how many black youth engage in the discussions on topics in Vibe, XXL and The Source. OUR OWN MUSIC and culture presented to us on a regular basis.

In the 90s, I and other teenagers loved discussing our music.

We loved debating: 112 vs. Jagged Edge, Boyz II Men vs. Jodeci, Brandi vs. Monica and of course as Jay Z said "... and argue all day, whose the best mecca: Biggie, Jay Z

or Nas."

We were having discussions about our music. Now we are all too busy trying to be the next one on the cover of XXL that we don't have time to invest in digesting the music being made by those already on the cover.

The microwave culture of America has made everything disposable, and with hip-hop at the forefront of black music for as long as I've been alive... if hip-hop eats itself alive we won't have anyone to blame but us.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Toledo hates when I mention my own music company in my article but it's my point of view from the ground floor so... hey.

Today, I was working on vocally developing one of my R&B/soul artists.

I had her sing classic soul songs and some recent classics.

We teach all of our artists to treat each lyric written, and each word rapped or melody sung as if it's going into the ear of a listener intent on getting quality.

I know it's not just U.G.E., I see many other music companies/artists in the T really trying to offer meaningful music to their audiences.

But for all the effort we put into respecting our audience enough to give them the real, what do we do when they still just want another song about popping champagne and riding 28-inch rims to the club?

Is it music appreciation when a 14-year-old hears a rapper spit about Evisu Jeans (which costs upwards of \$500) and now the next rhyme he spits eschews the same sentiment? NO, that's not appreciation.

To be honest with you, I'd say 70 percent of the people I encounter making music aren't concerned with offering any fulfilling expression to improve the art form.

And you don't have to be the next Raheem Devaughn or India Arie to better the art form. Hell, Fabolous is not deep. But his intellect and wit on topics that people DO relate to are still just as valuable as Mos Def & Talib Kweli's track "History" on Mos new album.

It's about balance. We can't appreciate a damn thing when we are all rushing through the door trying to be the next one on stage.

And there won't be any appreciating going on if...

Wait.
Look. Can I be super real right now? This is coming from me as a music maker and music lover. Like my dude Waymon/Italaz says... TRUTH TALK right here: We aren't appreciating music in 2010.

Why do you think most people get their music from youtube these days? Because all that old stuff we loved is still there and it saves us from the radio. Admit it, you are shocked as hell if you hear three good songs

in a row these days. At the club or on the radio, you be like "okay!!, yea!!!"

You can hate me if you want, but I will say that U.G.E. is our music company and we are desperately trying to restore that balance. Trying to bring quality music in all forms back to the listeners.

We stand in alliance with people like Italaz, S.S.T.R.E.S., Soulbeat, Hustle Hand, Be Original Boys, Hunter Prey, Great Lakes, 4th Coast, p360, Glassfam, Embrace Ent, Pos Mov and many, many, many other Toledo based movements who are all good at what they do (can't name everyone).

Because local or global, from LeAnn Rimes to Busta Rhymes... I appreciate music. This art form is how I want to put food on the table, and this expression is how we all put our souls at ease... if we appreciate each other more, we will appreciate music including black music. And if we listen, just listen... I think we can make our ancestors proud.

Facebook search or email: glasscitytruth@yahoo.com

Celebrate with us, Friday June 18 Club Eclipse!

And get ready for BASH AT THE BAY 2010!!

Oh yeah... The Listening Open Mic Nite, every Saturday 9pm-1130 - Truth Art Gallery 1811 Adams (taking donations to benefit the gallery)



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CLASSIFIEDS

June 09, 2010

Page 15

Salon Needs Techs

New! South Toledo Nail Salon is seeking the following: Esthetician and Nail Technician.
Booth rent \$50.00 per week to start, commission possible. For information call Roxy at (419) 380-9528.

Attention All Vendors

Join us for this year's 6th Annual African American Festival To be held
Saturday, July 10 – Sunday, July 11, 2009
At The University of Toledo's Scott Park Campus
Contact Suzette Cowell at 419.255.8876 for more information
Call TODAY - Space is limited!!



INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority is seeking bids from qualified contractors to furnish all labor, materials, and equipment for the following two (2) projects.

Job/Location	Job Number	Walk-Thru Date	Bid Opening Date
Roof Replacement at 201 Belmont	210073	June 23, 2010 @ 11:00am	June 14, 2010 @ 10:00am
Roof Replacement at Parwood Apts.	210072	June 22, 2010 @ 11:00am	June 14, 2010 @ 11:00am

All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud in the 2nd Floor Conference Room on the dates shown above, in the Modernization Department, at 201 Belmont Street. Contract documents and technical specifications/drawings will be available from the Modernization Department, and will be provided upon request. You may also download the bid package at www.lucasmha.org. If prints are part of the package, they will have to be picked up.

Each bid shall be accompanied by cash, an approved surety company bid bond, or a certified check upon a solvent bank, made payable to the Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority in an amount equal to five (5) percent of the bid, tendered as a bid guarantee (if required) that the bidder will, if the award is made to him, enter into a bona fide contract with Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority for this work and furnish proper guarantee bonding as required under the specifications within a period of ten (10) days after the awarding of the contract.

The prevailing wages for this locality, as established by the Department of Labor as Wage Determination OH20100028, as modified, must be paid all persons employed for this work.

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

LUCAS METROPOLITAN
HOUSING AUTHORITY
MODERNIZATION DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

Lucas County Children Services (LCCS) is issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Mentoring for Families/Parents to Support In-Home Placements.

The goal is to help improve behaviors impacting family dysfunction that may result in the recurrence of maltreatment, placement re-entry, placement stability and/or reunification through the use of mentoring services that target their needs and, therefore, permanency, family/school stability and overall well-being.

LCCS is seeking proposals from non-profit and for-profit agencies or entities capable and willing to provide mentoring services to families/parents. RFP materials will be available from June 7 at 9:00 a.m., through June 15, 2010 at 4:00 p.m., at 705 Adams St., Toledo, Ohio, 43604. To make arrangements to pick up an RFP packet, call 419-213-3658. An applicant information meeting regarding the RFP will be held on June 15, 2010 at 9:00 a.m., in Room 913, 705 Adams St.

The deadline for submitting completed proposals (NO FAX) is **Friday, July 2, 2010, at 4:00 p.m.** No proposal will be accepted after that deadline.

By
Dean Sparks, Executive Director
Lucas County Children Services

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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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3545 Dean Avenue. One level, two bedroom.
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Rent, deposit, security check required.
Call 419-514-4011 Aisha's Housing

THE WILLARD APARTMENTS 2257 Upton Avenue

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

Application fee is \$25. For an appointment to apply or more information call (419) 389-0361.



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Mobile Benefits Bank Advocate

Want to make a *real* difference in someone's life?
Come and join us

Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE) has established a Mobile Benefit Bank (MBB) in Lucas County. The MBB helps low-income individuals and families access and apply for public benefits and credit programs for which they may be eligible using the Ohio Benefit Bank online system.

ABLE is seeking to enroll an additional Advocate through the AmeriCorps Program to identify and screen individuals for benefit eligibility through outreach events at a variety of community access points. The individual will work from ABLE's Toledo Office.

Candidates must be able to work well with low-income individuals and groups; have excellent communication skills; be computer proficient; and committed to the principle of equal justice. Relevant college degree highly preferred. Experience working in the area of government benefits is preferred. Fluency in Spanish is highly preferred.

Compensation is set by federal statute. Participants are eligible for a living allowance, health insurance, and an education award for each full year of service. Twelve month commitment required. Minimum 35 hour work week with some weekend and evening activities required.

Applications will be accepted until June 21, 2010. Email a cover letter, resume, and list of references, in Word or PDF format, to:

apply@ablelaw.org
Subject: AmeriCorps MBB Advocate

ABLE is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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Women Blessing Women – Changing Lives, Empowering Women

By Brittany Jones
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Blessings come in different ways, come anytime and come from anywhere. One just has to have the ability to decipher when blessings are in the making.

