



Volume 19, No.09

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

December 22, 2010

In This Issue

Urban League Appeal
Page 2

Cover Story:
Perlean Griffin
Page 3

Toledo CDC
Groundbreaking
Page 4

Dems Pick Paula Hicks-
Hudson
Page 5

Padua Center's New Wheels
Page 6

New Life COGIC's Big Give-
Away
Page 7

Blue Gill Scholarship
Page 8

WBW Graduation
Page 9

TMA Events
Page 10

Book Review
Page 11

The Lima Truth
Page 12

Minister's Accolades
Page 13

BlackMarketPlace
Page 14

Classifieds
Page 15

Charms Holiday Affair
Page 16



Perlean Griffin

Director, Affirmative Action/Contract Compliance

"It was difficult because I felt I had been wrongly treated. I felt I had a lot to give and I was embittered about my departure. I wanted people to understand that I wasn't fighting a frivolous charge."



Olympia moved to Toledo from Peoria, Illinois, to connect with a father she had never known and found herself with no one upon whom to depend – until she learned about the Greater Toledo Urban League. The Urban League became Olympia's support system and successfully provided direction and training that led to a full-time position as a certified nursing assistant, with a State-Tested Nursing Assistant certification just around the corner.

Olympia's story is just one example of how the Greater Toledo Urban League has helped people in need realize their true potential, over the years. 2010 has been no different, and we're eager to tell you more about how we've worked diligently, to ensure that numerous others would have a year filled with inspiration, success and change!

For starters, **the Urban League has strengthened its focus on improving education in Northwest Ohio.** This move officially recognizes something we have known all along, that our efforts in every other area of our mission – workforce development, health, civil rights and civic engagement – mean nothing if our youngest citizens are growing up without the basic skills to function effectively in society.

Second, **the Urban League has undertaken a targeted effort to advocate for issues that are critical to the social and economic well-being of every person in Northwest Ohio.** This means that we'll work proactively with other organizations to address specific concerns in the community and apply what we've learned from direct experience about the issues.

It's true, the promise of these initiatives has invigorated our work and created excitement among staff and supporters. For the last 14 years, the Urban League has worked to improve the social and economic conditions of disadvantaged and underserved people in Northwest Ohio and, thanks to the new focus, the future looks bright.

Now here's the best part: you can impact the future by making an investment in the Urban

League. As a non-profit organization, the Urban League relies completely on charitable support to carry out its mission. Your gift will help provide direct services and advocate for a better way of life in Northwest Ohio.

Thanks for your consideration and enjoy the season,

Jim Murray
Board Chairman
Greater Toledo Urban League

John Jones
President and CEO
Greater Toledo Urban League



P.S., Please consider a tax-deductible gift of \$50.00 (or more) to support two hours of tutoring!



Community Calendar

- December 22
The King of Glory: A play with cast featuring Min. Eloise Sawyer-Elliott and family; The Laurels of Toledo; 6:30 to 8 pm
- December 25
Merry Christmas!
Thomas Temple Church of God in Christ: Annual free Christmas dinner; Noon to 2 pm; 419-255-3447
- December 27
Nate Washington's 85th Foundation Holiday Give-Away: Toys and winter coats for youth; SeaGate Centre; Child must be present: 419-318-2158
- December 31
AKA Sorority New Year's Eve Masquerade Ball: Pinnacle; Dinner and cocktails; Fundraiser for scholarships and community service; 7 pm: 419-902-9884 or 419-392-4511
Beulah Baptist Church New Year's Eve Service: 10:30 pm; Breakfast served
- January 1
Happy New Year!!
- January 22
Warren AME 2011 Gospel Extravaganza: 4 pm; Calling all praise teams, choirs, praise dancers, vocalists, step teams. Drill and mime teams: 419-243-2237

The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's Truthful African-American Owned and Operated Newspaper

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Perlean Griffin: Back in the Saddle Directing Affirmative Action and Contract Compliance.

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

Perlean Griffin has been back at the helm of the Office of Affirmative Action/Contract Compliance (AA/CC) for about 10 months now – her third stint in that position. She's doing what she loves, she's comfortable in her surroundings and she's making progress, she says, in tackling the issues at hand.

Nevertheless, she still finds it difficult to speak about what she went through over the last four years – losing her job over a matter of principle and working through the appeal and legal process to get it back.

"I was wrongfully discharged," she says of the action former Mayor Carty Finkbeiner took in 2007 when he decided to downgrade the office, separate the functions of affirmative action and contract compliance and place the affirmative action portion under the Department of Human Resources.

He would later decide to keep the two functions under one roof but stuck to his plan to downgrade the office.

Griffin denounced the move and was eventually terminated for her insubordinate attitude.

"I have a strong work ethic and a passion for affirmative action and contract compliance," says Griffin as she starts to recount those events. "The City of Toledo had made a commitment to the Ohio Civil Rights Commission that we would maintain an autonomous office. We made that commitment after the Office had worked



"I was fired," she says, "but I was willing to take that hit rather than go against that commitment."

with the City for four years."

Griffin felt that the office should not only be kept intact but that it should be maintained as a department that reported directly to the mayor.

"I was fired," she says, "but I was willing to take that hit rather than go against that commitment."

Griffin, who had worked for the City of Toledo for more than 28 years during her first stint, including as director of AA/CC, left the job during the Mayor Jack Ford reign. She was brought back in by Finkbeiner whom she had supported for election and, after several years out in the cold again, was reinstated after Mayor Mike Bell took office in early 2010 and resolved the outstanding legal issues.

"He came in and just put it behind us," she says of the mayor and the relief she feels about her vindication and the restoration of the office to its original status.

Quite naturally, after those years on the sidelines and the extended legal battle, Griffin would feel not a little trepidation about returning under such circumstances. That nervousness, she says now, was unnecessary.

"I was pleasantly surprised by the reception I have been given," she notes. "I have been welcomed, the administration has been welcoming, kind and supportive."

Management and line workers, she adds, have greeted her return warmly, a fact that has enabled her maintain the effectiveness

of the office and continue working on the key issues facing the city in the way of affirmative action and contract compliance.

And those key issues? She mentions as a first matter that she and her staff are engaged in the process of ensuring a city-wide hiring process "that is fair and consistent to everyone."

Taking her lead from the mayor, she says that she wants a government that people enjoy working for and one in which "their worth, value and skill sets are appreciated."

