



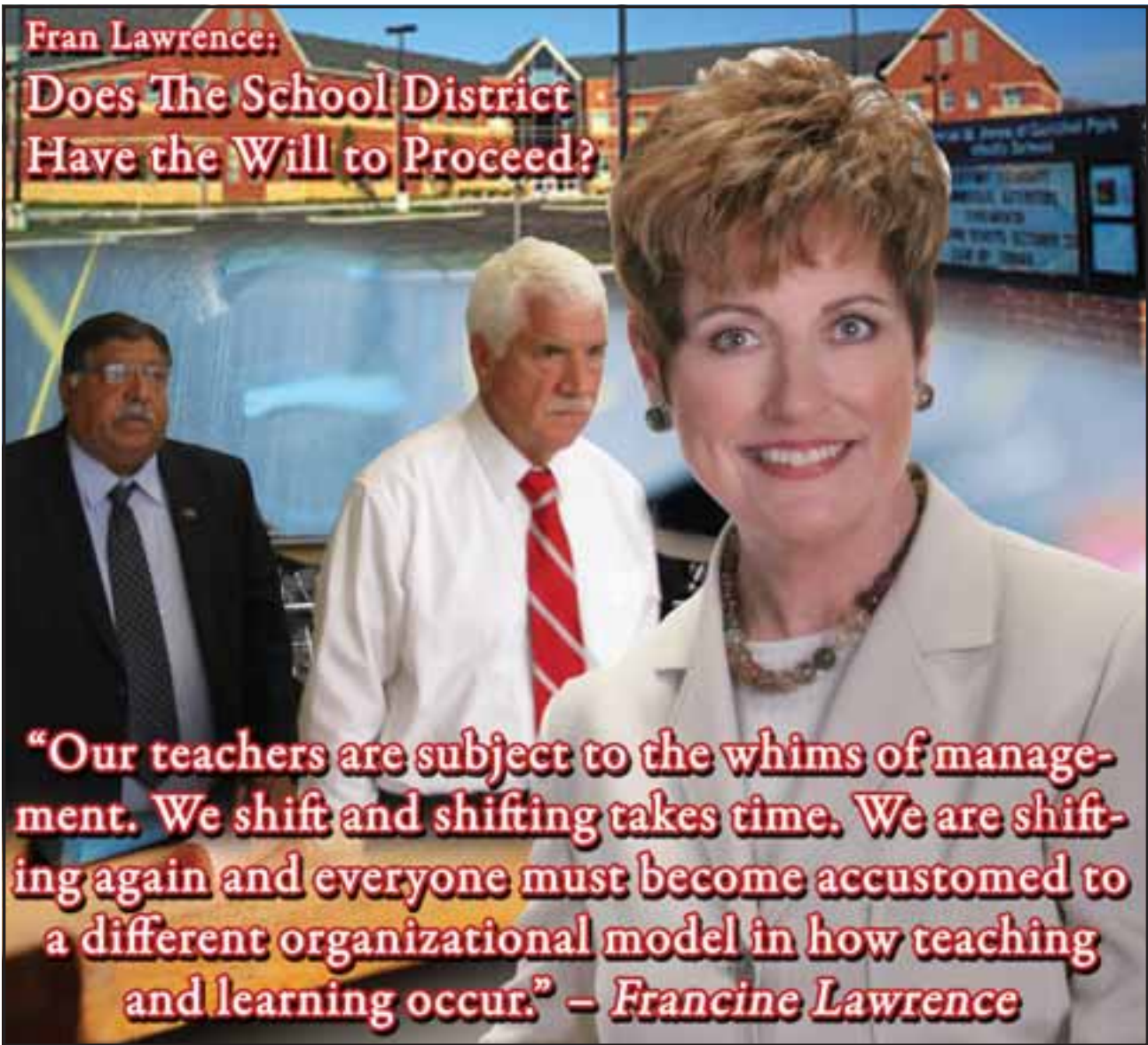
Local and National News

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Volume 19, No.16

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

February 09, 2011



Fran Lawrence:
Does The School District
Have the Will to Proceed?

"Our teachers are subject to the whims of management. We shift and shifting takes time. We are shifting again and everyone must become accustomed to a different organizational model in how teaching and learning occur." – Francine Lawrence

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This Strikes Us ...

A Sojourner's Truth Editorial

The Chinese are coming! The Chinese are coming!
And, boy, are we scared!

Foreign investors from Asia are ready to pony up a few million for the land The Docks occupy and now it appears they are ready to do something with the Marina District – something that an endless stream of American developers could not get done.

And, boy, are we scared!

Interestingly, when Italians bought Chrysler from the Germans who bought it from Americans if memory serves, we heard not a whisper of the fear of foreign investment.

Billions were invested in the All-American auto company and not one peep. A couple of million dollars invested in Toledo by the Chinese and all hell breaks loose. What could possibly be the difference?

Let's get back to that in a minute. First, let's talk money, the other problem that some are having with the \$2.15 million sale of The Docks. Back in the day, the property was appraised at \$5.6 million. That appraisal was lowered to \$4.5 million a year ago and to \$3.5 million a year later.

We can only guess what might happen to that appraisal price as time goes on and the real estate bust continues. But as people whine about the City of Toledo failing to get full value for the property, we are struck by the irony of an entity in a capitalistic society selling property to those from a centrally-managed economy for a price far below what citizens might expect of such a sale.

There are those who warn us to beware of the Communists. In virtually the same breath, they warn how bad a deal this is because of the so-called appraisal price of the property.

Those very same people who fear the Communists, however, have failed to take into account the fact that in a capitalist society, demand controls the sale price. The fact is, no one has come up with a better offer for The Dock's property than did the two Chinese investors and certainly no one has come close to the appraisal price.

The appraisal price can be set at \$1 or \$10 million, it hardly matters. If you want to sell an item, in a capitalistic society, you are generally going to take the best offer – that's what represents value to the seller and to the buyer. A product is only worth what you *can* sell it for, not what you *hope* to sell it for.

After the deal was announced, a few local investors have expressed interest in purchasing the property for an amount higher than the one that the Chinese investors have offered. How sincere can that overture be?

The Docks and the Marina District have been up for grabs for years and now someone is saying that we should keep ownership local? Where have these local investors been all this time?

Well, all of these local interested parties have had ample opportunity to step up and get development done in their hometown. Let them continue doing what has kept them busy all these years – sitting on their hands.

And getting back to the Chinese investors, let there be no mistake about why so many are concerned about "foreign" investors when they show so much less concern when the investors are from Europe.

Two decades ago, there was another scare over Asian investors. In that instance it was a nation-wide panic that the Japanese would soon own virtually every parcel of land in the country. In fact, even at the peak of Japanese investment, they ranked third – behind Great Britain and the Netherlands – in money invested in this country. But, after all, the British are our closest friends and how could anyone be afraid of the Dutch?

The interest of the two Chinese investors in the river front property can only be beneficial for Toledo. We are stagnating from a lack of investment in that area even though we have been putting together deals and plans for almost 15 years to improve that property.

Apparently we cannot do it alone here. We need help. Thank goodness someone out there is willing to help and thank goodness our city leaders have recognized that we need, as a city and region, to market ourselves and take advantage of this global economy.

The rest of the world might be "hot, flat and crowded" in the words of Thomas Friedman but in this little section of earth, we're in danger of turning into a wasteland.

