



Local and National News

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Volume 19, No.03

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

November 17, 2010

Coming Soon...



... The New Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union

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This Strikes Us ...

A Sojourner's Truth Editorial

After an election cycle during which more voters said the American budget deficit and rising debt was the most important issue facing the nation, it seems pretty clear that the nation is not ready to deal with the choices necessary to avoid a long-term financial catastrophe.

The co-chairmen of President Obama's fiscal commission released a preliminary report last week that would address discretionary spending, Social Security and defense and politicians from the left to the right hustled to the microphones to denounce the recommendations as unpalatable.

The report has something in it to offend just about everyone, it appears. So let's ask ourselves two questions. Are we concerned about the mounting debt? What do we want to sacrifice in order to deal with the situation?

This is where we get folks volunteering other folks to offer up a little sacrifice. Former Republican Senator Alan Simpson and former Clinton White House Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles have recommended cutting the budgets of Congress and the White House by 15 percent and the rest of the federal workforce by 10 percent.

Let's do away with all earmarks, say the chairmen, and raise the Social Security age – gradually – to 69.

So those are some of the things that have the left – Nancy Pelosi called the recommendations “simply unacceptable” – in a snit.

One labor leader said that the chairmen have in effect told the American working class to “drop dead.”

So what doesn't work for those on the right?

The call for elimination of some mortgage-interest tax deductions, which would affect primarily the wealthy, raising the gas tax, eliminating farm subsidies and the proposed defense cuts don't please conservatives.

The report actually endorses the cost-cutting mechanisms that are in the new health care plan and would strengthen them – even calling for the creation of a strong public option. That notion certainly flies in the face of all those new congressmen tramping into the nation's capital hell bent on repealing ObamaCare.

Bowles and Simpson have also, for example, called for the closure of one-third of all overseas military bases. That won't wear well in the Pentagon or with its allies in Congress but it's astonishing that more than two decades after the end of the Cold War, we are still in the business of protecting Germany and the rest of Western Europe from ... whatever.

There's little doubt that Bowles and Simpson have not crafted the perfect plan to reduce the national debt. However, the commission had not started meeting before the two chairmen floated these proposals so there is a good deal of reflecting and refining that must take place when the full commission starts its deliberations.

And, it's to be hoped that politicians will at the very least take a serious, careful look at recommendations before they rush to the cameras for a little face time.

We were not terribly optimistic when the report came out and the initial reactions spewed forth.

In addition, Americans just haven't displayed the will to make the sacrifices necessary to attack this problem. And our leaders have pandered to each of the special interests they serve.

But there are a few hopeful signs.

Republican Senate Leader Mitch McConnell has done an about face on earmarks – probably less because of what the commission has recommended and more because of the ire that earmarks raise within the ranks of the newer, more conservative legislators.

There are more things in the report that President Obama can work with and gain traction from both sides of the political aisle than not. If he can lead a strong effort to extend political backing to his own commission, that may go a long way with both parties.

The key issues, it seems to us, are the show stoppers among the diehards on the left and right respectively – Social Security whose costs are astronomical and the defense budget.

(Continued on Page 4)

Community Calendar

November 7, 14, 21, 28

Mind Body and Soul Free Dance Lessons: Every Sunday in November; YMCA at Summit and Bush; 4 to 6 pm: 419-944-4269 or 419-450-2143 or 419-376-3346

November 19-21

Indiana Avenue MBC Annual Men's Day: Fri – 4:30 to 7:30 pm – fish fry and clothing giveaway; Sat – breakfast at 9 am, door prizes at 10:50 am, health ministry at 11:15 am; Sun – “Men of God, Edifying One Another in Faith;” 10:45 am; Guest speaker is Rev. Otha Gilyard of Columbus: 419-320-0919

November 20

Trulight Cathedral Global Ministries 4th Annual Well Watered Women of Faith Luncheon: “Oasis of Hope;” Noon to 3 pm; Tamaron Country Club; Guest speaker, entertainment, door prizes: 419-705-1008 or 419-344-7673

Calvary Baptist Church Cancer Awareness Luncheon: 10 am to 2 pm
85th Foundation 2nd Annual Turkey Giveaway: New Life C.O.G.I.C.; ID and utility bill required for free turkey; Noon: 419-318-2158

Walls Memorial Chapel AME Zion Church Coat Giveaway: New and used coats of all sizes; Noon to 2 pm; One coat per person: 419-255-4014

Crosswood Church “Men Ministering to Men;” 10 am; Speaker Pastor Wilbert Owens of Detroit

Church of New Beginning “A Night of Joy;” 7 pm; Featuring BG Gospel Choir, UT Gospel Choir: 567-294-6405

November 21

End Time Christian Fellowship 19th Pastoral Anniversary: 10 am service; Speaker Rev. Crystal Dixon: 419-472-5993

Tabernacle MBC 50th Anniversary; Pastor Lemuel Quinn of Southern MBC is the guest speaker; 4 pm: 419-720-7201 or 419-654-1230

November 22

Beulah Baptist Choir Anniversary: Speaker Pastor Marvin Crittenden of Refuge Holy Tabernacle; 4 pm

November 23

Temple of Praise Church Free Thanksgiving Feeding: 6:30 to 8:30 pm; Westbrook Community Room: 419-754-0325

November 24

Ebenezer Church Annual Need to Feed: Free thanksgiving dinners; Noon to 2 pm

November 25

Thomas Temple C.O.G.I.C. Annual Free Thanksgiving Dinner: Noon to 2 pm: 419-255-3447

November 28

End Time Christian Fellowship 19th Pastoral Anniversary: 10 am service; Speaker Rev. Wayne Corggens: 419-472-5993

First MBC of Swanton Women in Red Service: Sis. Jean Lark of Union Grove is the guest speaker; 4 pm

Brian Thomas chorale 26th Anniversary: Chritian Community Church; special guests Min. Larry Callahan and Selected of God from Detroit; 6 pm

December 2

Joint Utility Social Service Committee 2010-2011 Information Fairs: East Toledo Family Center; 1 to 6 pm; Info to assist on utilities, food, housing, health care and other social service needs

December 2-4

I.F.O.C. Annual Leadership Summit: “Transparency Without Condemnation;” Reception, workshops, lectures: 419-944-0984

December 3

Prophetic Intercession: WOV Bookstore; 6 pm; Pastor Terry Coleman and Prophetess Danelle Bonds

December 7

ProMedica Cancer Institute's Free Prostate Screenings: Hickman Cancer Center at Flower Hospital; 4 to 6 pm: 877-291-1441

December 31

AKA Sorority New Year's Eve Masquerade Ball: Pinnacle; Dinner and cocktails; Fundraiser for scholarships and community service

The Sojourner's Truth

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Crack-Cocaine Sentencing Disparity Reduced

By Charles McKinney, Esq.
Guest Column

In the initial hysteria surrounding the so-called "crack epidemic" in America's inner cities, it was assumed that crack cocaine was so much more dangerous to the African-American community than powder cocaine and, therefore, drastically higher penalties were warranted for the crack dealer. That rationale has resulted in years of racial injustice in federal sentencing for drug offenses.

Sentencing for federal drug crimes is based primarily on the weight of the drugs possessed and/or sold. Until recently, a defendant convicted of possession or trafficking of powder cocaine had to possess 100 times the amount of powder to receive the same sentence as a crack cocaine defendant.