The office is also actively engaged in the effort to improve the percentage of public contracts that are awarded to minority business enterprises.

"There are still lots of MBE's that have had difficulty obtaining contracts," she says. "We want to continue to identify the things that keep them from [succeeding], such as bonding and insurance issues."

Griffin wants to make sure that women are given the opportunities to reach the top ranks of government, particularly in what might be considered "non-traditional" jobs for females.

And she mentions the safety forces and the fact that minorities are rapidly losing ground in the percentage of their representation in the fire and police departments. "We have to identify ways to expand the pool of African-Americans and Hispanics and help them get into the depart-

ments," she says.

It's a huge pile of work ahead of her, but she's not exactly a novice in such matters. However, even after all the years in the office of AA/CC, she returns this time with perhaps a greater understanding of the issues employees face in the workplace. The irony of having to seek redress to keep her job and her self-respect in order to return and help others seek that very same redress is not lost on her.

"It was difficult because I felt I had been wrongly treated," she says. "I felt I had a lot to give and I was embittered about my departure. I wanted people to understand that I wasn't fighting a frivolous charge. I have three children and I did not want them harmed or embarrassed."

How long will Griffin be on the job this time?

"As long as the current mayor is in his job," she replies.

The first two times were filled with a great deal of personal gratification for Griffin but this third time's a charm.

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Paula Hicks-Hudson Receives Dems' Nod

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Toledo lawyer Paula Hicks-Hudson has received the Lucas County Democratic Party recommendation to fill the Toledo City Council District 4 seat being vacated by City Councilman Michael Ashford. Ashford will be moving on to the Ohio General Assembly in January 2011.



Hicks-Hudson, chief legal counsel for the Ohio Office of Management and Budget, was one of seven candidates the party's screening committee interviewed for the recommendation. The others were WilliAnn Moore, NAACP president and ONYX CDC board chairman; Rahwa Shuman, an education advocate and an employee of The University of Toledo; Ronnell Traynum, a health care professional who ran for the District 4 seat against Ashford in 2007; Terry

Shankland, a restaurateur; Judy Stone, an Old West End community leader and real estate agent and Paul Sullivan, an architect and Warehouse District resident.

The next step for Hicks-Hudson will be the vote of the remaining City Council members on January 11. Given the fact that the Council is Democratically-controlled and the fact that the Lucas County Democratic Party has not been in a state of open warfare for several years, Hicks-

Hudson's chances of moving into the seat appear to be fairly solid.

Ashford, who would have been up for re-election in 2011, won the right to succeed Edna Brown in the Ohio House of Representatives. He has served on Council since 2002 when he was appointed to fill Brown's Council seat after she was appointed to the House. Brown, who was term limited from running for re-election to the House won a seat in the state senate in November against Toledo City Councilman Tom Waniewski.

Hicks-Hudson, if elected to Council, will have to run for office in a special May 2011 election and run again in a September primary election and the November general election for a full four-year term.

The Josh Project's Annual Soul Food Extravaganza

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The weather outside was indeed frightful on Sunday, December 12 when the Josh Project was hosting its Third Annual Soul Food Extravaganza. In spite of the inclement weather, over 500 guests came to the Somerset Hall to participate in the delightful events—a bountiful menu, live musical entertainment, a silent auction and student swimming recognition.



(Continued on Page 14)



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The First Senior Housing Development in the Heart of the City

38 Affordable Housing Units

Special to The Truth



On Tuesday, December 7, the Toledo Community Development Corporation (TCDC) and Pirhl Developers celebrated their first joint housing development – the Englewood Senior Housing apartments at 2737 Monroe Street.

The major financial partners in this deal included:

- Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing – \$5 million in equity
 - First Merit Bank – \$224,000, first mortgage
 - Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) – 830,000 gap funding
 - Green Communities Grant – \$48,000
 - City of Toledo, HOME Funds – \$500,000 loan
 - Other – \$220,000
 - Total investment: over \$6.8 million
 - Including other OHFA
- and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) bridge loans totaling an additional \$4 million.
- PIRHL Developers and Toledo CDC have declared a shared commitment to developing safe, decent, energy efficient and affordable housing to underserved communities.
- The Englewood Senior Housing apartment complex is the first of its kind in the central city, a fact that the groups announced with pride.

African Art Has Arrived!!

Hundreds of wood carvings from Ghana have recently arrived at The Truth Gallery – masks, statues, village scenes! All at unbelievably low prices!



The Gallery is open Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 4 PM



See more art online at www.thetruthtoledo.com



The Truth Gallery
1811 Adams Street
419-242-7650

EOPA's Second Annual Christmas Giving

Special to The Truth

The Economic Opportunity Planning Association, Inc. of Greater Toledo (EOPA), along with the Mecca Temple #43 fed more than 50 pre-selected families this Christmas season.

Members of the Mecca Temple assisted the EOPA staff on Saturday December 18 in assembling boxes containing turkeys, chickens, canned goods along with clothing items such as scarves, hats and gloves.

The contributions for the boxes came from Mecca Temple members, EOPA staff, the Body of Christ Church, the Food Bank and the Cherry Street Mission.



The Padua Center Receives Chevy Lumina from Taylor Buick

Special to The Truth

Taylor KIA has donated a 1995 Chevy Lumina to The Padua Center, a community center located on Nebraska Ave.. This vehicle will be used for the Padua Possibilities Program to transport children to and from Pickett Academy. The Padua Possibilities Program is an alternative to suspension that provides a safe, learning environment for suspended children.

Peace education, conflict resolution and character building are taught in addition to academic training. The Padua Center has collabo-

rated with Pickett Academy to better equip at-risk students to return to the classroom with a greater chance of academic success. Transportation from Pickett Academy to The Padua Center has been problematic and this donated car will solve the problem.

The Padua Possibilities Program was established in 2008 by Sister Virginia Welsh and Alicia Smith. Smith has served as the educational coordinator since its inception. She is very excited about the impact that this Program is having on the urban com-



munity and is always looking for more ways to reach our youth.

"Statistics show that black K-12 students are more than twice as likely as white students to have been suspended during their educational career. The Padua Possibilities Program helps to close that gap by giving our children the tools that they need to be successful both inside and outside of the classroom", says Smith.

The Padua Center also has an after-school tutoring program on Mondays - Thursdays; Vision Therapy which helps to improve the interpretation of vision as well as focus on reading abilities; and summer reading and math tutoring and six weeks of summer camps.