Community Calendar

February 11

ProMedica Community Health Fair: Franklin Park Mall; 8 am to 2 pm; Blood pressure screenings, stretching demos, tobacco cessation products and counseling; 419-469-3716

Dominion Christian Center: Prophetic Worship Experience; 7 pm: 419-870-6423

February 12

West Toledo Bereavement Ministry Monthly Meeting: Bethlehem Baptist Church; 10 am

BGSU 12th Annual Black Issues Conference: Student Union Rm 314; 10:30 am to 4:30 pm; "Home-Based Businesses, An Answer to Joblessness: 419-372-9645

Tested Faith Ministries Free Tax Clinic: 10 am to 3 pm: 419-277-4942

February 13

Mt. Nebo First Lady Appreciation Service: Honoring Debra Brock; 5 pm; special music groups: 419-246-8561

Dominion Christian Center: Prophetic Worship Experience; 11 am: 419-870-6423

February 15

SETT Institute's BMH Event: "Knowledge of Self;" Rocket Hall Rm 1520; Local poets and leaders to speak and perform; 7 pm: 419-973-0248 or 419-530-7749

February 16

ProMedica Community Health Fair: Mayores Senior Center: 9 to 11 am; Free blood pressure screenings: 419-469-3716

February 18

BHM Family Night: The Isaiah Thomas Giving Foundation hosts "Waiting on Superman;" Refreshments served; 7 to 9 pm; Wayman Palmer YMCA

ProMedica Community Health Fair: AP Federal Credit Union (N. Detroit and N. Reynolds): 2 to 4 pm; Free blood pressure screenings: 419-469-3716

February 19

Urban Church Ministries Network: Equipping and collaboration session; Sanger Branch Library; 10 am: 419-531-2959

Tested Faith Ministries Free Tax Clinic: 10 am to 3 pm: 419-277-4942

February 20

Historic Third Baptist Church Concert: Father William Cunningham Memorial Choir of Detroit: 4 pm: 419-248-4623

Holland Third Baptist 23rd Black History Musical: 4 pm

February 21

SA PATH Coalition of NOW: Monthly Circle; Cordelia Martin Health Center; 11:30 am to 1 pm: 419-729-0245

February 27

Calvary Baptist Church Culinary Food Taster: 4 pm

March 13

Historic Third Baptist: Inkster High School Concert Choir; 11 am: 419-248-4623

March 18

Zepf Center's "Serve Up an Ace" Tennis Fundraiser and Silent Auction: 7 to 11 pm; Laurel Hill Swim and Tennis Club: 419-841-7701

The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's Truthful African-American
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An Open Letter to the Community

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq Guest Column



As the Toledo Public Schools' consultant, it was very disturbing to recently read in the Toledo Blade that Fran Lawrence, the

president of the Toledo Federation of Teachers (TFT) union, has made a highly irresponsible statement that TPS plans to play "hardball" regarding the upcoming contract negotiations.

In an impetuous moment, she, who is purportedly the union president for life, indicated that she was up for a game of hardball.

Such a hardening of positions on either side does not bode well for any favorable resolution of the many disputed issues that will have a major impact on the future of Toledo Public Schools.

With TPS already hav-

ing over 10,000 students who have left to attend charter, private and parochial schools and at the blinding cost of \$5,800.00 per pupil via a state subsidy, the stakes are high to say the least.

In my job as the consultant, I am duty-bound to wade into this developing fray and give some much-needed guidance and direction so that both combatants can ease off of the gas pedal and slow down so that constructive dialogue can take place.

Based upon many, many hours of ascertaining the

positions of both sides and understanding that the labor negotiations will be steamy and somewhat vitriolic, I believe that we can avoid mortal combat and reach compromises.

Compromises that will save the school district from further financial free fall and will also allow Fran Lawrence to save face with her subservient union members.

As a stray comment to the various union members including TFT, they must step up to the plate and reconsider if Fran Lawrence is their best and wisest choice to lead them into this contentious fight with the school board that has made the egregious decision to obtain outside legal counsel. (note: why can not the board negotiate with the unions on their own and avoid extremely expensive big city lawyers to gun

sling for them?)

In turn, however, it should be noted that many past and present school boards have been somewhat pusillanimous and have, in the opinion of this consultant, "given away the candy store" in feckless negotiations and now they want to carry a big club to next negotiations dance!

If history is any indication as to what will happen in the present, both sides share copious amounts of blame and neglect that has led to this seeming impasse and now they want to play hardball.

At the risk of making statements that may not in line with a consultant, I will attempt to define the issues so that the sideline viewer does not need a scorecard.

FOR THE SCHOOL BOARD: Reign in the laws. The teachers and staff and various unions are

in "fright mode....not fight mode." They detect the national mood including cities and counties making or threatening to make draconian cuts and in some cases file bankruptcies so that current union contracts can be jettisoned.

They see the flight of students from TPS and understand that each missing student is money out of their paychecks and less funding for a quality TPS education.

The board needs to revamp their admirable new offerings of future course work and plant consolidations and spend some time and money wooing the fleeing students (mostly white students) and their scared parents who see public education being populated by minorities and poor students wearing saggin' pants (class and race is a volatile

(Continued on Page 5)

Tolliver Cruel and Ridiculous

I write on behalf of the teaching staff of Toledo Public Schools. Your January 26 article by Lafe Tolliver was cruel, ridiculous and filled with inaccuracies.

First, there is no teacher lounge at Manhattan and Elm. Second, Mr. Tolliver is not employed by Toledo Public Schools although his

article states that he is, and many employees and others took his statements at face value.

Finally, no one knows how many children of employees attend Toledo Public Schools much less other schools.

The tone of the article is so blatantly anti-union and hateful. No responsible pa-

per would print such material.

This article has left in its wake racial misunderstanding based on lies

Sincerely, Francine Lawrence, President Toledo Federation of Teachers

Gov. Kasich's JobsOhio Plan Lacks Oversight Protection

Governor Kasich recently declared that Ohio is "open for business," but that shouldn't mean closing it for everyone else. I recently voted against the Governor's reckless JobsOhio plan because it gives a small group of unaccountable, private interests the authority to award millions in tax dollars to private businesses, and completely eliminates the oversight that protects your tax dollars from being wasted.

I believe in moving Ohio forward in a positive direction to create jobs; however I found there to be too many issues of concern in this legislation to be able to support it. In Lucas County we are facing about a 10% unemployment rate and I am willing to do what it takes to fix that, but not at the risk of your tax dollars.

This legislation would create a private corporation with only a nine member board that is unaccountable overseeing the operation of the corpora-

tion. Any organization within the state of Ohio that is handling that significant amount of the tax payer's dollars needs to have more oversight such as, by Ohio's Inspector General and the Ohio Secretary of State's office. JobsOhio would have the authority to award millions in tax dollars to private businesses. Also, Ohio's small businesses will put at a competitive disadvantage in favor of large corporation with high-priced lobbyist and the cash flow to give private donation to this public-private entity. In this economic climate, we legislators need to be doing everything we can to protect Ohio's small business owners.

Furthermore, the bill rewrites Ohio's open meetings and public records laws. The public would have no way of reviewing JobsOhio's books or records to see where their tax dollars are being spent. On top of that, the board members are not required

to disclose their financial interests in other companies or recuse themselves for deliberations about awards that could benefit themselves and their companies. Again, this is a mismanagement of Ohioans' tax dollars.

I will be happy to support legislation that will create job in Ohio when one that will help all Ohioans comes before me.

Michael Ashford State Representative Ohio House District 48



Way Black When advertisement featuring a group of people and promotional text for a special offer on cable, internet, and phone services.

Fran Lawrence: Does The School District Have the Will to Proceed?

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

"No transformation plan will be implemented without the input of stakeholders," said Francine Lawrence, president of the Toledo Federation of Teachers (TFT), last week as she commented on the plan put forth by the Toledo Public Schools that will radically alter the look of the district starting in 2011.

"They need the assistance of everyone to make this effort," she said. "But no stakeholders were involved in the development and this was a plan developed behind closed doors by five or six people which puts leaders, such as myself, [in the position] of reacting."

Having opened the conversation with those comments on what she sees as the flawed process of developing the plan, Lawrence then proceeded to comment on the details of a plan that will in broad strokes: eliminate middle schools and establish K-8 neighborhood schools; enhance technology opportunities; offer a specialized educational opportunity at each high school; establish a boarding school for at-risk youth; establish a graduation plan for each incoming freshman; monitor the professional growth of teachers and staff and close certain schools to reflect the decreasing student population.

In addition to the proposed changes in how the district delivers its product to students and parents, the ever-present budget deficit requires some rather drastic

downsizing in faculty and staff according to that portion of the plan that deals with closing that gap.

The first item Lawrence addressed was the plan to change the middle school format and institute K-8 schools.

"Middle schools were railroaded through by [former Superintendent] Gene Sanders," recalled Lawrence. "Within [the union's] membership there are strong proponents for middle schools and strong proponents of K through eight." For her part, she noted, Lawrence favors the K-8 approach.

Cloistering students in the sixth through eighth grades creates "huge disciplinary problems" that can be theoretically decreased in a K-8 format, she suggested.

The other advantage of such a format, said Lawrence, is that it will increase the district's ability to retain students at a crucial point in their development.

"We lose kids between the fifth and sixth grades – a decision-making point for parents," she said. "Many parents look at middle schools and say 'no way.' We will keep families with us if we move to K-8."