Thus, for more than two decades, possession of five grams of cocaine base (crack) with or without the intent to distribute, has resulted in the same mandatory five-year

sentence as distribution of 500 grams of powder cocaine.

Powder cocaine distributors have been primarily Caucasian. Crack dealers have been mostly African-American and most of them are low-level or street level retailers. While powder cocaine distributors have received relatively reasonable sentences, crack-cocaine retailers have received very harsh sentences resulting in our federal prisons becoming packed with low-level, predominantly African-American offenders.

Moved more by hysteria than reason, the crack-cocaine sentencing disparity was advanced by many, including some black legislators, as a means to eradicate crack from minority communities. Since it is now recognized that crack cocaine and powder cocaine are pharmacologically identical, there is no rational basis for punishing the crack defendant more harshly than a

powder cocaine defendant on the basis of the form in which the drug is sold or possessed.

Moreover, the crack cocaine disparity has not achieved the goal of eradicating the drug from African-American communities. To the contrary, it has diverted limited resources away from prevention and treatment for drug abusers and has devastated communities and families ripped apart by the over-incarceration of young African-American men.

The Fair Sentencing Act of 2010 (FSA) is a significant step towards a rationally-based and racially-fair sentencing scheme for drug offenses. Signed into law by President Obama on August 3, 2010, the FSA reduced the statutory penalties for crack cocaine offenses and eliminated the mandatory minimum sentence for simple possession of crack cocaine.

FSA does not eliminate the sentencing disparity com-



pletely. It does, however, reduce that disparity to roughly 18:1 from the previous 100:1. Under FSA, distribution of a gram of crack will draw roughly the same sentence as distribution of 18 grams of powder. The FSA is good news for many but it is not the complete story because the federal sentencing scheme is based upon the United States Sentencing Guidelines.

In the mid-1980's, the

United States Sentencing Commission developed the Guidelines to achieve fairness and uniformity in sentencing across the nation for federal crimes. In order to achieve uniformity, Congress mandated that federal judges could not deviate from the prescribed sentence for any particular offense.

Although, the Supreme Court eventually ruled that the Guidelines could not be mandatory, judges must still

give serious consideration to the Guidelines during sentencing.

The U.S. Sentencing Commission published supplemental Guidelines on November 1, 2010 to further implement the Fair Sentencing Act.

Charles McKinney maintains an office at 624 Adams Street and may be reached at 419-720-9006.

Lucas County Children Services Kicks off Annual Holiday Gift Drive

Campaign Benefits Abused and Neglected Children

Special to The Truth

The holiday season is upon us, and Lucas County Children Services (LCCS) and Friends of Lucas County Children Services (FLCCS) are kicking off their annual Holiday Gift.

Drive. With a goal of providing holiday cheer to as many as 2,000 abused and neglected children being served by LCCS, this year's theme is "Share the Joy." The campaign runs through December 15.

The drive provides gifts for children living with their families under LCCS supervision, or who are living with relatives in order to be safe.

"In 2010, we've seen abuse and neglect cases continue to rise in Lucas County," explains Sherry Dunn, LCCS public information specialist and campaign coordinator. "The area's economic situation has placed more strain on families, and family stress is a big contributor to child abuse and neglect. We want to make sure that kids who have been through these tough times have something to be happy about this holiday season," she says.

The gift drive provides toys for children from birth to age 18. While LCCS and

FLCCS are seeking gifts for all age groups, the agency is in particular need of gifts for children of all ethnic groups who are newborn to four years old, and gift cards for teenagers.

Several generous community partners are again stepping up to support the gift drive: Buckeye Cable System; Bennett Management Corp., a franchisee of BURGER KING® Corporation®; The Blade; Banner Mattress & Furniture; radio station WRVF 101.5 The River and Woodcraft. Local residents are encouraged to drop a new, unwrapped toy in the collection boxes located around the community.

*All Toledo-area BURGER KING® restaurants.

•Banner Mattress & Furniture locations at 5200 Monroe St., Sylvania; 6400 Hill Ave. and 2521 West Alexis Rd., Toledo; 3249 Navarre Ave., Oregon; 10005 Fremont Pike, Perrysburg; and 1135 South Main St., Bowling Green.

•The Blade office at 541 North Superior Street, Toledo.

•Buckeye Cable System bill payment centers located at 5566 Southwyck Boulevard and 2600 West Sylvania Av-

enue in Toledo, and at 3021 Navarre Avenue, Oregon, inside computer XTREME.

•Woodcraft, 5311 Airport Highway, Toledo.

On Saturday, December 4, 101.5 The River morning show hosts Mary Beth Zolik and Rick Woodell will broadcast live from the BURGER KING® at 4870 Monroe Street (across from Westfield Shopping Mall) from 1 to 3 p.m. The public is encouraged to stop by and support the gift drive during that time.

"This should be one of the busiest shopping days of the season, and we're hoping that people will show they care about abused and neglected children. We invite them to visit BURGER KING® and at the same time, drop off a toy or gift card," says Beverly Benner, vice president, marketing and administration for Bennett Management Corp.

"We are hoping that with the awareness our partners will bring to this campaign, that Toledo-area residents will open their hearts and help us reach our goal of providing toys to all of the children in need," says Clare Armbruster, president of Friends of Lucas County Children Services.

Bell Administration Releases 2011 Operating Budget

Special to The Truth

Mayor Michael P. Bell today released the 2011 Operating Budget at a press conference that included his administration's finance staff, Safety Director, Police and Fire Chiefs and other directors. The mayor made clear that 2011 again poses fiscal challenges for the city, noting an environment of increased expenditures and declining resources, but also emphasized that the budget includes no new or increased general fund taxes or fees.

As previously announced, the administration is anticipating a slight increase in income tax collections and have projected \$145.5 million in 2011, 3.0 percent over 2010 collections.

However, also as expected, local government funds from the state are projected to drop by \$3.8 million as the state works with an \$8 billion projected deficit.

The Bell Administration has recommended bridging the gap with \$6.3 million transfer from the Capital Improvements Fund to the General Fund; \$4.85 million in sale of assets, part of real estate negotiations that are currently in progress, but not expected to come to fruition before the

close of 2010; and \$3.3 million from trust fund balances moved to the general fund.

The administration will also work on a health care dependent eligibility audit, reduced utility expenditures and medical coverage savings. An early retirement plan will also be pursued. Responding to a survey taken in spring 2010, approximately 150 City of Toledo employees said they may be interested in an early retirement buy out, however the administration hopes that some may have re-considered since that time.

The budget also maintains city services with the addition of a fire class and police class. Both safety forces expect significant retirements in 2011 contributing to lower manpower levels and making it necessary to continue to train new recruits to ensure delivery of safety services. The proposed budget includes funding for a class of 50 firefighters as well as a class of 25 police officers.

The Bell administration has also proposed to turn control of the City's refuse collection operations to the Lucas County Solid Waste Management District begin-

ning September 1, 2011. It costs the City approximately \$16.3 million annually to collect and dispose of refuse, including the debts service on the new automated trucks and carts, landfill cell development and replacement costs for vehicles and carts. Current refuse fees bring in approximately \$8.9 million in revenue per year. It is expected that regionalizing the service with the county will bring greater efficiency in service delivery and will save approximately \$2.8 million in 2011.