All activities at The Padua Center are free of charge and open to the public.

The old African proverb states "It takes a village to raise a child". The Taylor KIA company has taken this proverb to heart, and their generosity will help to give many children in the urban community a better chance at success.

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"We appreciated that dad could try hospice care, go off and come back on."
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New Life COGIC's Annual Christmas Give-Away

Sojourner's Truth Staff

New Life Church of God in Christ held its annual Christmas Give-Away on Saturday December 18 and served more than 400 families, or approximately 1,600 Toledoans.

The church gave away new blankets and toys along with gently used clothes, coats and shoes. Church members prepared 460 food bags for area families and collected certificates and prizes from Meijer, WalMart, Kroger, Bridgettes Beauty Salon, Gifted Designs by Annette, Snippy's Hair Salon and The Andersons.

From 9 a.m. to noon, both the church sanctuary and basement were packed with volunteers and gift recipients for the 18th annual New Life give-away



Rep. Brown Applauds Funds for Economic Development, Community Health Center

Grants administered by the state Department of Development will create jobs in the community



"I am pleased to see the state investing in the economic future of Northwest Ohio,"

State Rep. Edna Brown (D-Toledo) last week applauded the state Department of Development for issuing two grants totaling \$1.75 million to encourage economic development and create jobs in the Toledo area. Toledo will receive \$1 million to implement an alternative energy plant through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act as well as \$750,000 to ready a local site for the construction of a community based outpatient facility through Clean Ohio Funds.

"I am pleased to see the state investing in the economic future of Northwest Ohio," Brown said. "The projects receiving funding as the result of these grants will inject needed capital into undertakings that will boost Toledo's advanced energy economy, create good jobs in our communities and allow citizens to access important local health services."

Northwest BioEnergy in

Lucas County will receive \$1 million to own and operate an anaerobic digester in Lucas County. A waste hauler will supply the digester with 90 wet tons of mixed bio-mass per day to generate more than 5.3 million kWh of electricity and 25,900 MMBtu of thermal heat annually.

The grant program is part of \$96 million allocated to Ohio through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's State Energy Program. The

program supports Ohio's strategic investment in the advanced energy industries through greater deployment of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies in the state, increased job preservation and creation, and enhanced energy efficiency for Ohioans.

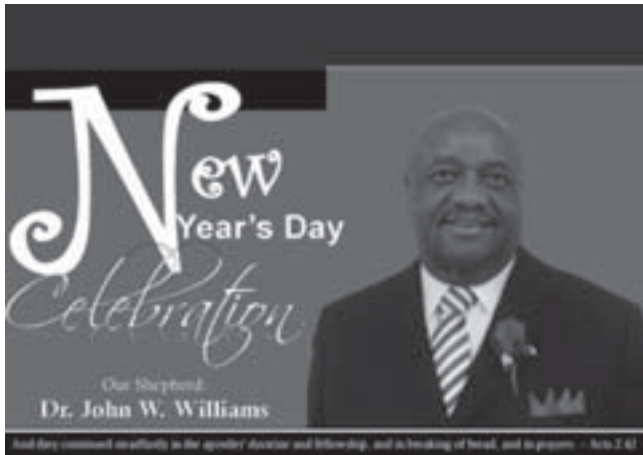
The City of Toledo will receive a \$750,000 grant to conduct demolition and remediation activities on the Toledo Community Based Outpatient Clinic property. The property, located at 1200 South Detroit Avenue, is comprised of three parcels totaling 10.4 acres south of downtown Toledo. The project will create up to 60 jobs and retain 100 positions. The University of Toledo and the Medical College of Ohio will partner with the Toledo VA and provide faculty members for the clinic, along with research opportunities for medical students. The Clean Ohio Assistance Fund grant will be used for the demolition and remediation of buried building debris, subsurface foundations, and utility tunnels.

The Clean Ohio Assis-

tance Fund is part of the Clean Ohio Fund, which restores, protects, and connects Ohio's important natural and urban places by preserving green space and farmland, improving outdoor recreation,

and cleaning up brown fields to encourage redevelopment and revitalize communities. The Clean Ohio Fund is part of the Ohio Bipartisan Job Stimulus Plan, which aims to create new jobs while laying

the foundation for future economic prosperity. As part of the Plan, voters approved \$400 million for the Clean Ohio Fund.



Let's Worship Together!

Date: Saturday, January 1, 2011

Time: 11:00-2:00p.m.

Location: Eastern Star Baptist Church 2102 Mulberry Street Toledo, Ohio 43608 (419) 726-1180 E-mail: EasternStarMBC@aol.com Dr. John W. Williams, Pastor

Additional Info: Dinner served immediately following our services!

Join Us! Come share with us as we lift the name of Jesus! There will be singing, praying, preaching, and teaching. Start now making plans to share with us!

Guest Speakers: Rev. Bobby Welborn, Pastor, Church MSC, Toledo, Ohio; Rev. Marcus Johnson, Pastor, Mount Nedo MSC, Detroit, Michigan; and Rev. Wallace Mills, Pastor, New Ebenezer MSC, Detroit, Michigan.

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Blue Gill Fishing Club's Annual Christmas Scholarship Dinner

By Brittany Jones
Sojourner's Truth Reporter



Blue Gill members



Blue Gill spouses

Searching for school funding or in other words, scholarships can be a mundane, stressful and extensive mission.

High school students go through it every year as they search for colleges and ways to fund their education, but here in Toledo, there are many avenues for that opportunity

to appear – even the small ones.

If one looked efficiently, one would realize that there are many organizations dedicated to helping students ease the tension of this process.

One such organization in particular is the Blue Gill Fishing Club on North Detroit

Avenue and the scholar who came across this club was Saint Ursula graduate and Ohio University freshman Tessa Scott.

Majoring in computer science, Scott received news about the \$500 reward on Friday. Two days later at 6 p.m., the club presented her with a check at their annual Christ-

mas dinner.

Freddie Tisdale, the club's first president, stated that this annual scholarship is presented to someone who is making a difference within the community and doing well in school.

This year there were only three or four applicants who submitted the necessary ma-

terials. Usually it is offered to children or grandchildren of club members, but if none are available then the scholarship is open to students in the area (they have to know a member personally to be eligible).

"Just stay in school and get that education," Tisdale said. "You can never get

enough of it."