Nevertheless, as much as Lawrence personally can appreciate the value of a K-8 structure, she is clearly disturbed by another such shift and what it means for her union members.

The teachers Lawrence represents develop expertise in areas, particularly on the



high school level, in areas such as math, science, history and English. Those areas of expertise must of necessity shift when formats change – as they will again in the near future.

"Our teachers are subject to the whims of management," said Lawrence. "We shift and shifting takes time. We are shifting again and everyone must become accustomed to a different organizational model in how teaching and learning occur."

Overall, Lawrence sees advantage in many parts of the transformation proposed by TPS. She takes issue, generally speaking, in whether or not the district board and administration have the will to follow through on the proposed changes.

"We don't have a track record of making transitions smoothly," she said recalling, as an example, the recent closing of Libbey High School and the district's bumbling efforts at placing students and families into other schools.

The cost reduction plan also drew sharp comments

from the union president. First and foremost, Lawrence noted that the reductions for teachers was laid out in great specificity: 132 specialists (music, art, phys ed); 10 teachers/5 para-professionals in alternative schools; seven teachers with gifted programs, for example.

However, while there are 34 administrative positions that will be eliminated, there is no hint in the plan, said Lawrence, which positions will be cut. Typical, she said, of this type of proposal from the district.

"They will conduct those discussions privately," she said. "But we want to know that there is equity when we're at the bargaining table."

High schools, Lawrence noted, are staffed administratively in much the same manner as they were 25 years ago when there were so many

more students in attendance.

The biggest problem Lawrence sees with the proposed reduction in teaching staffs is that a number of cuts will negatively impact the quality of the very same educational offerings that the rest of the transformation plan is proposing. In particular, it will be difficult, she said, to maintain the standards required by the Race to the Top federal/state program that is bringing the district just over \$11 million to enhance the quality of education in urban districts.

"We will be cutting those who provide high caliber programs throughout the district," she said.

The budget reductions also call for reductions in the famed "Toledo Plan." That plan currently has new teachers placed under the mentorship of veterans who

then have a huge say in whether their mentees are retained by the district.

"We are responsible for dismissing more teachers for performance-related issues than in any other district in the country," said Lawrence in defense of the plan that has come under intense scrutiny in recent years.

Overall, the transformation that has been proposed is of such magnitude that Lawrence has serious doubts about whether it can indeed be implemented in the one-year time period called for, if at all. She has signified that she will be on the alert during the process, however.

"I'm going to be vigilant in how the transformation proceeds in order to support teachers and students," said Lawrence.

LCCS HOLDS THIRD FATHERHOOD TOWN HALL

(TOLEDO, OH ? February 7, 2010) Lucas County Children Services (LCCS) and its Diversity Advisory Committee are holding "Fatherhood Town Hall III: Bringing Back the Dads."

The free event is scheduled for February 18, 2011 at 7 p.m. at Living Word Ministries, 2030 Putnam Street in Toledo. "We are building momentum in our community, helping our fathers to step up and become more involved in their children's lives," says Marjorie Holt, Ph.D., LCCS Minority Affairs and Inclusion Co-

ordinator.

A panel of local clergy will speak on the importance of fathers in the lives of their children, and several fathers will talk about

their experiences. Representatives from the community who serve fathers will be in attendance to respond to questions.



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Gas Station's Liquor Application Withdrawn at Last Minute

By Brittany Jones
Sojourner's Truth Reporter



Lawyers, community residents and the Department of Commerce, Division of Liquor Control met on the fourth floor of the Jobs and Family Services building—not face to face, but via Skype.

It was a court hearing. A fight for permission to sell alcohol versus the preservation of neighborhood peace. At least that is how it should have happened.

Back in 2000, Toledo City Council agreed to a proposal

for convenience store to be built on the corner of Bancroft and Ashland or 350 W. Bancroft. There was a distinctive condition however. In order for the store to be constructed, the owner agreed to not distribute beer or wine and get a special permit that states special requirements in order to be in operation.

After meeting with the Toledo Olde Towne Community Organization (TOTCO)

on Feb 1, 2001 to discuss various aspects of the gas station especially the beer and wine sales, A&M Investment Strategies, Inc's gas station project launched.

Fast-forwarding to January 26, 2011, the issue of these sales was in the spotlight again, but this time the new owners applied for an issuance of a liquor license.

This has caused a stir within the surrounding area and attracted the attention of

some politicians such as 48th House District State Representative Michael Ashford, Ohio State Senate member Edna Brown and Councilwoman Paula Hicks-Hudson, who represents Toledo's District 4, the seat Ashford held until recently.

Hicks-Hudson mailed letters to District 4 residents in an effort to increase resistance to this license at the hearing. Ashford also sent one to the Ohio State Liquor Control Commissioners in Columbus stating that the approval of this license will cause a "lasting detrimental effect."

Similar in context, the memos both convey an opposition theme. They state a concern of how it will affect the well-being of the neighborhood affirming, "the sale of alcohol in the immediate area will certainly contribute to the decline of the peace, sobriety and order in the surrounding community."

Ashford and Hicks-

Hudson continue expressing this concern by writing "places that sell alcohol tend to see an increase in loitering, panhandling and litter." They also point out that there are places reasonably close to the Ashland/Bancroft location that sell alcohol.

The politicians are not alone in their opposition to the issuance of a license because churches, residents and businesses in the area share the same concern, which showed when they arrived for the hearing.

Before it the meeting opened, a twist arose that ceased the whole process. A past deed restriction that the owner drafted was discovered and brought to attention by Hicks-Hudson.

The "Declaration of Restrictive Covenant" made on February 2, 2001 wrote out the circumstances that A&M Investment Strategies, Inc had to abide by for operation.

The declaration asserts that: "The property shall be

held, developed, occupied and conveyed subject to the restrictive condition that no alcoholic beverages, vinous, or malt liquors be sold, consumed or distributed on the premises." This restriction applies to the "lesser, occupants, successors and assigns."

With this document in place, the owner withdrew his application and the property will continue as a gas station.

Hicks-Hudson called it a "victory for the neighborhood."

"I am very happy for them because this is something that was brought up by the church leadership, community leaders and some citizens in the area who were saying we want our neighborhood to be safe, have the peace, and not be disturbed by folk who are buying alcohol and making mischief in area," she said. "It's their victory."

Open Letter

(Continued from Page 3)

mix!).

Until the board can convince the parents of the missing students that TPS has the goods for them and that the classroom is populated by competent teachers and the buildings are safe and sound, no amount of new course offerings and magnet schools will be a lure to reverse the ongoing student exodus.

Furthermore, the school board is going to have to bite the bullet and implement my recommendation that all TPS employees show good faith in their employer by placing their school age kids in a TPS school.

If not, you are saying to the skeptical public that it is OK for you to bring your kids to TPS for an education but we will take our kids elsewhere.

Now, does that cockeyed message inspire faith and confidence in the quality of a TPS degree?

FOR THE UNIONS: Put away the baseball bats and brass knuckles.

For years, you practically had free reign and rule

in contract negotiations with prior boards and superintendents who were either very docile or did not want to risk a strike if they did not do your bidding.

However, you face the real possibility of a strike if you think you can again bluff your way into favorable contact clauses merely by refusing to

give up cherished mandates that you think are untouchable.

Your reputation as being hard-nosed and intractable is legendary.

However, everyone gives and takes in these negotiations and you are not exempt including revisiting the Toledo Intern Plan and life-long tenure.

Life-long tenure! For what? Tenure coverage can be a briar patch to weed out clock-watchers and those who are in teaching for the nine-month workload and the generous retirement package; and for those who merely do "social promotions" for the difficult pupil.

To give shine to a TPS diploma, you will have

to forge alliances with parents and community groups and businesses because the parents are not your enemies...they are your best "teacher aides" in the educational process.

Quit fighting the fact that too many of the teachers and other union members do not have any "skin in the game" when they desert the TPS and place their kids elsewhere. You need to instruct your union members that if you do not see the benefit of a TPS diploma for your kids, why would opted out parents return their kids to TPS?

There. It has been said. If these comments were not to your liking, I,

as a consultant, serve at the pleasure of the school board. So, if you have any gripes, contact them and do not flood my email with your defenses and rationales of why your precious Suzie or Johnny is not in a TPS school.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com

Toledo 5 Announces Casting Call for America's Next Top Model

Toledo 5, Toledo's CW, is proud to announce a Casting Call for the 17th Cycle of *America's Next Top Model*.