Finally, Bell emphasized the future challenges lying ahead as the administration looks toward collective bargaining with six of the City's eight unions. As costs, especially wages and benefits, continue to outpace revenues the City must make significant structural changes in employee compensation and benefits. The Mayor noted the critical role cost containment plays for the financial survival of the City and asked for Council's help in making those needed changes.

The full City of Toledo 2011 Operating Budget is available online at www.toledo.oh.gov.



This Strikes Us

(Continued from Page 2)


Why wouldn't we raise the retirement age in a nation whose life expectancy has risen quite a bit since the 1935 enactment of the program?

Why wouldn't we cut back on defense spending in a wise and responsible

manner given the enormity of that portion of the budget as a percentage of the total compared to other nations?

If our leaders can't work together to hammer out meaningful refinements to the Bowles-Simpson pro-

posals, voters need to press them on their alternatives. OK, you don't like this suggestion, what do you want to do to raise revenues or cut wasteful spending? Just what's your idea, Senator?



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Toledo City Council to Replace Resigning Members

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Now that the elections are over it's time to engage in a Toledo City Council tradition – replacing members who have moved on to other elected positions.

This year Republican George Sarantou, an at-large representative, was successful in his campaign for the Lucas County Board of Elections and Democrat Michael Ashford, who represents District 4, won his bid to succeed outgoing State Representative Edna Brown.

The remaining members of City Council will vote on

the Sarantou and Ashford successors, guaranteeing that an already overwhelming Democratic majority will increase. Currently there are nine Democrats, three Republicans and one independent. When the 2011 session starts there will be 10 Democrats on board.

The Lucas County Democratic Party is now accepting applications and resumes for the at-large and District 4 positions. Those are due into the headquarters on Madison Avenue by Thursday, November 18 at 4 p.m.



Presumably the Lucas County Republican Party is going through the same motions.

There will be at least two Democratic candidates vying to represent District 4. WilliAnn Moore, president of the local NAACP, chairman of the board of the ONYX community development corporation and former educator has submitted her application, as has the ever-present candidate Terry Shankland.

The at-large position appears to be wide open. No single candidate has emerged as the presumptive front-runner as Moore has in District 4.

The Democratic Party's screening committee will assemble at the end of November to consider whom they will recommend to City Council. Such a recommendation has been anything but automatic in the past given the intra-party squabbles that have arisen in situations such as these.

Over the past several years, however, the local Democratic Party has been relatively conflict-free and a very high value would now be placed on the screening committee's choice.

Volunteers Needed

The Lucas County EITC Coalition is looking for volunteers—experienced or not—to help with free tax preparation for working families.

The chief collaborators in this Coalition – United Way of Greater Toledo, Lucas County Treasurer Wade Kapszukiewicz, and Lucas County Commissioner Tina Skeldon Wozniak—offer this service each year.

One of the main goals is to help low-to-middle-income working families or individuals claim the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), which puts federal tax refund dollars back into the pockets of Lucas County residents and subsequently, our local economy.

"This is a wonderful service for individuals and families to have their taxes prepared free of charge and learn about tax credits they may not realize they are eligible for," said Traci Jadlo, director of Community Impact at United Way.

However, it is impossible for the collaboration to do this work without significant help from the community. United Way is currently looking for dedicated volunteers willing to help these families with their tax preparation.

"Not only does this provide a great service to the community, but it's a great way for residents to give back," said Treasurer Kapszukiewicz. "This is a fantastic opportunity for seniors, students going into the financial field, residents who are currently out of work and looking to build their resume, or someone just looking for a temporary volunteer position."

United Way provides training for all volunteers, no prior experience is needed, and time commitments are flexible.

If you are interested in giving back to your community in this way, please dial 2-1-1 or log on to www.unitedwaytoledo.org/volunteer.



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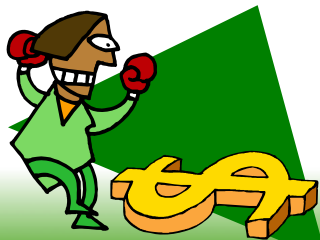
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Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union Is Ready to Step into a Bright Future

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

During the 14 years of the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union's (TUFCU) existence, the institution has circulated approximately \$18 million in loans in the Toledo community, primarily to those in the central city with low to moderate incomes.

Those loans have transformed renters into homeowners, have enabled homeowners to repair and expand and have helped small business owners create jobs. That's why the institution is so very important for this

everyone in the community, says CEO Suzette Cowell.

"There's someone in your family, a neighbor, or someone else in your circle who has benefited from the credit union," says Cowell. "And that's why we're here – it's the right thing to do for the community – helping low to moderate income individuals."

In these very difficult financial times, TUFCU carries on that work, even as it becomes more difficult to recoup loan losses

due, all too often, to lenders losing jobs.

"The economy still is not stable," says Cowell. "People are still losing jobs. Maybe the member who was making \$450 in loan payments last year or two years ago can't afford to so do now so he makes a payment of \$200 or \$250."

In order to shore up the credit union's reserves, to stay "proactive" as she calls it, Cowell and the institution's board has launched a capital campaign in order to raise



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\$250,000 within the next few months, not an unusual move for a credit union with TUFCU's mission.

"Fundraising is part of our lifeblood," says Cowell noting that TUFCU has in the past held other such campaigns or hosted banquets in order to maintain reserves. In fact, the highly successful African American Festival is one

"All deposits are insured for up to \$250,000," she notes. "I've been involved in financial institutions since 1972. We get audited more than any other type of business – that let's you know that your funds are okay."

But while the economic times are difficult and lending institutions of all stripes are loathe to freely extend the types of loans that

expenses will actually shrink and the institution will be on even firmer footing. That new building will be a beacon and a landmark for those in the central city, says Cowell.

"Imagine the impact on Dorr and Detroit," she says. "Three drive up windows and an ATM."

Parking will be easier and the spacious interior of the building will be a marked improvement over the cramped quarters TUFCU now occupies in a strip mall.

And while Cowell is obviously the face of the credit union, this capital campaign is not about her or any individual, she points out.

"In our community, we tend to focus on the person chosen to do the job instead of the big picture. The person is often just the vessel," she says. "Let's look at this institution and what it has done."

After 14 years, TUFCU has been around long enough in the Toledo community that a new generation is now finding assistance within its doors, she says.

For more information on TUFCU, to become a member, to donate to the capital campaign or to purchase a brick for the new building, call 419-255-8876.



of the credit union's fundraising efforts.

"Toledo doesn't have minority church credit unions," says Cowell, "so people aren't very familiar with what this type of institution has to do from time to time."

And for those few in the community who view the current fundraising campaign as a sign that trouble is afoot at the institution, Cowell dismisses the notion that risk is involved for members.

flowed so freely in the 1990's for example, for TUFCU the future looks exceedingly bright.

The credit union has just about completed its fundraising activities for the new building on Dorr and Collingwood. The remainder of the \$750,000 tab will be raised through funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus package).

When TUFCU moves into the new building, its

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Developing Urban Agriculture and Social Capital in Toledo

By Rubin Paterson, Ph.D.
Guest Column



Sustainable South Bronx, which simultaneously addressed high unemployment by providing training for local citizens to remediate their environmentally blighted community. Rather than continuing in her efforts to bring Carter to Toledo, E has decided to bring some of Carter's innovative urban revitalization strategies to Toledo.