What made Scott stand out among the other applicants were her leadership skills, her essay, community service and her high school GPA, which was above a 4.5.

The current president, John Chapman, acknowledged her accomplishments

(Continued on Page 11)

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Women Blessing Women's First Graduation Service

By Brittany Jones
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

As this weekend concluded, numerous autumn term graduations were the high point as celebrations into that next step in life. No matter how big (college/graduate school) or small (kindergarten), finishing an education is an accomplishment all its own.

On Saturday at 2 p.m., a special ceremony was taking place within the walls of the Rosary Care Center in Sylvania.

For the first time since the organization was founded, Women Blessing Women (WBW) held a formal graduation service for the class of

recognition for this achievement."

The club financed the women's graduation package as well as other resources such as materials for the G.E.D.

It was the graduates' time to shine.

With their blue caps and gowns, they filed into the room for the processional each holding a white carnation. They greeted the smiling faces of family, friends and supporters while on the way to their seats in the front.

After the national anthem, Hayes read the invocation, which came from the book of Jeremiah. Former graduates

(dating back to 1999) were asked to stand in order to be recognized. Board members and volunteers were also honored with carnations for their support.

Following those acknowledgements was an introduction of the ceremony's speaker by the education and career coordinator, Jane McGee. The speaker chosen was Deborah Rivers, a woman who strongly supports education and the mentoring of black women. Not only is she the past principal of Robinson Middle School, Rivers also is a member of the National Alliance of Black School Educators, the Educational Leadership Association and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

She has also served as a mentor in the "Miniya Program," an African-American mentorship for female students at The University of Toledo. This is just a short listing of her involvement within the community and this was a great occasion for her to speak.

Rivers gave the women encouragement and advice towards what they would



2010, which encompassed 13 women who received their G.E.D.'s that day.

The 13 graduates were Stephanie Alberts, Katherine Barnett, Shanda Crawford, Mona Davidson, Constance Douglas, Anita Garcia, Stephanie Graham, April Halterman, Taylor Hinton, Venisha Hudspeth, Lowanda Lewis, Vanessa Lewis and Tamica Nettles.

"It was the right time to give them what they deserved after all that hard work," said Glenda Hayes, executive director of WBW. "Thanks to the Toledo Rotary Club for their funding, we could finally give the women formal



Glenda Hayes

encounter in the future.

"Failure is not final, but merely a stepping stone towards your dream," she said. "God has a plan and purpose for each of our lives and He's committed to helping us accomplish that."

She summed up her time with a list of 10 best decisions a woman can make in her life.

Some of those listed were "be authentic and live out that God-given potential,

decide to be successful, decide to live by love in every season of your life, care for yourself so you can care for others and decide to get over it."

For a musical break, Katrina Barnhill, a saxophonist, played "Amazing Grace." Weaving within the seats of the graduates while performing, she bought some of them to tears.

Finally, it was that time for

the presentation of the certificates. One by one, the women came up to receive their diploma, handed out by Hayes along with a hug – and some tears – of congratulations.

Once everyone had her diploma, McGee presented the graduating class of 2010 to the audience. Then the graduates departed with faces full of joy to the back of

(Continued on Page 14)

Meet the National Wildlife Federation Great Lakes Regional Center!



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

- Clean energy jobs
- Urban farming
- Healthy environments

Learn more about the National Wildlife Federation's urban initiatives. Go to: www.nwf.org/urban



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Celebrate Toledo's Diverse Cultural Heritage at Toledo Museum of Art's Winter Legacies

The Toledo Museum of Art is alive with activities Dec. 26 through Jan. 2 when it presents its annual Winter Legacies celebration of the region's cultural diversity. Exciting dance performances, musical entertainment, special tours and hands-on activities are planned in the Museum's main galleries.

"These are perfect indoor activities for families, friends and out-of-town guests," says Program Coordinator Judy Weinberg. "They are a wonderful way to discover the diverse cultures that enrich the Toledo community."

This marks the seventh holiday season for Winter Legacies, a Museum tradition in which ancient and present-day cultures from around the world are represented. The popular event attracts more than 2,000 people annually.

Here is a day-by-day list of the free, family-friendly events. (Note: The Museum is closed on New Year's Day.)

Dec. 26:
Joyce Davis, Puppet Lady 1-2 p.m., Great Gallery
Audiences of all ages enjoy traditional tales from

Joyce Davis's engaging puppet characters.

Hands On: Mexican Milagros
2-4 p.m., Libbey Court
Milagros are small metal charms found in many areas of Latin America, especially Mexico and Peru, where *milagro* means "miracle." Make your own version of this traditional folk art.

Ballet Folklorico Imagenes Mexicanas 2:15-3:15 p.m., Great Gallery
Vivid costumes and upbeat music enliven the cultures of Mexico.

Public Tour: Highlights from Around the Globe 3 p.m., Libbey Court

OPA! Greek Ensemble 3:30-4:30 p.m., Great Gallery
Music of Greece and the Aegean.

ALMA Drum and Dance 4:45-5:45 p.m., Great Gallery
Drummers and dancers entertain with high-energy African cultural performances.

Dec. 28
Alliance Francaise de Toledo 11:15-11:45 a.m., Enjoy French songs and recitations.

Electric Arts Duo & Friends Noon to 1 p.m., Great Gallery

Ardan Academy 1:15-2:15 p.m., Great Gallery
Students celebrate the Irish dance tradition by performing jigs, reels, hornpipes, and *ceilis*.

Mesmeric Belly Dance Fusion 2:30-3:30 p.m., Great Gallery

Dec. 29
Daniel Quinn 1-2 p.m., Great Gallery
Acoustic string music by some of the greatest Japanese composers.

Hands On: Best Face Forward 2-4 p.m., Libbey Court
Make a netsuke face out of clay similar to those found in the *Life in Miniature* exhibition.

Sweet Harmony 2:15-3:15 p.m., Great Gal-



Ballet Folklorica Imagenes Mexicanas

lery The women of Sweet Harmony sing about life, love, and winter.

Dec. 30
Dance Performance: Leyla and Lapis Lazuli 1-2 p.m., Great Gallery

With vibrant costumes and vivacious moves, Leyla and Lapis Lazuli give a colorful presentation of some traditional dances of the Middle East.

Storyteller Michelle Cornell 2:15-3 p.m., Great Gallery
Winter stories from around the world.