Toledo 5 will take its camera and interviewers to TONI&GUY Hairdressing Academy, 3034 Wilford Drive in Toledo on Saturday, February 19th from 12pm until 6pm. Previous casting calls have seen more than one hundred applicants each.

The call is open to women between the ages of 18 and 27, and who are at least 5 feet 7 inches in height and who are American citizens. There is no weight requirement. Applicants should bring with them a completed application, three photos of themselves and a copy of their driver's license or passport, and social security card or birth certificate. Ap-

plications and eligibility requirements are available online on the contest page at Toledo5.com.

At the audition, Toledo 5's camera crew will tape all the applicants, allowing them to show their attitude and personality on camera. A tape of all the applicants will be put together by the Toledo 5 crew, and sent directly to the casting director, along with their applications, copies of IDs and photos. An impartial judging panel also will select one winner from those who audition, and that person will get a free makeover from TONI&GUY Hairdressing Academy and a promotional campaign with Toledo 5.

America's Next Top Model, which returns Wednesday February 23 at 8 p.m. on Toledo 5, follows a group of young women of



various backgrounds, shapes and sizes who live together and vie for a grand prize which will include a modeling contract. The reality competition exposes the transformation of everyday young women into top models, as they face weekly tests that determine who can make the cut. The finalists compete in a highly accelerated modeling boot camp, a crash

course to modeling fame that includes mentoring by supermodel Tyra Banks and exposure to high-profile fashion industry gurus, all under 24-hour-a-day surveillance of the *America's Next Top Model* cameras, which chronicle every move.

America's Next Top Model is produced by 10 by 10 Entertainment in associa-

tion with Bankable Productions. Tyra Banks is the creator and executive producer along with Ken Mok (*Making the Band*) and Daniel Soiset (*Hell's Kitchen*).

Toledo 5, now in its 21st year, is the Northwest Ohio/Southeast Michigan affiliate of The CW Network, which launched on September 18, 2006. Toledo 5 airs such pro-

grams as *Two and a Half Men*, *Family Guy*, *The Wendy Williams Show* and *Friends*.

For more information, contact:
Cheryl Lightfoot, Promotions Administrator
Toledo 5, Toledo's CW
419-724-7694
clightfoot@wt05toledo.com
www.Toledo5.com

Kasich Commemorates Black History Month, Announces Director of Minority Affairs

Special to The Truth

Gov. John R. Kasich today issued a resolution commemorating February as Black History Month and asked Ohioans to live up to the ideals of freedom, equality and justice.

"African-Americans have played significant roles in the history of Ohio's economic, cultural, spiritual and political development while working to maintain and promote culture and history," Kasich states in the resolution. "Black History Month is a time for all Ohioans to remember the lessons and teachings of those who helped build our nation."

Black History Month was

first recognized 35 years ago by an act of Congress to honor the contributions of African-Americans throughout America's history.

The governor's complete resolution is located [here](#).

Additionally, Kasich announced the appointment of Lynn Stevens as Director of Minority Affairs. Stevens is responsible for minority outreach and will act as a liaison to Ohio's minority communities.

Stevens most recently served 11 years as the community relations coordinator for Senator George Voinovich. Prior to that, she served as a caseworker for



Gov. John R. Kasich

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Congressman Steve Chabot (R-OH). She is most proud of her role on the Ohio Bicentennial Commission's African-American Advisory Council, which held a series of events in 2003 and 2004 to highlight the con-

tributions of African-Americans to Ohio's history. She is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati where she received a bachelor's degree in international affairs and a master's degree in political science.

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WE ARE A FULL SERVICE BUSINESS

St. Francis de Sales Knight Life: A Chronicle, Part VI

By Keon Pearson
Sojourner's Truth Reporter



January has been the most exciting month in my life! It all started when the

moderator of our school's African American Club, Mr. Kynard, asked me one early January morning if I would like to speak at the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration in Unity at The University of Toledo. I remembered from the previous year that this was no small event.

I recalled the Toledo Interfaith Mass Choir blowing down the house. I recalled the procession of dozens of the city's most prominent figures. And I recalled with a

little queasiness the thousands of people in attendance. Not being one daunted by a challenge, I assured Mr. Kynard that I could speak, if the organizers of the event were willing to allow me the privilege.

I met with the organizers of the event about a week after talking to Mr. Kynard. They told me that I would have to create a message that applied to all who would be in attendance: the young, the old, the black, the white, the

brown, the men, the women, the poor, and the rich.

Further, my speech had to address the concept of unity. "How long are they expecting me to talk?" I thought.

I was especially intimidated by this task because I wanted to say something positive, but the reality is that unity has never truly existed in this country. If unity had never existed in this country, despite the efforts of some of the most committed and intelligent people known in history, how could I cure this problem in a 10-minute speech?

I agonized over possible topics for hours, and I finally decided that I would bifurcate my message: I would develop a message for the adults, and a message for the youth.

The goal of my speech would be to encourage adults

to take an active interest in the lives of our region's youth, and to inspire the youth in our region to exit the "Culture of Ignorance" that plagues our society. I gave special thanks to my mentors for their undying support and guidance. My thesis was that once we have bridged the poverty gap, equality will be achieved, and unity will closely follow.

My speech was met with enormous praise. After the Celebration in Unity concluded, I was stormed with people wishing to congratulate me on a job well done. I shook hands and took pictures for over an hour. I interviewed with two or three news stations. About a dozen people asked me to speak at their churches, youth groups, or community organizations.

Several media outlets have shown pictures, videos, and

articles featuring me in them. My Facebook page was bombarded with requests, comments, and messages. I felt like an overnight celebrity! My band director facetiously asked me if the people who ate lunch with me had "cleared security."

Since the MLK Celebration in Unity, I have spoken at and been invited to speak at so many events, it's hard to keep track. Unfortunately, I do not have an infinite supply of time or energy, so I have had to accept only those invitations which are accompanied by an offer of compensation.

I have been greatly rewarded with the ability and opportunity to communicate my positive message to people all around the area. If I inspire one person to act, my efforts will have been duly rewarded.

High-Speed Technical Photography Expert Andrew Davidhazy to Present Free Lecture and Workshops at Owens, Feb. 19

Area residents and photographers interested in learning about the scientific and technical aspects of photography from Andrew Davidhazy, one of the pioneers in the field of high-speed technical and scientific photography, are invited to attend a free lecture and register for several workshops at Owens Community College on Saturday, Feb. 19.

Presented by the Owens Photo Club student organization, Davidhazy's lecture will take place from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. In addition to his lecture presentation, Davidhazy will provide two two-hour, hands-on workshops for attendees. The first workshop, which begins at 1:30 p.m., will cover "The Basics of Slit-scan and Strip Cameras and Applications," while the second workshop will start at 4 p.m. and provide insight into the "Simplified Approaches to High Speed and Stroboscopic Photography."

The lecture and workshops will take place in the College's Center for Fine and Performing Arts Room 233 on the Toledo-area Campus. Owens is located on Oregon Road in Perrysburg Township. All events are free and open to the public.

"Owens Community College is thrilled to have Andrew Davidhazy presenting two hands-on workshops, along with a lecture presentation," said Ruth Foote, Owens Associate Professor of Fine and Performing Arts and Co-Advisor of the Owens Photo Club. "I've known Andrew for many years and his lectures and workshops are always popular, whether it is at a school or profes-

sional conference setting." Foote added, "Andrew Davidhazy's lecture presentation will cover his vast body of scientific photographic work, including scanning or strip photography, as well as modifying off-the-shelf photographic equipment to improve capacity and capability."

"Many people are familiar with Andrew Davidhazy's work, without even realizing he was the photographer," said Margaret Lockwood-Lass, Owens Adjunct Instructor of Fine and Performing Arts and Co-Advisor of the Owens Photo Club. "His popular images include stop action photos of sneezing, bullets going through playing cards, water droplets crowning and balloons popping. Golfers and other sports enthusiasts are familiar with his stroboscope photos of golfers or tennis players showing the full range of motion from a single stroke."

Davidhazy serves as a Professor of Imaging and Photographic Technology in the School of Photographic Arts and Sciences at Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, N.Y. His professional background includes over 35 years of experience specializing in scientific and technical aspects of photography, as well as the application of technical imaging concepts to aesthetic purposes.