They can also be found through an organization.

Women Blessing Women (WBW), a non-profit organization, "serves, blesses, and empowers women to achieve their potential, to obtain living wage jobs, and break the cycle of poverty," according to the group's mission statement.

Through special events, their Empowerment Program and free services, the members strive to make a difference with women in the city.

An event that has gained popularity over time is the "5th Annual Spring Blessings: Fashion Show and Luncheon" held this year at the Lourdes College Gymnasium on June 5.

Glenda Hayes, the interim director of WBW, says that this event was a fundraiser for the organization in order to obtain grants and bring in additional support. It is to support the overall cause of WBW.

"Besides the programs that we offer and the job and GED preparedness services, this program was a coming

out for the ladies in terms of leaving that 'comfort zone,'" said Hayes. "It was a way for them to build confidence not only in the public sphere, but for life all around."

Twenty tables were filled with supporters, participants and volunteers—out of this large group of women, only two were men.

The Mistress of Ceremonies and Board Chairman of WBW, Laurie Neary, got the

program going with a welcome and acknowledged many who help the association such as staff, participants and volunteers.

"I hope that possibly that a fashion will catch your eye. I hope that the food will fill your stomachs, but most importantly I hope that the bishop of WBW and the stories of our women will capture your heart."

Sister Annette

Langenderfer led prayer created especially for the ministry of WBW. The lunch was provided by Outback Steakhouse, which was the fourth time of the restaurant has done so free of charge.

Following the meal was the fashion show put on by six women associated with WBW with one graduate, Anita Garcia. The other ladies involved were Hazel Briggs, Tracey Graves, April Halterman, Paula Knowles, Nichelle "Nikki" Mitchell and Janay Williams.

The women modeled fashions from Fashion Bug and did two scenes: School and Career Days and Summer Breeze.

Board of Trustee's members, Felicia Clark and Linda Miller, MC'd the show and the two men in the audience—James Galloway and Derek Jones—were escorts for the second scene.

Hayes introduced the participants and then the models had the chance to give their testimonials about how WBW has influences their lives for the better.

Keynote speaker, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, was set to arrive earlier in the program, but did not show up until 1:20 p.m. She was held back by an accident involving a broken telephone pole that delayed her time of arrival.

In the mean time, Sister Langenderfer and Janette Robertson managed the raffle and 50/50 drawing. In addition, Sister Dorothy Thum carried out announcements of future events and a description of the WBW endowment fund.

Garcia introduced Congresswoman Kaptur once she had arrived.

Kaptur congratulated the organization for being such an influence in the community and helping women who

want to advance in the world. Kaptur encouraged those to understand that there are still people out there that are willing to aid in any possible way.

The congresswoman summed up WBW with a story of her experience with the significance of an undertow in the ocean and its effect it can have on a person.

"Women Blessing Women is one of the undertows in the community that is making an extraordinary difference," she said. "It is not forceful like a wave straight on, but it has an impact in the lives of individual



Paula Knowles



Anita Garcia models-casual



Glenda Hayes (center) with models

women who are advancing and moving forward."

To conclude the event, Robertson gave thanks to the audience and the sponsors. Neary also closed with thanks of appreciation and a call for more volunteers with the association.

Candace Brown, a volunteer since 2008, got involved in order to help the ladies in the program.

"It helps me see how much Women Blessing Women can change a women's life and how much an education can get you far and into different venues jobs," she said.

"Women Blessing Women's unique holistic and

comprehensive program provides the resources and skills to enable women to obtain their G.E.D., increase their self-confidence, and lift themselves out of poverty by obtaining living wage employment."

The organization has been in operation since March of 1995.

The Empowerment program is provided at no cost to participants. Services are offered to women 18 and over, without regard to ethnic background, race, or religion.

It offers women the tools to thrive in their career and in their lives.

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