Dec. 31
Dances of Universal Peace 1:30-2 p.m., Great Gallery
Watch (and join) members of the Multi Faith Council of Northwest Ohio as they

perform Sufi dances that promote peace through the arts.

Hands On: Paper Cuts from Around the World 2-4 p.m., Libbey Court

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The Poet LaFe 2:15-3:15 p.m., Great Gallery
Ophelia Thompson shares original poems as well as those of other well-known African American poets.

Chinese Association of Greater Toledo 3:30-5 p.m., Great Gallery
Enjoy traditional performances representing various regions of China.

Jan. 2
United Jewish Council 1-1:45 p.m., Great Gallery
Learn how Jewish traditions are passed on through song and dance.

Hellenic Dancers 2-3 p.m., Great Gallery
Greek traditions continue through the folk dances that are passed on from one generation to another.

Note: Events are subject to change. For the latest updates, consult the Museum's online calendar at www.toledomuseum.org. For images or further information, contact Kelly Fritz Garrow, director of communications, at 419-255-8000, ext. 7408, or kgarrow@toledomuseum.org.

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Book Review**An Illustrated History of Gospel by Steve Turner**

c.2010, Lion Hudson

\$29.95 / \$32.99 Canada

208 pages, includes index

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

Every Sunday – and sometimes in between – you lift your voice to Heaven and offer it to the Lord.

Maybe the sound is like a bird or a musical waterfall, the voice of praising angels or the sound of love on sliding scale. Or maybe you can't carry a tune in a basket, but you're always willing to give back to God what he gave to you.

Either way, there are stories behind those songs you sing, and a lot of people who sang those tunes before you. In the new book *An Illustrated History of Gospel* by Steve Turner, you'll see where Gospel came from and how it changed music.

In her book, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, author Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote about "a meeting" in which slaves sang songs that were religious in nature. Beecher Stowe's fictional account was based on experience; in fact, Turner says that gospel music was born on plantations, founded on spirituals, and raised on camp-style revivals.

By 1871, gospel music had become enough of a "style" that nine black men and women began touring with a white

music teacher. The Jubilee Singers (later known as the Fisk Jubilee Singers) sang God's praises all over the U.S., including performances for Mark Twain and President Ulysses Grant before they moved their show overseas.

As America moved into the 20th Century and white audiences flocked to see minstrel acts, gospel music was added to the rosters of many shows, though it wasn't without controversy. Some churches saw gospel music as something for God and not for entertainment. Other churches encouraged a "rawness" in songs that told about life, and in doing so, gospel gave birth to the blues.

But it wasn't a one-sided relationship.

"Gospel music drew from the blues," Turner says, "and then years later the blues would draw from gospel music, creating a new hybrid they called soul."

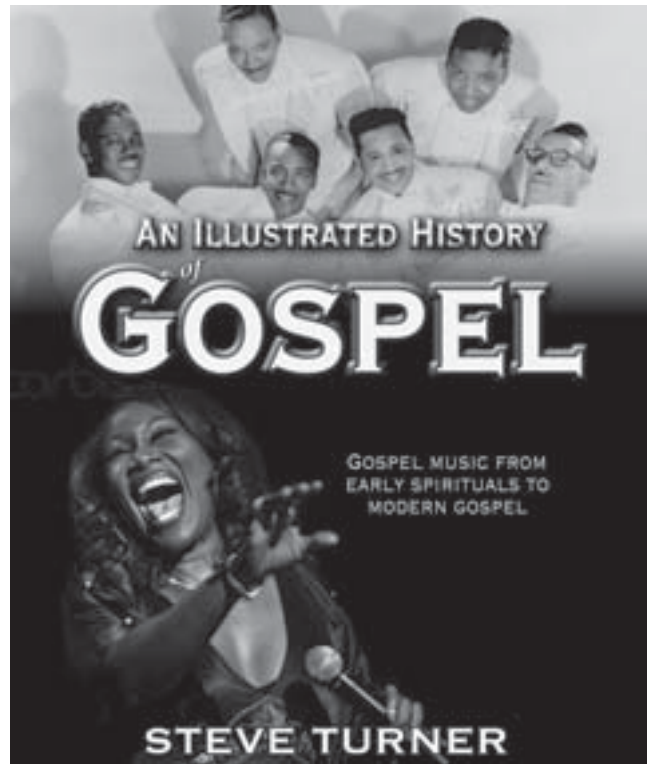
R&B drew from gospel music, too, and it moved from church to stage in cities like Memphis and Detroit. Female gospel singers began to make waves by making their own

music, and radio turned white teenagers onto the sound. Civil rights protesters embraced gospel music and made one of its songs into an anthem.

An Illustrated History of Gospel is one of those books you have to see to believe. It's filled with pictures, jammed with memories for gospel fans, and packed with names you'll recognize, like Mahalia Jackson, the Dixie Hummingbirds, Rosetta Tharp, Ray Charles, Johnny Otis, Clara Ward and others.

But despite the goodness within the covers of this book, it's not easy to read. Author Steve Turner admits early that he didn't write chronologically, which could cause literary whiplash while reading. Also, because this book was published in the U.K., punctuation and capitalization (or lack thereof) isn't like what you're used to seeing, and that may add to the confusion.

Still, if you're a gospel fan – or you love any kind of music, really – you can't miss this book. For you, *An Illustrated History of Gospel* is a little slice of heaven.

**Blue Gill***(Continued from Page 8)*

and saw her as a great role model for those striving to create a fruitful way of life.

"She was a representation of a young woman who is trying to do better in school," he said. "She is trying to branch out and expand her horizons."

Being the first of her family to leave Toledo, Scott was grateful for this financial miracle. She stressed that those looking for funding should not discriminate about the amount because they add up and can help in the end with other expenses.

She advised young adults

to start early with the scholarship search, particularly seventh or eighth grade (she went on a college tour at that time). Scott also recommends networking and getting involved because that could increase the chances of finding that monies.

"Do not wait until the last minute, ask questions and research, research, research," she emphasized. "No matter how small the amount, apply and once you get to college it will be the best experience."

After graduation,

Scott would like to design healthcare software for use at Saint Jude's Hospital for children.

The Blue Gill Fishing Club continues to give back to the inner city and community with their donations to several institutes like Northwest Ohio Food Bank, The American Red Cross and Kitchen for the Poor.

It also has a partnership with University of Toledo where they developed a scholarship for underprivileged students.