Davidhazy also served on the U.S. House Select Committee that re-examined photographs of Lee Harvey Oswald, and was later called upon to authenticate a photograph of O. J. Simpson wearing shoes he claimed

never to have owned.

Davidhazy's accolades include being awarded a NASA American Society for Engineering Education Summer Fellowship at NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va., for conducting research and providing consulting services in the area of high-speed photography. He is a Fellow of SPIE and the Society for Imaging Science and Technology, as well as the recipient of the Eisenhart Award from the Rochester Institute of Technology and the Raymond Bowman Award from IS&T for excellence in teaching.

The Owens Photo Club was founded with the overall mission of providing personal and professional enrichment and educational opportunities for all Owens students, including students majoring in the College's commercial photography technology and photography academic programs.

Workshop space is extremely limited and pre-registration is required. Registration will be restricted to only one workshop per applicant. Lunch is included free of charge as part of the daylong event.

For additional information about the upcoming lecture or registration for either workshop, contact Owens' Department of Fine and Performing Arts at (567) 661-7081 or 1-800-GO-OWENS, Ext. 7081. Individuals can also access information online at www.owensphotoclub.org or pre-register for the workshops at:

owensphotoclub@gmail.com

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School Choice Tour Spotlights Four Academically Excellent Options

By Brittany Jones
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Every child deserves an excellent education no matter where he or she lives.

Despite current school issues, budget cuts and tax incentives, there are schools in the Toledo area still striving to do just that – give the children superior instruction to prepare them for the world.

Proclaimed by Governor Kasich, "National School Choice Week," January 24 through January 29 was spent putting the spotlight on excellent schools throughout Ohio. The decree that he authorized went on to state that "by observing National School Choice Week in Ohio, our citizens can truly recognize that Ohio is front and center in the important work of giving all children access to a quality education."

On day six of the week, a Toledo public, private, charter and home school were highlighted for their ability to maintain superior school ratings even with the hurdles

they had to overcome. A tour was organized to showcase these particular schools.

"These are schools that are not suppose to be succeeding because of the people that they're servicing," commented Ann Riddle, outreach and mobilization associate of School Choice Ohio. "There are many issues that make people believe that they cannot do well, but they are doing it."

First up was the private

school, Rosary Cathedral Campus, where the structure has operated on Collingwood for almost 100 years. It is a part of Central City Ministries (CCM), which is comprised of Queen of Apostles and Rosary.

With smaller-sized classes, the students received more teacher attention thus resulting in more help with studies.

The school consists of one pre-school, two classes of first through third grade,



one class each of the fourth through eighth grades. The teachers have aides to help with the daily lessons and every child has access to a computer.

Religion is a huge factor within the school where Mass is held every week and the students take religion classes daily. A student does not have to be Catholic to attend Rosary Cathedral.

Most of the student population – about 190 out of 259 – are recipients of the Educational Choice Scholarship Program (Ohio EdChoice). This scholarship aids students who attend public schools that are rated "academic emergency" or "academic watch." It can also be used for students who attend private schools (up to \$5,300 tuition voucher) or are homeschooled.

Second on the tour was Toledo School for the Arts (TSA), a sixth through 12th grade charter school. TSA,

located downtown on 14th street, opened its doors in 1999 to students ready for a different style of learning.

In addition to core classes required by the Ohio Department of Education, dance, music, theater and visual arts are offered to enhance the learning experience. The school has received an "excellent" rating on the school report card for the past five years. In fact, the only area school that has surpassed their outstanding test scores is Ottawa Hills.

Doing six years at TSA, Skylar Thompson, a junior and a music and dance major, appreciates the variety the school offers in learning methods.

"I think it's a different environment and a different way of learning, but you still have your core classes that are constructed the same," she said. "It's another way to connect to the students and not just say read this

text book and learn it."

Thompson wants to attend the University of Florida and receive a degree in obstetrics.

Home schooling has become a normal option for parents over the years. At Locke Branch Library on Miami Street, six local homeschooling families (Beale, Scarlett, Kirk, Hite, Peterson and Leinbach) gathered to discuss their experiences.

Parents began the program by discussing how they came about the decision to home school their children and the methods they use during a school day. The families varied in regards to the number of children they home schooled. Some kids began in kindergarten and went all the way through high school while some stopped before high school.

The kids from various academic stages – college, (Continued on Next Page)



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True Color Trivia Contest

Special to The Truth



The Art Tatum African American Resource Center (ATAARC) celebrates Black History Month and Women's History Month with the True Color Trivia contest!

Enter at Main Library for

a chance to win a pair of tickets to Broadway's *The Color Purple: The Musical About Love*, which opens in Toledo on March 10.

Simply answer three trivia questions correctly to qualify. Entry forms are

available at Main Library's Circulation Desk and in the Humanities Department, the temporary home of the ATAARC.

Drawings will be held on Saturdays (February 19 & 26 and March 5) from eli-



gible entries submitted during the week (Mon-Fri). For more information, call 419.259.5392 or 419.259.5207.

The contest, which is open to participants 12 and older, is presented by the Toledo-Lucas County Library and the Theater League.

Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union: The Mysterious Case of the Missing Funds

Sojourner's Truth Staff

For years Suzette Cowell, CEO of the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union has been working on raising funds from a variety of sources for the credit union's new building at Dorr and Detroit. Part of the funds for the three quarters of a million facility were to have come from a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. But have the funds dried up? Have they been moved to another project here in Toledo?

In 2008, HUD approved \$245,000 to fund renovation or construction of buildings in low or moderate-income census tracts using Special Project Grant funds. The three projects were identified by Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur as the Nueva Esperanza Community Credit Union Building Renovation Project in an amount of \$100,000, the TUFUCU Construction Project in a similar amount and a City of Toledo/Envelope Program in an amount of \$45,000.

Cowell received final authorization on November 24, 2010 after notice was placed in the media and no objection had been raised concerning the release of the funds.

Now however, an objection has been raised according to Kaptur's office and those portion of the funds earmarked for TUFUCU may have to be released to another entity before the credit union is ready to start construction.

According to Kaptur's office, the senior center being constructed by Warren AME Church may well end up with the funds if TUFUCU is unable to complete its project.

According to Rev. Otis Gordon, pastor of Warren, the church has no intention of battling the credit union for the funds but also does not want to see the funds returned to the federal government if TUFUCU cannot complete its project.

School Choice Tour

(Continued from Page 8)



high school, middle school and elementary – gave presentations about how they dealt with home schooling and the fun activities they undertake such as trips out of the country to learn about the world.

They made sure to stress one thing – they do not go to school in pajamas.

The last stop was Birmingham Elementary at its transitional location – previously East Toledo Junior High Building – on Dearborn. Before their move to its own building next fall on Bakewell, the school jumped two levels in one year from "continuous improvement" to "excellent" for the first time on the state's report card. The school has kindergarten through eighth grade.

Birmingham has one of the most poverty-stricken student bodies in the area where about 93 percent qualify for federally-sponsored school lunches. The school has about 350 students.

Assistant principal, Jen-

nifer DeYarman, commends the strong bond of parent

and neighborhood involvement with the school that keeps the program going.

"Birmingham is still a neighborhood," she commented. "The parents know each other and are willing to help out whenever possible."

School Choice Ohio, according to its literature, holds on to the "the idea that parents want the best and most appropriate education for their children."

It "is the statewide leader in promoting the protection and expansion of school choice throughout the Buckeye State."



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Library Celebrates Black History Month – The Journey Toward Freedom

By Rhonda B. Sewell, Library Media Relations Coordinator

To celebrate **Black History Month** during the month of February, the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library presents to the community, *The Journey Toward Freedom* scheduled from 1-4 p.m. on Saturday, **February 26** at Main Library, 325 Michigan St.

Other exhibits, plays, activities and programs celebrating Black History Month are scheduled throughout the Library system. Please visit toledolibrary.org for more details.