For the past six years, E has served as executive director of TCDC. This organization works in collaboration with citizens of contiguous census tracts that have the following troubling characteristics: a poverty rate three times that of the national average; a median household income half that of the national average and a college graduation rate only one-fifth of the national average rate. The community is also dotted with several brown field sites. TCDC has had an impact on the community in terms of addressing urban blight, enhancing

homeownership and building a civil society.

A brilliant and energetic social entrepreneur, E cleverly and skillfully marshals the right mix of resources to maximize positive social impacts on behalf of the people in her service area. She has now embarked upon urban agriculture. Under E's leadership, TCDC is now founding the Fernwood Growing Center (FGC), which will have the impacts discussed below.

Especially noteworthy, E managed to get a \$200,000 Brown Field Cleanup Grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency and another \$50,000 from the Toledo Port Authority Pre-development Grant and the Ohio Community Development Finance Fund. These funds were used to conduct environmental remediation on a two-acre donated brown field site and to generate a business plan. FGC will house four large hoop houses with an aggregate growing

space larger than a football field. The business plan details the development of aquaponics farming, where tilapia and an assortment of greens and herbs will be produced in raised beds.

TCDC also commissioned a study that mapped food-purchasing patterns among people in the TCDC service community, particularly their pattern of purchasing fresh produce. Although residents report consuming beans, potatoes, cabbage and other types of greens, they also reported that they would consume much more of such produce if they didn't have to travel more than two miles—out of their food desert—to purchase them and if they were less expensive. Price and distance are major issues in that more than one in three households is in poverty and nearly one in five households in the community does not have a vehicle.

The study also surveyed restaurants and grocery

stores around the city to acquire information about their potential for purchasing from FGC. E's vision is for FGC to employ approximately 25 community residents, increase consumption of fresh produce in the community, improve citizens' knowledge of healthy food preparation and consumption and acquire a sense of stewardship regarding their environment.

Many lives are going to be improved dramatically due to the FGC. Consider the following. Approximately two-thirds of families with children under five years of age in the TCDC service area are impoverished. Now combine that community statistic with the medical fact that the brain uses 60 percent of total nutritional energy consumed by infants, and the brain continues to grow rapidly until children are about the age of five.

Undernourished small children with insufficient energy to fuel brain growth can experience stunted cognitive development, which mani-

fests itself in attention, comprehension, learning, memory and other impairments. In the community, untold stunting of human potential is quietly taking place in many impoverished families with small children.

Food consumption enhancement is one benefit of FGC; another is social capital. Social capital is critically important because an urban garden alone cannot address all the ills confronting the community. FGC and other community gardens can help generate social capital as a form of positive reciprocity: I do for you as you do for me. The existing negative reciprocity is thereby reversed: I do for you what you do for me. In other words, social capital fosters the mobilization of solidarity.

Social capital is particularly scarce in TCDC-type census tracts all over the United States, which are the very communities that need

(Continued on Page 11)

African Art --- Great Holiday Presents

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Treasurer's Tip from Ohio Treasurer Kevin L. Boyce Stash Cash by Going Green

Guest Column

As the colder months approach we are all anticipating another season of more expensive utilities. Now is a great time to winterize the home and become energy efficient. The money you save by weather-

izing your home and being a smart consumer is as good as money in the bank.

Being energy efficient also reduces carbon emissions from power plants and produces a healthier environment

for Ohio families and businesses.

Chilly weather comes with the territory, and so do higher heating bills. The energy-saving value of weatherizing windows and doors, insulating



homes, performing energy audits, turning down the furnace thermostat, buying Energy Star appliances and adding a blanket to the bed is well known.

However, there are many lesser-known, inexpensive and near-effortless energy-efficiency practices that will reduce energy consumption and your heating costs.

Here are a few.

- Avoid burning "phantom" or "vampire" electricity by unplugging appliances when not in use, including comput-

ers, battery chargers and coffee makers. Instead, plug these items into a power strip and then unplug it at night.

- Switch to compact fluorescent light bulbs, which last 10 times longer and use 75 percent less power than incandescent bulbs. The cost of these bulbs has decreased in recent years, making them affordable to more households.

- Close drapes at night to save heat; open them for warm sunlight in the day.

- Use hot water only to clean dirty clothes; and rely on warm or cold water for unsoiled laundry. Run only full loads to maximize energy (the same advice applies to dishwashers).

- Lower the thermostat of the hot water heater to 112 degrees during winter and wrap old tanks with insulation (or blanket).

- Open the bathroom door after a shower to let the warm steamy air circulate throughout the house.

- Dust is an energy enemy.

Changing furnace filters every month, cleaning lint from the dryer and cleaning dust from light bulbs improves energy efficiency.

- Use kitchen and bathroom ventilation sparingly as these quickly remove warm air from the home.

- Microwave ovens use less energy than big conventional ovens.

You will find more energy conservation tips on your local utility's website and at these state and national sources:

- Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel
- Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
- U.S. Department of Energy

The Ohio Department of Development offers assistance to low-income Ohioans for weatherization (home weatherization assistance program) and paying heating bills (home energy assistance program - HEAP).

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Consider Reinvesting in Your Business

By Alex Gerken, Head of business Banking
Fifth Third Bank (Northwestern Ohio)

Small businesses play a vital role in our economy and in our community as both employers and service providers. While the economic environment continues to be challenging for businesses, we do see some signs of improvement and opportunity, including those opportunities presented by the recently passed Small Business Jobs and Credit Act.

The Small Business Jobs and Credit Act, among other things, extends some Small Business Administration (SBA) loan benefits, making it an opportune time for businesses to consider reinvesting in their company.

The SBA is an independent agency of the federal government and assists small businesses in many

ways, including setting guidelines for SBA loans and backing them with a guaranty. Recent changes expand the number of businesses eligible for SBA loans, increase loan limits, including the permanent increase of 7(a) and 504 loan limits from \$2 million to \$5 million, waive borrower fees, and guarantees up to 90 percent of loan amounts. The fee waiver and guaranty are currently set to expire at the end of this year.

In addition to these changes, advantages of an SBA loan compared to a conventional loan can include lower down payments, longer terms and amortization periods, as well as the fact that in many cases closing costs can be financed

through the loan. SBA loans can be used for a wide variety of business purposes and can benefit companies at any stage in their life cycle.

The application process for an SBA loan follows the same credit process as conventional business loans. Businesses would apply for a commercial loan through a bank or lender structured according to SBA requirements. While SBA transactions are generally more paper-intensive, an experienced SBA lender is uniquely positioned to help guide businesses through the process, and help them leverage the changes to the SBA program.

Regardless of whether you're seeking an SBA loan or a conventional loan, it's a

good idea for businesses to approach their bank or other lender prepared with a number of items including:

- a business plan,
- legal paperwork,
- a financial profile including financial statements and tax returns,
- and a full business description with bios of key principles involved.

In addition, you should be able to clearly articulate what you want to use the funds for, and prepare a repayment plan according to your desired loan terms and time frame.

Generally, the best place to start would be their existing bank – whether the relationship is with the business

itself or with the business owner as an individual. The bank may be in a better position to understand the business owner's circumstances based on their history and existing relationship, which may result in a smoother application and transaction process.