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Sticks and Stones: The Lima Turmoil Over Minority Participation

By Vickie Shurelds
Sojourner's Truth Reporter



In an era when the thoughts about political correctness and good manners, decorum and good sportsmanship are all taking solid hits to the gut, the trickle-down effect may be finding its way into the Lima City Council chambers.

Lima Mayor David Berger has been working within administration on ways to increase the number of minority applicants willing to take the Civil Service Exam. For the past three years,

there has been an effort to increase the awareness within the minority population on the dates for the testing as well as to offer tutoring or pre-exams to allow candidates to 'get the feel' for the test prior to taking it. The hope is to alleviate anxiety associated with the test.

So far, there has not been an indication that either of these approaches is having an effect. Statistics for those taking the test consistently demonstrate that minority participation is practically non-existent. For a recent opening of Communication Operator, 37 applicants took the test, one-third of those were minority community members. That figure includes women.

In an effort to move their

efforts forward, the city administrators announced their suggestion of placing Civil Service member Jacqueline Tyre in the lead for the project. The position would charge her with increasing minority participation. The plans presented included Tyre traveling to successful communities to see 'best practices' in action and working with Bluffton University to develop a survey to discern minority attitude toward the Civil Service process. The post would carry with it a salary of \$7,500 a year in addition to her \$4,000 salary from being on the board.

Five city council members: Jesse Lowe II, Teresa Adams, Kurt Neeper and Sam McLean voiced objections ranging from concern

to negative reaction. The first objection was directed at the administration's overall effort citing questions on the details of the plan, implementation and how the results will be measured.

Secondly and as to the salary, council member Neeper called the \$7,500 proposal a "nice round number that came out of the sky." Lima City Human Resources Director Vince Ozier answered that the figure came from a general calculation of three to five hours a week at \$20-22 an hour.

Another question was raised about the possibility of a conflict of interest if Tyre was both the recruiter and one of those evaluating the test. But the showstopper of the discussion was a statement by City Councilman Jesse Lowe II regarding an informal conversation that had taken place where he had taken offense to Tyre's use of the "N" word.

This Sunday on the radio talk show, Soul of the City, Lowe spoke about his decision to address the incident in public. He stated he "thought about it, prayed about it" and talked about it with like-minded individuals and those who thought he was wrong in talking about the conversation in a public forum.

The mayor told him he was "out of order."

Lowe went on to say he doesn't take anything away from Tyre's work or credentials, but said he's been questioned about her increased role with the city. There are those, he says that think of this as a way for her to be rewarded for the effort she has put toward Mayor Berger's election campaigns.

In response to those questions, the mayor was quoted

by a local paper: "We've known forever the hiring of women and minorities has been a set of issues the city has not been able to successfully address. She really does have an exceptional background for doing this. She's motivated and she understands the technicalities of civil service rules and I believe she can connect well with women and other minorities in the community."

By far, the most attention by the media and residents has been given to the issue of Tyre's usage of the "N" word.

When questioned by the media, she said she used the word in a socially and mutually acceptable way and was not aware that Lowe was offended. When published, this explanation resulted in letters to the editor and continued discussions within the black community about the use of the word in their homes and social settings.

In 2007 the National NAACP held a funeral during its annual convention to bury the word which has long symbolized racism and degradation. Detroit Mayor declared the action not only buried the word but the attitude and destruction that often accompany its usage. The ceremony included a real casket and was completed with the placement of a headstone.

Even with the support of this action, rap artists and comedians, usually people of color, continue to incorporate the "N" word as part of their artistic expression. There are those African Americans who continue to struggle and with the undertones and repercussion of the impact of its historical meaning. Several response letters stated the "N" word is not casually used in their homes, and they expressed their strong objection to its

usage in any situation.

As one Lima resident to a local radio talk show expressed it: the perception of who the majority leaders in the community believe to be the leaders in the minority community may not reflect reality.

Pastor B. Lamont Monford of Phillippian Missionary Baptist Church also serves on the Civil Service Board. "Ms. Tyre is one of the hardest working members of the board. The things the mayor has indicated she would be paid for are things she has been doing for some time now for free. She is passionate in her desire to reach the minority community. The language used is unacceptable, but so is the fact that minorities are under-represented for the tests."

The report of the conversation, the "outing", the explanation, the issued reactions have resulted in a number of letters to the editor and discussions within the minority community; and Jacqueline Tyre removing her name from a possible list of candidates to head up the City's quest.

She cites an unwillingness to pursue the appointment if it would be without the full support of the City Council. The City of Lima's HR department and the Mayor's office have both indicated they plan to continue to search for someone to lead their efforts in minority recruitment.

The next Civil Service Exam is scheduled for January 15 at 9am for an open position with the City of Lima as an Auto Parts Technician. Applications are available at the Lima Municipal Building, or the Civil Service Office on the second floor of the Colonial Building in Lima.

The application and \$1.00 must be received by January 5 at 5 p.m. at either of those same locations. Those interested must possess the knowledge and training for that position plus a Class A CDL. The test will be administered at 9 a.m. on Saturday, January 15 in the cafeteria at Lima West Middle School 503 North Cable Road.

"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 Lubell

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

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Did Toledo Put On For Toledo in 2010?

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture



What does it really mean to have a hater?

Should we really judge our effectiveness at what we do by how much ill will we generate?

Why can't an accomplishment simply draw respect?

In Toledo's entertainment scene especially, we don't have to be all on each other's you know what but if we could at least just respect the moves we all make that would help a lot. You remember Lade Bac, right?

Local group gets close to getting signed, and in the words of one of local artist...haters truly got mad. So mad that shots were fired and lives changed. But look at what I just did. I just hinted at the song "Haterz Get Mad" without mentioning my company or my artists and for what?

I'm allowed to, my boss has no rules against me talking about what I do.

But I have refrained for the last year and a half from mentioning in detail what I do strictly because of one reason: people hating.

So no mention of my company name, or artists or what we've done hardly at all in over a year. Hope the haters are happy.

THE SESSION ON



WXUT 88.3 / EVERY Wednesday at 10pm:

You all know Kameron Kyser, a man who has transformed the atmosphere of this entire city by providing professional yet down to earth gatherings for grown folks to mingle. Well, once upon a time at the turn of the century he was known as D.J. Boody! (dial) and his show on WXUT was authentic hip-hop and local artists' showcase one stop.