Here are highlights for the February 26th **FREE** program at Main Library:

- **A History of the Underground Railroad** – presented by Cathy D. Nelson, Friends of the Freedom Society

- **Scene from Comin' for to Carry Me Home from the Slave Narratives of the Federal Writers' Project** – Adapted by Imelda Hunt New Works Writers Series

- **Music** – by the Clarence Smith Community Chorus

- **Representatives from the 5th United States Colored Troop** – Civil War re-enactors

- **Historically-themed Quilt display** – including a quilt rendition of the Underground Railroad map of Ohio indicating counties, trails and stations (on loan from the Friends of Freedom Society)

- **The Prize Is . . . An Underground Railroad Treasure Hunt** – this activity will also be available during the entire month of February

- **Children's activities**

- **Civil War era refreshments**

The Library's February 26th program has been generously sponsored and presented by the Ohio Humanities Council, Library Legacy Foundation, and the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library

Also check out:

- **Pride and Preservation** – a retrospective exhibit located in the Humanities department at Main Library about the Art Tatum African American Resource Center (temporarily housed at Main Library during the renovation project at Kent Branch Library). **On view now through the end of March 2011.** Info: 419.259.5218.

- **Bud, Not Buddy** – Christopher Paul Curtis' triple-award winning book *Bud, Not Buddy* comes alive as Dr. Imelda Hunt's New Works Writers Series presents a theatrical reading of this adventurous book. The story is set in Flint and Grand Rapids, Michigan




as ten-year-old orphaned Buddy searches for his band-leader father and finds his way home. All programs below are free and open to the public.

1. Locke Branch Library – Saturday, February 12 from 1-2:30 p.m. (419.259.5310)
2. Toledo Heights Branch Library – Tuesday, February 22 from 6:30-8 p.m. (419.259.5220)
3. Mott Branch Library – Monday, February 28 from 6:30-8 p.m. (419.259.5230)

NOTE: For additional information visit toledolibrary.org, or call 419.259.5207.

Toledo-Lucas County Public Library



THE JOURNEY TOWARD FREEDOM

A Celebration of Black History Month


Saturday, February 26, 2011


1 - 4 p.m.


Main Library


325 Michigan St.

- **A History of the Underground Railroad**
presented by Cathy D. Nelson, Friends of Freedom Society
- **Scene from Comin' for to Carry Me Home from the Slave Narratives of the Federal Writers' Project**
Adapted by Imelda Hunt
New Works Writers Series
- **Music** by the Clarence Smith Community Chorus
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- **Children's activities**
- **Civil War era refreshments**









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 419.259.5207

BGSU Black Issues Conference to Focus on Future

Special to The Truth

African-American successes and challenges will be highlighted at Bowling Green State University's 12th annual Black Issues Conference (BIC) Saturday, Feb. 12, in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union. A goal of the event is to help students overcome racial, sexism,

socio-economic and other forms of oppression.

The conference theme, "The Content of Our Character: Overcoming Oppression and Moving Forward," was selected by the planning committee, which consists of 10 undergraduate students and a group of graduate students.

Conference panelists, including BGSU faculty, administrators and alumni as well as visiting speakers, will also be incorporating a subtheme, "Learning from the Past, Living in the Present, Leading in the Future," to expand on the message.

"[The panelists will share]

lessons learned in their academic and professional careers, providing anecdotes on how our students may better prepare themselves to meet the challenges of today and the future," said conference organizer Chad Coates, a graduate assistant in the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

Members of the BGSU community will be presenting a variety of workshop sessions during the conference. Participants include BGSU Trustee Col. John E. Moore Jr., (USAF, Ret.); Dr. Dafina Stewart, an associate professor in the Department of Higher Education and Student Affairs; Dr. Shannon Cochran, an instructor in the Department of Ethnic Studies and Africana Studies; Ashley Baker, BGSU director of Student Athletic Services; J. David Reeves from the Department of Housing and Urban Development and national president of Blacks in Government, and attorney Walter Madison.

Guest speakers will be holding concurrent sessions covering a range of topics

such as "Identity Crisis: I'm Black," "24 Reasons Why African-Americans Suffer," and "African-American Women Entrepreneurs" in various rooms throughout the union.

The luncheon keynote speaker will be Rev. Jamie Washington, president and founder of the Washington Consulting Group. He will speak on "One More River to Cross: Intersections of Race, Religion and Sexual Orientation." Washington is also the president and founding faculty member of the Social Justice Training Institute and has served as an educator, administrator and consultant in higher education for over 26 years.

"Dr. Washington will offer his thoughts and wisdom as related to preparing leaders for a more socially just future," Coates said.

The conference is open to all members of the BGSU community. The public is also free to attend, but registration is required. An optional lunch in the Lenhart Grand Ballroom in the Union can be reserved and purchased with

a meal ticket, \$5 for BGSU students and \$10 for administrators, faculty, staff and off-campus guests. To reserve a meal ticket, contact Coates at chadc@bgsu.edu or at 419-372-9645.

Registration for the conference will begin at 9 a.m., followed by concurrent sessions in the morning and afternoon, ending with a panel discussion from 3-4:15 p.m. in the Union Theater.

"Overcoming oppression and moving forward will require intentional 'Learning from the Past, Living in the Present, and Leading in the Future,'" Coates said. "Leadership for the next round will require a level of work that will move us beyond a color blind society to engaging what we really see across all differences."

The conference is a diversity initiative sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs in partnership with the Black Student Union. For more information, contact the Office of Multicultural Affairs at 419-372-2642.

Ernest Quintana Diversity Scholarship Fund Established Upon Namesakes Retirement from Federal Service

Special to The Truth

Retiring NPS Midwest Regional Director Ernest Quintana was honored on his last day of service to the Federal Government with the announcement of the establishment of the Ernest Quintana Diversity Scholarship Fund.

Established January 31, 2011, the Ernest Quintana Diversity Scholarship Fund honors the former Regional Director for his career efforts in diversity recruitment. The Fund is housed with the National Park Foundation and will grant at least two \$1,500 scholarships per year. Should the Fund grow to a size that allows for a perpetual endowment, the number of scholarships will increase accordingly.

"This is absolutely incredible," Quintana proclaimed upon learning of the Fund. "I am deeply honored by this gesture of support for an effort that promotes an integral goal throughout my career. This is an opportunity to give back by helping and encouraging others to continue and complete their college education. I, like many others in the National Park Service, benefited from the good will of individuals who not only believed in me but provided me with the opportunity to continue and complete my college education. They knew and impressed upon me that both a college education and on the job experience are essential to success."

Midwest Region staff developed the idea as a long lasting tribute to Quintana who, throughout his 41 years of Federal service, has focused on diversity as a means of making the stories and places entrusted to his care and leadership relevant to the visitors. Accredited colleges and universities identified by Midwest Region staff will be eligible. Staff anticipate finalizing eligibility parameters in time to award the first of the scholarships in 2012.

For more information, please contact Marty Sterkel at 402-661-1536 or 402-616-6114.

"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 Lohoff

The couple got on board with a pro-health company, Vitalus 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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Book Review

The Obamas: The Untold Story of an African Family by Peter Firstbrook

c.2010, 2011, Crown \$26.00 / \$30.00 Canada 335 pages, includes extras

By Teri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

There days, you wish you'd listened closer.

Your grandfather told you many things about his grandfather: how he survived, how he lived, how he relaxed. You wish you had paid attention to what was said, but you were just a kid. Now, you wish you could tell those tales to your own children.

You're not that interested in your pedigree, but you like knowing where you came from. In the new book *The Obamas: The Untold Story of an African Family* by Peter Firstbrook, you'll learn about the first family behind the First Family.

On the night of Barack Obama's inauguration just over two years ago, Peter Firstbrook was in Kenya, watching the event on a fuzzy-screened black-and-white television powered by a generator. He had gone there just after the election to research the president's family and knew there was a "fasci-

nating story to be told."

President Obama is, like most Americans, of varied heritage. He's 50 percent English mixed with Welsh, Irish, German, Scottish and Swiss. And he's 50 percent African, descended from the Luo of Sudan and Kenya.

Tribal connections are extremely important in Kenya, and the Luo is the third-largest tribe in that country. As a whole, they're known for their emphasis on education, their easygoing nature and their generosity. And, Firstbrook says, "they also had a reputation for... talking big and doing very little."