Press Club "Pressing Issues" Forum

Newly elected office holders will be the featured guests when The Press Club of Toledo holds its next "Pressing Issues" forum. It will be on Friday, December 3 from 9:00 to 10:15 at the McManesters Center in the Main Library, 325 North Michigan. This promises to be one of the club's most interesting and enlightening "Pressing Issues" sessions.

Meet the National Wildlife Federation Great Lakes Regional Center!



Simone Lightfoot is leading NWF's efforts to advance local "green" projects in Toledo.

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www.nwf.org/urban



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The Economy...*Tackling Tough Times*•The Economy...*Tackling Tough Times*•The Economy...*Tackling Tough Times*•The Economy...*Tackling*

Increase Your Holiday Sales by Accepting Credit Cards

By Yvon Harper
Guest Column



The truth is things are not going back to "the way they were," at least not in our new economy. As I continue to gauge how things are playing out this certainty is definite and sure. We are now faced with a Lame Duck Congress and the economy is plugging...although the verdict is still out on which way. So, what are you going to do about your finances? Now is the time to make the decision to put them in order, while you still have some control.

Some may say that all this sounds gloom and doomish, but it does not

have to be. Consider that history records that the last Great Depression produced more millionaires than were previous any other time in history. I'm glad to say that the same is happening even in this economy. People are stepping into their business minds and are finding new resourcefulness like never before. The key is to find business tools that will support and allow you to maximize these opportunities.

One such tool is the ability to accept credit or debit cards in your business, whether home-based or store front. The challenge has been that many individuals cannot afford the associated fees or pass application requirements that come along with providing such a service to their clientele. In fact, the choices are mindboggling, as I just reviewed several merchant plans and was amazed at their differences and required fees. Also,

what about the mobility of a small business providing such a service outside their walls? Forget it. At least that was the case up until recently.

Introducing Square, found at www.SquareUp.com, a new 21st Century merchant account provider. Square can provide any one with the ability to accept credit cards for business as well as personal use. The best part is that the service is paperless and portable outside of your business location.

So how does it work? There are some simple requirements. Square is a free application compatible with the Apple iPads, iPhone, or iPod 2G+ and also Android phones that lets you accept and swipe credit card from your device. You simply download the Square application to your device; create your account by answering several security questions and you are approved instantly.

It took me all of five minutes to complete including the approval process.

After creating an account on your device you can sign in with your desktop to complete the sign-up process. This includes setting up your bank account to receive funds and ordering the Square hardware, which I was notified, would come in two to four weeks. However, I had the ability to begin using the service immediately by keying in the information; all that was needed was a wireless connection.

The fee for use of Square's service is 2.75 percent + \$.15 for swiped credit card transactions and 3.25 percent + \$.15 for keyed transactions with no monthly fee. Plus, it also emails you and your customer a receipt, eliminating paper receipts, and allows you to track cash transactions too.

Square allows for you to have multiple business accounts, but only a single personal account. If there is any downside it is that initially, until you have established a relationship with Square, you are capped at deposits to your bank account of only the first \$1,001 per week of sales with any remainder deposited within 30 days. This amount is stated to easily adjust with Square account usage, but allows for charge backs or refunds, if applicable.

Even so, this is great news for the small business owner especially with the upcoming holiday season approaching swiftly. Square has reports that their service has been used to accept payments at craft show booths, for babysitting charges and even at garage sales. The possibilities are endless for the business minded entrepreneur.

Find out about all of Square's terms of service and FAQ at www.SquareUp.com/Support. The business playing field for accepting credit and debit cards is being leveled for everyone.

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ASKYVON

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

Toledo's Economic History Detailed in Exhibit

Special to The Truth

The city of Toledo was built by glass. And auto parts, Jeeps, scales and more.

Check out "Wholly Toledo: The Business and Industry That Shaped the City." The exhibition will open Wednesday, Nov. 17, at 2 p.m. in The University of Toledo Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections in Carlson Library.

"We have been collecting records of Toledo businesses for many years," said Barbara Floyd, director of the Canaday Center and university archivist. "We preserve the historical records of the three largest glass companies: Libbey-Owens-Ford, Owens-Illinois and Owens Corning. We have the records of Toledo Scale and The Andersons, too, among many others, so it seemed like we should do an exhibit that looks at the economic history of the city overall, showcasing some of the companies that had a huge impact on the city."

Highlights of the exhibit include:

- "Future Great City of the World," a pamphlet from 1868 by Jesup W. Scott, Toledo real estate developer

and newspaper editor, who founded the Toledo University of Arts and Trades, which later became The University of Toledo;

- Libbey Glass Co.'s doll and men's ties made from spun glass, the precursor to fiberglass, that were displayed at the 1892 World's Columbian Exposition;

- A signed copy of a book on die-casting written by Herman Doehler, who invented the die-casting process and in 1907 started Doehler Die-Casting (later Doehler-Jarvis), which was the first major manufacturer of vehicle hood ornaments, several of which are display;

- A catalog from the 1912 inaugural exhibit at the Toledo Museum of Art, which is still free today thanks to glass pioneer and founder Edward Drummond Libbey;

- Two watercolor paintings by James M. Sessions for the "Jeep at War" advertising series, which promoted the vehicle's versatility;

- A scale weighing more than 200 pounds from Toledo Scale and a series of paintings by Georges LaChance from 1928 to

1930 that pay tribute to the company's workers; and

- "M*A*S*H" scripts from Toledo native Jamie Farr, whose character Maxwell Klinger mentioned Tony Packo's during several episodes and helped the local restaurant become a national brand.

Dr. Stuart W. Leslie, professor of the history of science and technology at Johns Hopkins University, at the exhibit opening. His talk is titled "Heart of Glass: The Architectural Legacy of Toledo's Signature Industry."

"Wholly Toledo: The Business and Industry That Shaped the City" will be on display in the Canaday Center through Friday, Aug. 12. Viewing hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The program is made possible in part through the support of the Ohio Humanities Council, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For more information on the free, public exhibition, call the Canaday Center at 419.530.4480.



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St. Francis de Sales Knight Life: A Chronicle, part III

By Keon Pearson
Sojourner's Truth Reporter



October is Homecoming Month! Homecoming is a huge event at my school, so the halls were abuzz with excitement during the whole week leading up to Friday, October 8. The atmosphere was so energized on the day of the homecoming game that during my first period, my English teacher had to give us a gentle reminder that his classroom was, in fact, still a classroom. However, he did concede slightly by assigning no homework over the weekend.

It's an SFS tradition for the marching band to lead all the other students through the halls

and into the gym for the homecoming pep rally. Once we filed into the gym, our cheerleaders hyped us up (for those who do not know, SFS cheerleaders are comprised of girls from Notre Dame and St. Ursula Academy), and the Homecoming Court was introduced.

Then, one of the most anticipated events in the life of a St. Francis student occurred: all of the seniors gathered around Fr. Olszewski, the school president, as he told the story of the Irish Knight. The Irish Knight is the trophy that is awarded to the winner of the St. Francis vs. Central Catholic football game.

However, it is more than a trophy; it is a symbol of the intense rivalry that exists between the Knights and the Irish. I wish I could divulge the story of the Irish Knight, but I was too busily engaged in a Silly String war to have paid attention to Fr. O.