Taking your music up to The University of Toledo on the nights of his show meant you were probably going to get your stuff heard on the radio and it was a great feeling.

A void was left when that ended and almost 10 years later another progressive brother named Andre Williams a/k/a Dre Will has reinvented the station's hip-hop/soul offering with his new show called The Session.

This year The Session on 88.3 has done more for local artists than any other radio show I've ever known of in this area.

He's even had nights where he plays nothing but local music, as long as it fits the format. Celebrating anniversaries with big names, throwing events, having live freestyle ciphers on air and also interviewing established urban music royalty (Dwele, Phonte, Slum Village etc.) solidifies Dre Will and The Session as a powerhouse of local entertainment. Kam and Dre, yaw brotha's are both friends of mine who I deeply respect personally and professionally and Dre you've had a great year, sir. Congratulations.

GAMESAVVY LATENIGHT

Andre Savage. You know someone is important when you hear their name before ever meeting them. This is one of those people who I heard about all the time, but in the last two years I can say putting the face with the name (and the voice) has made a huge difference.

Determined to keep his talents here in northwest Ohio, Sav is someone who has the personality, business sense and knowledge of his craft to easily rise to the top in larger markets doing anything involving broadcasting. But he is hell bent on making Toledo see it's own potential.

Backed by S&S Management (peace, Che), Game Savvy Latenight is aired on Ch 24 directly following SNL (on Saturdays, duh!) and features a mix of established entertainers, local artists and sports as well as comedy.

December 29 at Main St Bar & Grille, GSL will be celebrating Andre's birthday and also taping performances from the Swagga Boys, Soul Hustle Band, Matt Reed and T.G.P. (out of cap city) and other artists. You need to be in the building for this one.

It's a Wednesday, but just come out and have a good time and just go to work tired on Thursday morning.. you'll be okay.

Sav, the city is catching on, sir. Don't slow down for em tho, congrats on a great 2010.

THE JUICE 107.3

The battle for the attention spans of urban music listeners in this city

has been one for the ages. Nearly 15 years strong and The Juice fam have not only survived the tricky waters of being an independent radio station in a recession but have also upped their profile this year.

The Detroit Princess Cruise for First Friday a couple months back still has people talking.

Charlie Mack's birthday was a celebrity event, and then just this fall Toledo's WJUC even gave local artists a chance to secure a digital distribution deal and also a little music industry knowledge.

Talk about putting on for your city. That's how you have a strong 2010.

J.Roc and Kaj have always held me down and embraced me and I appreciate being able to call on these brothers for advice in this game. Shouts out to Martini, One Tyme and the whole crew.

HONORABLE MENTION

Cuntry has been a household name in this city and now with his recent digital distribution deal he's sure to take his hits to other markets and open that door wide open.

I'm telling you, stage presence wise and just

overall giving a great show and dealing with fans he is ready!

B.Willz, if you get this paper in your hands this week before 106 & Park comes on,

I hope you read this in time to turn and see ya boy Beverly perform on B.E.T.

A major milestone for another artist that has paid his dues (I'm telling y'all, don't get caught up in the hype. Brandon has been at this for a minute and he perfected his skill).

The city is behind you, bro. Do it big.

LilD and Martini in the Free Press, Hutch Daddy's Bash At The Bay (Lil D & Hutch, I wanna thank you both, you aren't even from here and you came here and showed us love), Frank Wright & Flip N Flex Records (Young Chuck, peace), Soulbeat Music Group bringing Dwele and signing new acts, Italaz releasing his long-awaited comeback,

Yung C, Born In Rough Days (what up!), Big P.I., Big J Tha White Wonda, Shawanda Johnson.

And shouts to everyone who made names for themselves at our open mic night:

Boogie, Franks, Anonymous, Yung Zero,

Yung Marco.

And of course Tracy and Cuntry's "Go Girl!" setting the clubs on fire.

If I didn't name you, don't use that as an excuse to start a personal beef.

I think one thing is true, 2010 was a great year for Toledo's music scene.

People had major things happen, moves were made and many are a lot closer than they were the year before.

Congratulations to us all.

And depending on the backlash I get from this article, I just might run down some of my company's highlights next issue and the haters can just be illiterate for a week.

Toledo... let's keep the positive momentum going forward into 2011.

Peace!

glasscitytruth@yahoo.com
email or fb search.



Women Blessing Women

(Continued from Page 9)

the building where the reception was taking place.

Just like the women's cap and gowns, the decorations were blue and white. Blue gift bags with the ladies' names on the front were lined up on a back table. Refreshments were served as well as a cake for the event.

Those who attended the ceremony also made their way to the reception that created a festive and meaningful atmosphere for all.

Hayes commented that WBW would like to continue this with future graduating classes.

"With preparation with the G.E.D and other struggles in their lives, these women toiled to make it to this point," she said. "We want it [graduation] at least twice a year [May and December]."



Deborah Rivers

Josh Project

(Continued from Page 4)

The Josh Project was founded by Wanda Butts after her son, Josh, died in a swimming accident in 2006. He did not know how to swim when he went out on a raft on bird Lake.

The Josh Project offers lessons for youngsters in four half-hour sessions over a four-week period at St. Francis de Sales High School. The lessons are sanctioned by USA Swimming and the Greater Toledo Aquatic Club.



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1. Must be 18 years of age or over.
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For more information and to apply please visit <https://jobs.utoledo.edu>. **Application deadline is Thursday, December 23, 2010.** *UT is an EEO, AA Employer and Educator.*

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This position is responsible for developing main-frame and PC-based programs for the Department to meet state and federal reporting requirements. The requirements for this position include an Associate's degree in Information Technology, Computer Science, or closely related field; a Bachelor's degree is preferred. Two to four years of related experience including demonstrated ability in structured programming, systems analysis, and development is required. Knowledge of relational databases, Experience with Banner Knowledge, website maintenance and development Producing systematic, documented, user-centered solutions to information problems Success working as a team member in collaborative projects please visit jobs.utoledo.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=50523.

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Star Academy is looking for quality tutors (primarily 2nd to 5th) who are creative with their craft. Applicants need to have a current Ohio License, must be creative, passionate, motivated and team oriented. We are an equal opportunity employer and individuals from underrepresented minority groups are encouraged to apply. Please send or bring a letter of interest, resume and copy of license, transcripts and references to the attention of Gaye Dobson, Principal Star Academy of Toledo 1850 Airport Hwy Toledo, Ohio 43609.