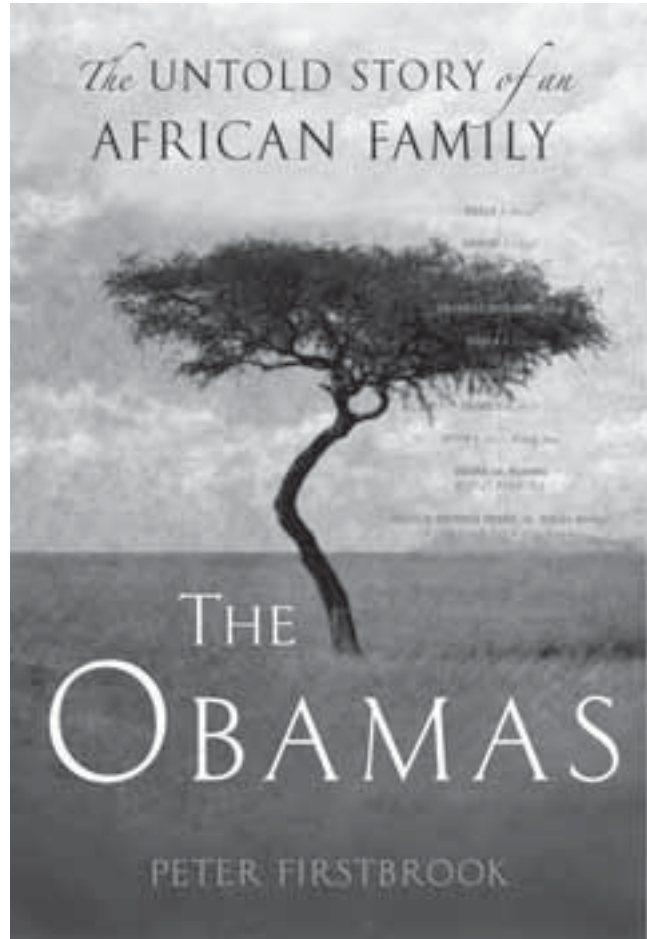
About 200 years ago, President Obama's great-great-grandfather Obong'o was born in the ancestral home in K'ogelo but when he was about 30 years old, he and his wife left because of family feuding. In his new home on Kendu Bay, Obong'o had three sons:

Obama, Aguk, and Opiyo, who would become the great-great-grandfather of President Obama.

Opiyo was born during a tumultuous time, when slave trading was widespread and British colonialism was almost ending. Still, he built his own compound, took several wives and raised his own family, including at least two daughters and three sons. His middle son, Obama, became the president's great-grandfather.

Obama begat Onyango, who was progressive, eccentric and quite the ladies' man. He was also aggressive, and "stole" one of his wives, Sarah. She later bore him a son, Barack, who was the father of our President.

The Obamas is lively, sweeping, grand, horrifying and occasionally funny; a historical biography of a continent, a way of life, a people and, somewhere along the way, the leader of the Free



World. Author Peter Firstbrook is a first-rate storyteller, and though President Obama's lineage can be somewhat confusing, Firstbrook makes it relatively understandable. Though some tales will make you gulp, he also entertains readers with cultural explanations, imaginative scenarios, hypothetical situations and small anecdotes. I enjoyed that, partly for the way Firstbrook presents the information and partly for its relevance in today's world, as compared to yesterday's way of life. If you're a "birther," you won't find much in this spirited account of one family's long history. For the curious, or anyone who just loves a great story, though, *The Obamas* deserves a closer look.

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www.nwf.org/urban



Black Future: Treating Each Other Fairly

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture



I love February. My birthday is February 26. I'm a hopeless romantic so I dig Valentine's Day. Having been raised by an African dance teacher and former Black Panther meant that I was right at home in a month where cultural awareness is at the forefront.

But Black History facts never meant as much to me as the reality of our here and now. W.E.B. Dubois, Marcus Garvey, Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman are all human rights icons who we as black people should hold in our highest regard for all time. But I've challenged myself to focus more on our black NOW than our black HISTORY.

As with any evolution, I've now moved onto a much more pressing issue:

Our Black Future.

ARE WE BLACKIN THE FUTURE?

Our President is black. But he's also multi-racial, multi-ethnic.

I mean we are talking about a black man who was born in

Hawaii, partly raised in Indonesia and has an Arabic name. You couldn't ask for a better example of E Pluribus Unum. But just as President Barack Obama is not simply black.. neither is struggle that black people face.

Yes, the war on drugs is a war on us.

Yes, the schools are closed and the prisons are open.

Yes, racism still runs rampant in every nook and cranny in this country.

Yes, discrimination threatens to dog every forward step we make before we make it.

But more and more, the powers that be are attacking the American middle class and poor people far and wide.

Joblessness, poor access to health care and education—the things we need to improve ourselves or just maintain are becoming more and more scarce for ALL races of people who are just a tad bit closer to the have nots than the haves.

In a world swirling its colors, and letting go of race as a main way to identify each other... the promised land of equality may never come.

Not only because they don't want to see us have equality.

But also because people are discussing race/ethnicity less and less and discussing rich vs. poor more and more. It's about survival at this point.

We've been broken down to our most basic needs.

Yes, in the inner city black youth are still divided between ignorant super thug ambitions and those of us who

navigate our way to an education somehow. But even the ghetto ain't as black is it used to be, and that's just keeping it "one hummed" with y'all.

So how do we take time to identify as a race of proud, beautiful black people in a world where the struggle is less and less about race and more about getting ahead by any means necessary?

We're still trying to get social equality and reparations at a time when the dollar could cease to exist and our entire nation could revert back to the stone age at any moment.

Are you getting the picture?

This ain't no 2012 hoopla, this is actual probability. Likelihood.

At a time when we have Oprah Winfrey reaching soaring heights that most black women or even women period never fathomed.

At a time when we probably have more black millionaires and entrepreneurs than any other time in history.

At a time when grassroots efforts to teach our own and reach our own are finally starting to pay off... this entire system we exist in could be rendered obsolete overnight.

If you wake up one morning and everything you own, every dollar and every item you could trade for a dollar is all worthless then what?

If you wake up one morning and gas is \$28 a gallon and healthcare is tied up in litigation and the Patriot Act version of martial law is declared in response to roaming street

gangs looking for food and shelter... how important will it be then whether or not Malcolm X's birthday should be a national holiday?

When the melting pot boils over, will any one ingredient mean more than the other?

PRESERVING BLACKNESS

Other ethnic/racial minorities have proven they can do well for their community in this country.

Arab Americans, Asian Americans and Jewish people to name a few.

It's not access to wealth that will allow our people to overcome.

I believe our only saving grace rests in the two areas we've always consistently been attacked in:

The Black Family. Black Art.

If we remember to honor each other because we are one, and we strengthen that sense of community to the point that we see ourselves when we walk those streets at night then things will change.

But I don't just mean the

larger sense of black Family as in Black Unity.

I mean Father, Mother, and Children BLACK FAMILY.

Our households have been attacked since the 1600's, that's a long time to have our bond ripped apart but that is one area we have control over how free we are.

The Black Future needs a restoring of honor in our homes.

Raising the kids, respecting the elders, loving that spouse... these things can be our only hope.

Why?

Because we probably won't ever see the day where the judicial system treats us fair, but we can CREATE the day where we treat each other fair!

Under attack just as our family unit has always been our art.

Exploited, stolen or compartmentalized until only the most idiotic creations from our people slip through to the masses to represent us all.

We've got to dare to once again to become artists who speak or rap or sing or paint about the conditions we want

to change.

Not just talking about how much our jewelry costs or who we are taking home from the club.

To respect our crafts enough to let the actors act and the rappers rap without 2/3rds of all black people within a mile in any direction also competing for the same dream.

If we can protect our artistic expression, we can at least rely on what we've created to entertain us but also spark little revolutions in the mind.

The Black Future faces the same struggles as America in general with an added degree of difficulty because of what we have gone through.

However, giving some thought to the past and the present would be criminal without truly assessing our future collectively.

Things may get very real, very soon here.

I'm back at y'all next week, peace.

Email or Facebook search: glasscitytruth@yahoo.com

Register Now!

Saturday Classes Start February 19!

You don't have to be perfect to be a perfect parent.

Lucas County Children Services needs foster and adoptive families for teens with special needs and groups of three or more siblings. Our FREE foster/adoptive parent training classes begin February 19, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. You can complete your training in just six weeks!

becoming a foster or adoptive parent is easier than you think. You...

- Must be at least 18 years of age to adopt; 21 to become a foster parent.
- Can be married or single.
- Can own or rent your home.
- Can work outside the home.
- Don't have to earn a lot of money, just enough to support yourself.
- Need a safety inspection for your home.
- Agree to a background check.
- Receive free training.
- Receive financial support, based on your child's needs.

Classes are held at the Lucas County Training Center, 705 Adams Street. Space is limited; please reserve your seat today.

Call 419-213-3336 to register today!