The football game was intense. We scored early, and were ahead for most of the game. It came down to the last two seconds: the score was tied 7-7, and Central had possession. They went for the field goal, and made it with zero seconds left on the clock. It was a crushing defeat.

The game was close, but the dance was, in many respects, closer. Jamming to Kesha, Gaga, and others left many expensive dresses and suits soaked with sweat. My date, Madison, and I were less afflicted than those who were grooving near the center of the crowd.

On Friday, October 29, I ceased to be a Marching Knight. The football team played its final game of the season against Clay. I have mentioned before that I view band and, particularly, the marching band, as a family. The notion that

some day would be my last as a Marching Knight, that a single Friday night half-time performance alongside my most intimate comrades would mark the end of a relationship fortified by four years of mutual love, was as pleasant as the death of Jack in *Titanic*. I knew it would happen, but this knowledge did nothing to abate the pain of colliding with the inevitable.

Mr. Collier, my band director, established a tradition that has been fostered over the last 21 years. After the last game of each season, we return to the school for the end-of-the-season ceremony. All of the windows of the band room are covered, and the lights are cut; the room is nearly completely benighted.

Mr. Collier stands behind a long table on which 21 candles have been

placed. Each candle represents a graduating class. All the students sit on the floor and watch as Mr. Collier lights the first candle. He then reads the names of all the senior band members who graduated in 1990. He lights the next candle and reads the names of all the senior band members who graduated in 1991, and so on, until he reaches the class of 2011. Then, he calls all of the seniors up to the table, so that we may carve our initials into the candle that will represent our class when we are no longer present.

The class candle is then lit, and the seniors light their individual candles from the flame of the class candle. Then, the seniors return to the floor. Mr. Collier makes some remarks about the completed season, about how well we've worked together,

or how respectful we've been.

He then instructs the seniors to use their individual candles to light the candles of those non-seniors who are around us. We return to the table, and reminisce over the past four years.

You can imagine the tears that often flood the eyes of the seniors for whom band has been more than just an extra-curricular activity. The seniors blow out their individual candles, and then blow out the 21 candles on the table. Yet, our flame, our presence, persists in the candles of the non-seniors.

We shall never leave the band.

Ed. Note: This article ran in last week's issue but we inadvertently cut off the last few paragraphs. It is reprinted here in its entirety

Social Capital

(Continued from Page 7)

it the most. The people of those communities suffer doubly because they lack material resources to get ahead (e.g., jobs and quality education)—which come primarily from outside the community—and they lack the in-community social resources (e.g., networking, trust, and broadly empowering community-based organizations) that can best enable them to collectively amass the external material resources that are so gravely needed.

Finally, FGC will also provide classes for local residents. The University of Toledo's new Center for Sustainable Urban Ecology will assist FGC. The classes will introduce residents—on the FGC premises—to methods for improving their nutrition; growing their own urban garden; joining the urban agricultural movement; acquiring brown field remediation job training skills and reimagining and rebuilding urban commu-

nities that have been devastated by capitalist disinvestment.

The community, humanitarians and frankly anyone with a heart should want to reach out and give E. Michelle Mickens a "great big ole hug" for her efforts in founding the

Fernwood Growing Center.

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

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"Time Flies When You're Having Fun"

That quotation has proven true for Cynthia and Jack Ford during the last 90 days!



Photo by Steve LaBail

The couple got on board with a pro-health company, Visalus Sciences, and took the Body By Vi Challenge on May 1, 2010. They took the challenge with 12 friends to make health a larger priority in their busy lives.

Jack set a goal of losing 80 pounds to become eligible for placement on the kidney transplant list. Cynthia took the Body By Vi 90 Day Challenge to get fit, increase energy level and show support for Jack.

They are thrilled with the results! Jack has lost 54 pounds in 90 days! Cynthia has changed two dress sizes and no longer munches granola bars and diet soda to get through the day. Now that they have achieved success without stress, they want to invite YOU to join them on the Body By Vi Challenge, too!

Jack Has Just 26 pounds to Go!

If you, or someone you care about, are interested in a weight loss transformation before the holidays begin or if you are interested in joining their team of positive and dedicated professionals, Jack and Cynthia invite you to join them beginning in August 2010.



Photo by Sandra Schneider

Website - <http://teamprosperity.myvi.net>
Email - prosperouslivingbiz@gmail.com
Phone - 1-888-887-4429

Aminah Robinson: Voices That Taught Me How to Sing Toledo Museum of Art Introduces Body of Work Spanning Artist's Career



Ohio artist Aminah Robinson (born 1940) combines traditional art materials with found and everyday objects to create enchanting two- and three-dimensional works of art. Densely packed with imagery and materials, her sculptural

work is a cross between folk art, quilting and high art.

Her extraordinary Ragmud Collection, recently acquired by the Toledo Museum of Art, is showcased in Aminah Robinson: Voices That Taught Me How to Sing, which opens Nov. 19 at the Museum. The exhibition will remain on view through Feb. 27, 2011 in Gallery 4 at the Museum's Glass Pavilion®.

The Ragmud Collection is a set of books that contains sculptural pieces, drawings, poems, stories, books-within-books, extended pullouts and cases.

Never before shown publicly, the 10 volumes together cover the artist's entire career and every kind of work, story and method of art making, says Amy Gilman, the Museum's associate curator of contemporary and modern art.

In 2007, after TMA exhibited the traveling retro-

spective of Robinson's work, *Symphonic Poem*, Gilman and the Museum's director at that time began a discussion with Robinson about acquiring her work for Toledo's permanent collection.

"It was during a visit to her home that we discovered this body of work in

book form that had not been seen by anyone else," Gilman recalls. "It had never been exhibited; in fact, no one other than Aminah knew it existed until the visit to Columbus."

All of Robinson's work incorporates storytelling of some kind, whether it references the historical past,

her family history or her explorations of her ancestry. Recurring themes in her work are memories of growing up in Poindexter Village, a Columbus, Ohio neighborhood, and her experiences traveling through the African Diaspora. Sev-

(Continued on Page 14)

Love Your Life! from the Editors of O, The Oprah Magazine

c.2010, Oxmoor House \$29.95 / \$32.95
Canada 320 pages, includes index

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

Around your house, time is precious.

While it's true that you've got home appliances your great-grandma only dreamed about – an automatic washer and dryer, a microwave, a water heater, an automatic coffee maker and a cookstove that doesn't require wood to work – you still can't manage to sit down for 10 minutes without thinking of 10 things that need doing.

Fun? Who has time for anything fun?

You do, when you grab *Love Your Life*, the latest compilation from *O, The Oprah Magazine*. This book pares down dozens of magazines into one hard-cover volume of important, useful, relevant articles that you can genuinely use – quick.

Time is money around your home, and there's undoubtedly precious little of either. In this book, you'll see how two families make the best of their grocery budgets and you'll learn that gardening may be one of the most productive (and most fun) ways to spend your summertime.

There's never a good time to get sick, either physically or emotionally. With the information in this book, you'll learn how to avoid cell phone dangers, menopausal miseries and extra pounds this year. You'll also learn a great come-back for kids who are teased, you'll find out how to band together with other parents for support and you'll see how shedding excess in your life can actually keep you healthier.

Is it time to shore up your finances? You'll find lots of information from Suze Orman in this book, as well as tips on savoring small treats and tiny indulgences, learning to embrace a "just in time" mentality, respecting your possessions, understanding power, and embracing change.