Job 5384 ~ Report Analyst, Institutional Research

This position is responsible for developing main-frame and PC-based programs for the Department to meet state and federal reporting requirements. The requirements for this position include an Associate's degree in Information Technology, Computer Science, or closely related field; a Bachelor's degree is preferred. Two to four years of related experience including demonstrated ability in structured programming, systems analysis, and development is required. Knowledge of relational databases, Experience with Banner Knowledge, website maintenance and development Producing systematic, documented, user-centered solutions to information problems Success working as a team member in collaborative projects please visit jobs.utoledo.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=50523.

Application deadline is Monday, December 27, 2010. The University of Toledo is an Equal Access, Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer and Educator.

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Call Pam at 419-243-0007

www.thetruthtoledo.com

The University of Toledo

Job 5222 Clinical Counselor, Counseling Center: Addtl. 10 month position available. Previous applicants do not need to reapply. Salary Range \$46,000 - \$58,000. For more information and to apply please visit <https://jobs.utoledo.edu>. Application deadline is Wednesday, December 29, 2010. UT is an EEO, AA Employer and Educator

INTERESTED BIDDERS: TOLEDO PUBLIC SCHOOLS – BEVERLY K-8, BIRMINGHAM K-8, OLD ORCHARD ES, RIVERSIDE ES, AND WALBRIDGE ES FURNISHINGS AND EQUIPMENT PACKAGE

Sealed bids will be accepted by the Board of Education of the Toledo Public School District until 1:00 p.m. on January 12, 2011, at the Toledo Public Schools Treasurers' Room 3, 420 E. Manhattan Blvd., Toledo, Ohio 43608, for all labor, material and supervision necessary for the Beverly K-8, Birmingham K-8, Old Orchard ES, Riverside ES, and Walbridge ES FF&E package, as more fully described in the drawings and specifications for the project prepared by MacPherson Architects, Munger Munger + Associates, and The Collaborative Inc. and will be opened publicly and read immediately thereafter.

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

Bidders may obtain copies of the documents starting **December 22, 2010 which can be purchased from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Road, Toledo, Ohio 43615, phone: (419) 385-5303. Drawings may be obtained on CD-ROM for no cost with the purchase of the specifications.**

A **MANDATORY PREBID CONFERENCE** is scheduled for January 5, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. at Toledo Public Schools Board Room, 420 Manhattan Blvd, Toledo, Ohio 43608.

If you have any questions or a need for additional information, please direct all questions in writing Dan.Timmons@LGB-LLC.com, by phone at (419) 776-5600, or (fax) (877) 281-0784.

Bid Item #1: Beverly K-8	School FF&E	\$ 524,295.00
Bid Item #2: Beverly K-8	Office FF&E	\$ 224,695.00
Bid Item #3: Birmingham K-8	School FF&E	\$ 381,026.00
Bid Item #4: Birmingham K-8	Office FF&E	\$ 163,300.00
Bid Item #5: Old Orchard Elementary	School FF&E	\$ 305,037.00
Bid Item #6: Old Orchard Elementary	Office FF&E	\$ 130,730.00
Bid Item #7: Riverside Elementary	School FF&E	\$ 385,222.00
Bid Item #8: Riverside Elementary	Office FF&E	\$ 165,095.00
Bid Item #9: Walbridge Elementary	School FF&E	\$ 254,187.00
Bid Item #10: Walbridge Elementary	Office FF&E	\$ 108,935.00
	Total Estimate:	\$ 2,642,522.00

Ashford Hosts Annual Festive Holiday Celebration

By Brittany Jones
Sojourner Truth Reporter



There was plenty of holiday cheer at the Parkway Plaza off Collingwood Avenue. Toledo City Councilman Michael Ashford of Toledo City Council held his fifth annual Christmas party, which began at 6 p.m. on Saturday, December 11

Numerous Christmas trees, garland, stockings were placed over the fireplace and more décor showered the lobby area of the building.

There was an abundance of food – thanks to the buffet of pasta, roast and vegetables as well as a dessert table – and music from the house

band. There was also a DJ in the backroom.

Several hundred guests

mingled and partied until the midnight hours.



Abundant Life Ministries “Abundance ... in Black and White”



Tracy Gordon, Teresa Quinn, Monica McCain at Abundant Life Ministries black tie Christmas event

Abundant Life Ministries and Pastor Cordell Jenkins celebrated Christmas in grand style on Saturday December 18. Approximately 100 members of the newly-formed church gathered at The Event Center on Summit Street for an evening of food, entertainment and elegance – black and white elegance.

The Toledo Chapter of Charms, Inc Celebrates “A Blessed Christmas”

Special to The Truth



The Toledo Chapter of Charms, Inc. celebrated Christmas with Charms, family and friends on December 12, 2010. This annual evening of gaiety was held at Brandywine County Club in Maumee.

The special musical guest at this event was violinist Robertta Bacon who was welcomed by chapter President Yvonne Gayle. The invocation was given by Dorothea Stubblefield. Lenora Barry presented A Blessed Christmas; Juanita Stephens introduced Charms and their guests.

Co-chairman Jeanette Bradley offered remarks after dinner and Co-chairman Zenobia Faulkner

awed guests with Christmas surprises.

The theme this year, A Blessed Christmas, spoke to the heart of this group of women dedicated and committed to the cause of humanity. This organization feels especially honored and blessed to have served this community for 40 years.

The Charms feel that this Christmas event is a most appropriate time to express their thankfulness to their many supporter who have helped to make many of their endeavors possible. This year the Charms will once again provide a scholarship

through an endowment fund at The University of Toledo. Supporters made it possible by attending their Western Dinner held in October, 2010.

Charms, Inc., is not only a local civic, cultural and social group but a national group, representing 10 states and 19 cities including the District of Columbia. Columbus and Cleveland are the other Ohio affiliations. In our neighboring state of Michigan, there are two chapters – Detroit and Benton Harbor.

Charms, Inc., is approaching a golden anniversary. In July 2012, a celebration in Philadelphia, PA will be held to commemorate this event.

After 50 years, the organization is still growing and expanding its territory. In April, 2012, a chapter will be established in Las Vegas, NV. The local chapter recently inducted seven new members – Cerue Carroll, Mai Freeman, Kathy Nails, Clara Petty, Bettina Shuford, Theresa Wilkins and Shirley Windless.

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