CLASSIFIEDS

February 09, 2011

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Project LMHA – Agency Wide

The Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) is seeking proposals from qualified licensed, and insured electrical contracting companies for the purpose of providing electrical construction and repair services to LMHA.

Project LMHA – Agency Wide
Pre-Proposal Meeting Date Tuesday, February 22, 2011 @ 10:00am at 201 Belmont Modernization Department, Toledo, OH 43604
Proposal Due Date Tuesday, March 1, 2011 @ 10:00am at 201 Belmont Modernization Department

Please direct questions regarding this proposal to, Tom Neeb (419) 259-9419 or via email to tneeb@lucasmha.org. Copies of the plans and specifications for this project are on file at City Blueprint of Toledo, 3455 Briarfield Boulevard, Suite D, Maumee, OH 43537, (419) 243-7271. Please fax your order to (419) 243-6418. Visa, MasterCard, cash or company checks are accepted. These documents are also available at the following web address: www.lucasmha.org and selecting procurement, open solicitations.

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



Wanted to Buy: Diabetes Supplies

Earn up to \$12 per box of 100 test strips
Must expire after Jan. 2012.
Leave labels on boxes.
We remove and shred.
Call 419-740-7162 and leave message.

COMMUNITY PSYCHIATRIC SUPPORTIVE TREATMENT CLINICIAN

Unison is seeking full-time, part-time and contingent Community Psychiatric Supportive Treatment Clinicians to provide community support services to adults with serious and persistent mental illness. Duties will include assessment of client needs, assisting in the development of the treatment plan, coordination of the treatment plan, crisis management and stabilization, advocacy and outreach, education and mental health interventions addressing the mental illness.

Bachelor's degree in Social Work or Psychology and a valid driver's license required. Ohio counselor or social worker license and experience preferred.

Send resume or apply to:
Human Resources - CPST
1425 Starr Avenue
Toledo, OH 43605
Fax 419.936.7574
Email: hr@unisonbhg.org
EOE

Give Your Home a SECOND LIFE

Resale store
Furniture, home decor, etc.
Decorating, painting and cleaning
1-866-424-1544
5115 Dorr Street

Business Development Specialist

The Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority seeks a Business Development Specialist to market the Port Authority's financing programs (Northwest Ohio Bond Fund and Community Economic Development initiative) and other programs the Port Authority administers (Small Business Administration 504 Loan Program and Ohio Department of Development Regional 166 Loan Program).

Beginning salary range: \$50,500 - \$58,000 plus a full benefits package and participation in the Ohio Public Employee Retirement System.

Qualifications include:

1. Bachelor's degree, preferably in business, finance or marketing
2. At least five years of experience in business development, banking, public relations or sales
3. Demonstrated record of successful pursuit of business opportunities

A complete job description is available at www.toledoportauthority.org/careers

Qualified candidates may submit their resumes electronically to pryan@toledoportauthority.org or by regular mail to the Human Resources Dept., Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, One Maritime Plaza, Toledo, OH 43604-1865. Resumes will be accepted until February 21, 2011.

The Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority is an equal opportunity employer.

Project 136 Ravine Park

The Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority is seeking bids from qualified contractors to furnish all labor, materials, and equipment for the following project(s):

Project 136 Ravine Park – Renovation Ravine Park Village 22 Poplar Street, Toledo OH 43605
Project Number 210083
Walk-Thru Date Tuesday, February 8, 2011 @ 10:00am at 136 Ravine Park
Bid Due Date Thursday, February 17, 2011 @ 11:00am at 201 Belmont Modernization Department

Bids will be opened and reviewed in the Modernization Department, at 201 Belmont Avenue, Toledo Ohio 43604, on the date shown above. Please direct questions regarding this project to, Kara Lennard (419) 259-9469 or email kennard@lucasmha.org. Copies of the plans and specifications for this project are on file at City Blueprint of Toledo, 3455 Briarfield Boulevard, Suite D, Maumee, OH 43537, (419) 243-7271. Please fax your order to (419) 243-6418. Visa, MasterCard, cash or company checks are accepted. These documents are also available at the following web address: www.lucasmha.org and selecting procurement, open solicitations.

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



Project 550 Hyatt – Comprehensive

The Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority is seeking bids from qualified contractors to furnish all labor, materials, and equipment for the following project(s):

Project 550 Hyatt – Comprehensive Renovation McClinton Nunn Toledo OH 43605
Project Number 210125
Walk-Thru Date Tuesday, February 8, 2011 @ 11:00am at 550 Hyatt
Bid Due Date Friday, February 18, 2011 @ 11:00am at 201 Belmont Modernization Department

Bids will be opened and reviewed in the Modernization Department, at 201 Belmont Avenue, Toledo Ohio 43604, on the date shown above. Please direct questions regarding this project to, Kara Lennard (419) 259-9469 or email kennard@lucasmha.org. Copies of the plans and specifications for this project are on file at City Blueprint of Toledo, 3455 Briarfield Boulevard, Suite D, Maumee, OH 43537, (419) 243-7271. Please fax your order to (419) 243-6418. Visa, MasterCard, cash or company checks are accepted. These documents are also available at the following web address: www.lucasmha.org and selecting procurement, open solicitations.

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ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

John H. McKissick Senior Apartments are accepting applications for 1 bedroom waiting list for elderly housing, 62 years or older. Rent will be based on income. Applications will be taken on a FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS on Friday, February 11, 2011 from 9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. at 1030 Brookview Drive, Toledo, Ohio. For further information, call (419) 389-0361, M-F 8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.



NORTHGATE APARTMENTS 610 STICKNEY AVENUE

Now Accepting Applications for 1 and 2 Bedroom Apartments
Mature Adult Community for Persons 55 and Older.
Rent Based on Income. Heat, Appliances, Drapes, Carpeting Included. Call (419) 729-7118 for details.



Doves Manor Apartments Seniors 62+ and better! One Bedroom Apartments Now Accepting Applications

Rent based on income, utilities included. Newer building has secure entry, laundry, extra storage, central air conditioning, wellness clinics, fitness center and MORE!!

Call for an appointment and more details. Applications are now being accepted with the possibility of immediate move-in.

Doves Manor
1040 Brookview Drive
419-389-9999

Appointments only

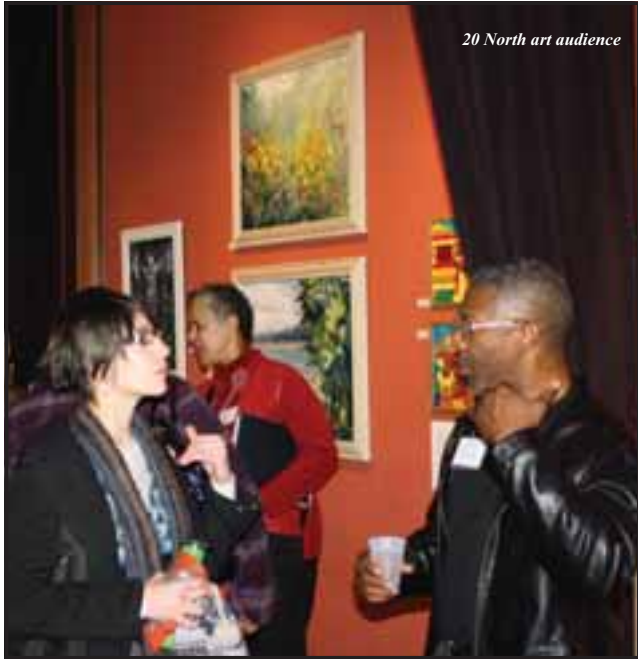
Place your classified ad in
The Sojourner's Truth
Call Pam at 419-243-0007

20 North Gallery's 16th Annual Black History Month Exhibit

On Friday, January 28, 20 North Gallery opened its 16th annual Black History Month Exhibit. This year's exhibit features 18 local artists with a special emphasis on the late

LeMaxie Glover. The exhibit, in fact, is billed as an "Homage to LeMaxie Glover," but due to the recent death of local legend Wil Clay,

the Gallery is also placing emphasis on his work as well. The exhibit runs through Saturday, March 12. *Photos courtesy Asia Sharp and Derrick Womack*



20 North art audience



Michael Clay and Birdman



Alice Grace explains her art to UT student

BUCK UP!

DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR, MAKES YOUR WIN BIGGER.

Every time you play, add an extra dollar for each dollar wagered. Then, when you win, you win even more.



Win bigger. Add Megaplier and Power Play today.



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