And maybe you should start changing by adding a little more YOU-time in your life. Find out what dating 2010-Style means for men, women, and the way relationships are formed. Read a story about a vision one woman keeps in her heart. Gasp over a survivor's tale of saving two sisters, one of whom was only a friend. Read a grief-stricken story of soldiers who left fleeting angel-trails. Find out about the contest between two elderly men who have gallons of life to give. Laugh over stories of animals that seem more human than some humans. And cry over a woman who said good-bye to her best friend.

Gotta stack of unread magazines next to your easy chair? No time to page through them or to decide what's worth reading? You can throw them away now, because everything you need is in "Love Your Life!"

Filled with the kind of articles and interviews you've come to expect from Oprah Winfrey's magazine, *Love Your Life!* offers advice, tips, and information that almost any woman can use. Each article is quick-to-read and easily browse-able, which means that you can absorb information or be entertained in as little as five minutes. Best of all is that there's something missing: ads.

If you're pressed for time yet you still crave your magazine reading, grab a copy of this book. For you, a minute with *Love Your Life!* is time well-spent.



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Music Business Overview**Topic: 360 Deals**

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture



I used to do a lot of articles on the business side of the music industry.

I stopped for a few reasons.

People are becoming savvy to the game (Dre! What up!).

I meet local artists, producers, promoters, managers who already know most of what I know so I didn't want to be redundant.

Toledo has producers with major credits, artists with regional spins and a few people around here getting royalty checks in the mail.

I'm not on that level yet with my own music so I really didn't want to talk too much about the business until I have accomplished a little more and have more to share.

You might think 'well, why is that important?'

It's simple.

I write this article as if I'm right there standing shoulder to shoulder with you in your grind.

I always say I don't know who all reads this column, but one thing I do know is a lot of you are just like me: working everyday to get in the entertainment/music field.

So I would always write

from the perspective of someone right here doing what you do, going through what you go through.

That approach earned me even more hatred it seems, so I backed off.

I'm allowed to mention my company, my artists and my career as much as I want except for full interviews and reviews. My boss doesn't mind me discussing the music business with you from my perspective because that's what I am here to do.

But even though I stopped for a while, I've had some readers ask me to address a few things so let's go.

Everyone is buzzing about this particular topic, so let's start here:

WHAT IS A 360 DEAL??

They call it a 360 deal because it means that the record company is changing its pattern of making revenue from the artist. Instead of a linear stream based off mechanical royalties (album sales), and the occasional dip into some of your publishing

(J ... I see you!) the major record label now wants a bigger piece of the pie.

Well, basically the entire pie (pie, circle, 360 degrees... everything in circumference).

Percentages vary but every angle in which an artist can earn money

(touring, features, movie roles, endorsements, publishing, clothing line, etc) is no longer excluded from the major label's grasp in their efforts to recoup "their

costs."

The reasoning is this:

When people bought CD's, labels made money from CD sales.

Now that people don't buy CD's, an artist can have a huge hit at radio, a million plays on youtube and be hot in every club but if units aren't sold then the label isn't profiting.

But the label is still playing a part in servicing the record to radio and video outlets.

The label is still (somewhat) going through the motions of recording, promoting and releasing a full project (I repeat, somewhat, because those costs will partly be your burden). Before you get signed, they tell you your exposure is up to you but after you get signed they take credit for your exposure.

The big record label feels like they are spending money with no way to earn it back since CD's aren't selling.

So, since they can't make money from units they begin to look at the artist and all the revenue streams they can dip into (even if they don't deserve to).

Just a few years ago, if your favorite rap artist did a commercial for Footlocker, did a world tour and was featured on another artist's top 10 single, the artist and his team (manager, producers etc.) profited but not the artist's home label.

Now major record labels want an increasingly larger share of those earnings.

It would be cool if the major label was securing these endorsements, fund-

ing these tours and arranging for these guest spot collabo's.

If they were doing the work to get these opportunities for the artist, then a reasonable percentage would be customary.

But a 360 Deal means they GET A PIECE OF EVERYTHING YOU DO!

Your publishing was just between you, your producers etc., but not the major label.

But now they want a piece of that.

Your endorsements were usually just between you, your manager maybe a branding firm, but not the major label.

But now they want a piece of that.

As a new artist getting signed to a typical deal in this industry right now, just about everything you do that earns one red cent can be divided between you, your team and the mega-conglomerate major label you're signed to that probably didn't do anything but advance you money to record a project that may not even see the light of day.

The 360 Deal is becoming a terrible plague on the industry creating a wasteland of one hit wonders

sucked dry and tossed aside because long careers aren't as lucrative as short fast-burning careers in the eyes of the major labels.

But as evil as they sound, with the right leverage anything can be negotiated.

Just keep your wits about you when you sit down at the big table.

WHY DO I KNOW ABOUT THIS?

I'd love to make a living writing one day, or even from the field I earned my degree in.

But most of my time is spent on one thing: running my own music company with my partner.

We have been producing music since elementary school, started producing for local artists early in the 2000's and for the past five years we have had our own roster of artists.

Our artists receive free music production, recording, packaging, development and access to performance opportunities. Photography, graphics, and representation is all done in house. Just before starting our company, we made several trips back and forth to New York. Our mentors live there, and between them and also guiding our own artists we've had to learn

about 360 deals, and the various other types of deals that are possible.

We've been blessed to have attorneys, producers and industry veterans teach us

what they know and we in turn pass that down to our artists.

I don't know about the music business because I write for The Truth.

I write for The Truth because of what I am learning about the music business.

I've never reviewed our music or given any of my artists a feature interview in this paper.

But I've done that for artists such as Tracy, Flow, Dre P, Str8 Caine, Sasha P and many many more over the years. Most of my time is spent around people in this city who are making moves toward making music their career, so when I write it's for all of us.

We'll see how this article goes over, maybe I'll have more to share soon.

Peace and love.

Email or facebook search:

glasscitytruth@yahoo.com

Dear Member:

Please note the following General Membership meetings of the Toledo Branch NAACP and the election of officers and at-large members of the Executive Committee:

November 19, 2010 at 6 PM at 525 Hamilton St., 2nd flr there will be a report of the Nominating Committee, receipt of Nominations by Petition, and election of the Election Supervisory Committee. All members whose memberships are current as of 180 days prior to the meeting may be nominated for office or as an at-large member of the Executive Committee. In order to sign a Nominating Petition or be elected to the Election Supervisory Committee, a member must be current as of 30 days prior to the November meeting.

December 2, 2010 the polls will be open from 6 PM to 8 PM at 525 Hamilton St., 2nd flr for the election of officers and at-large members of the Executive Committee. In order to vote in a Branch election, one must be a member in good standing of the Branch 30 days prior to the election.



Robinson

(Continued from Page 12)

eral works specifically explore her close relationships with family.

Another central component of the artist's work is her incorporation of everyday objects, such as men's ties, in creative ways. She repeatedly uses buttons for everything from eyes to the borders of pages.

"Making do" with readymade materials provides a strong link to Robinson's ancestors who were brought from Africa with nothing but their culture and traditions. Another link to her ancestry is her use in her sculptural work of hogmawg, a mixture of mud, pig grease, dyes, sticks, small rocks, glue and lime that her father taught her how to make.

The Ragmud Collection was created over a span of 22 years—some additions were made after TMA curators

first saw the books—to continue the storytelling traditions she inherited from her family and her community.

Essential to understanding the collection and the stories they tell is knowing that Robinson originally conceived them as whimsical sculpture, Gilman notes.

The Ragmud Collection: Books by Aminah Robinson, a publication issued in conjunction with the exhibition, seeks to provide that scholarly context with essays by Gilman and Barbara Tannenbaum, director of curatorial affairs at the Akron Art Museum and an expert on artists' books.

Because form and content are completely interdependent in artists' books, the creators of the exhibition catalog have sought to evoke the sculptural aspect of Robinson's work through

the use of paper engineering, such as pull-out pages, in conjunction with images from Robinson's books themselves.

The Ragmud Collection: Books by Aminah Robinson can be purchased at the Museum Store and Glass Pavilion® café for \$29.95. The artist will be at the Glass Pavilion® for a book signing from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20.

Admission to Aminah Robinson: Voices That Taught Me How to Sing and to the Toledo Museum of Art is free.

The exhibition is made possible through the generosity of TMA members and is supported in part through the sustainable grant program of the Ohio Arts Council, which encourages economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans.

Charter One donation to the Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank provides 4,279 Thanksgiving meals

Special to The Truth

With the economic downturn still affecting northwest Ohio families, hunger has been a challenge many have had to face this year. Thanks to a \$5,000 grant from the Charter One Foundation, 4,279 of the area's neediest will be fed this holiday season.

Charter One and the Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank have teamed up to provide 456 turkeys through Charter One's *Carving Out Hunger* initiative, an annual campaign to raise awareness of hunger issues and provide holiday meals to local men, women and children in need. The turkeys—which total 5,476 pounds—will be distributed through the Food Bank's 300 member agencies across northwest Ohio.

At 10 a.m. on Thursday, November 18, Charter One volunteers will sort food for distribution to local hunger relief organizations at the Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank, 24 East Woodruff Avenue.

"Charter One is honored to be able to provide funding through our *Carving Out Hunger* initiative," said Ken Marblestone, president, Charter One, Ohio. "We hope our efforts will help alleviate hunger in northwest Ohio and we are proud to help families put nutritious meals on their tables this holiday season."

As the current recession lingers amid high rates of unemployment, the demand for food has risen. Thirty six percent more men, women and children—more than 64,000—sought assistance through the Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank's member agencies in 2009 vs. 2008. The holiday season is the food bank's busiest time of year, often distributing more than 10,000 pounds of food a day.

"Too many of our citizens are going without good food and nutrition, making it more important than ever to reach the hungry during this challenging time," said James Caldwell, president and CEO of the Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank. "Thanks to Charter One's generous donation, we are able to feed hundreds of families this holiday season and move one step closer to ending hunger in northwest Ohio."

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CLASSIFIEDS

November 17, 2010

Page 15

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PROGRAM MANAGER, CPST

Unison Behavioral Health Group is seeking a Program Manager to provide clinical and administrative supervision to a CPST team.

Qualified candidates must have leadership ability and creative problem solving skills. LPCC, LISW, or RN is required, along with previous experience with adults with serious mental illness. Prior case management and supervisory experience is preferred.

Send resume or apply to:
Human Resources - PMCPST
Unison Behavioral Health Group, Inc.
1425 Starr Avenue
Toledo, OH 43605
419.936.7576 - Fax
hr@unisonbhg.org - Email
EOE

AOD THERAPIST

Unison Behavioral Health Group, Inc. is seeking an experienced AOD Therapist to provide individual, family and group counseling and case management services.

Candidate must possess a Bachelor's degree, Master's Degree preferred and have a minimum of two years experience working with adults with mental health and chemical dependency issues. Dual mental health (LSW, LISW, PC, PCC) and chemical dependency licensure (CDCA, LCDC II, LCDC III or LICDC) required.

Send resume or apply to:
Human Resources - AOD
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Please visit <https://home.eease.adp.com/recruit/?id=535028> to apply for this position.

Application deadline: **Tuesday, November 16, 2010.** A High School Diploma or GED is required. NO RESUMES ACCEPTED WITHOUT COMPLETING THE ONLINE APPLICATION. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE! EOE.

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PROGRAM MANAGER, PACT TEAM

Unison Behavioral Health Group is seeking a Program Manager to provide clinical and administrative supervision a team working with clients who are in need of a high level of service and/or are involved in the forensic system.

Qualified candidates must have leadership ability and creative problem solving skills. LPCC, LISW, or RN is required, along with case management or other work experience with adults with serious mental illness. Prior experience with the forensic system and supervisory experience is preferred.

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Land Survey / Construction Technicians wanted

City of Toledo - Engineering Services needs a full-time **Senior Engineering Aide** and a full-time **Intermediate Engineering Aide** to perform technical field survey work under general supervision. Requirements as follows:

Senior Engineering Aide position, Graduation from high school or General Educational Development (G.E.D.) Tests equivalency and three (3) years of experience on a survey crew as an instrument operator.

Intermediate Engineering Aide, Graduation from high school or General Educational Development (G.E.D.) Tests equivalency and one (1) year of experience on a survey crew within the previous five years.

Good knowledge of current instruments used in engineering survey work. Must be able to safely lift and carry objects weighing up to approximately 110 pounds

Must possess a valid State of Ohio driver's license.

Applications can be acquired at the City of Toledo department of Human Resources, 19th Floor, One Government Center, Jackson Blvd at Erie Street, Toledo, Ohio. Office hours are 9:00am - 4:30pm Monday-Friday.

The City of Toledo is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Minorities, females, and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

Toledo's Girlfriends Celebrate Golden Anniversary

By Torri Blanchard
Sojourner's Truth Reporter



respected non-profit, civic organizations founded by African-American women in the U.S. The national group was established in 1927 during the Harlem Renaissance by 11 young women and was incorporated in 1938 under the legal guidance of Baltimore attorney Thurgood Marshall (spouse of a Girl Friend).

The organization is a consistent contributor to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the United Negro College Fund.

The local chapter annually rewards deserving minority students from The University of Toledo with scholarships for the advancement of their education in addition to its contributions to a variety of groups and individuals.

Throughout the *Golden Anniversary*, it was apparent that the women truly exemplify the words within The Girl Friends, Inc. hymn written by Ethel Harris, "When girlfriends come together, it's a time to share...girlfriends are true."



On Nov. 13, the women from The Toledo Chapter, GirlFriends Inc. held their 50th Anniversary Luncheon at the Inverness Club.

As the girlfriends celebrated their *Golden Anniversary* with the help of tasty delectables and live musical entertainment, it was nothing other than remarkable to watch

the women embody the true meaning of being a Girl Friend.

"Today we stand in a room full of masterpieces," said Girl Friend Odessa Rowan. "As I look throughout the room, I see Girl Friends who are loyal, dedicated, supportive, and confident."

Amongst the beauties was Thelma Adams, who was the only one of the

12 founders of The Toledo Chapter who was present on Saturday and only one of three who are still living.

"I am very proud to be here today. We have come a long way and we continue to grow stronger and closer by the years," said Girl Friend Adams.

The Girl Friends Inc., is one the oldest and most



Aminah Robinson

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