“My total engagement is [ex-offender] re-entry. My concern is that ex-offenders change their lives and become tax payers. It’s all about connecting with family and the community.”

Lenora Barry
YWCA’s Milestones Award Honoree
Tell me what you attend to and I’ll tell you who you are. Attentiveness, attention. We need to ask this... Cornell West

He came, he saw, but despite the presence of hip-hop mogul Russell Simmons and others riding shotgun, he got a mud hole stomped in his (person). Dennis Kucinich, the liberal anti-war candidate from Cleveland, lost his bid to “Merciless” Marcy Kaptur in last week’s Democratic primary for Ohio’s gerrymandered newly redistricted 9th Congressional District.

Where a two-to-one competitive win is considered a landslide, and three-to-one an avalanche, the margin of victory in the Kaptur beatdown approached 22 to one in Lucas County. A truly historic phenomenon considering Kucinich’s political resume and record of service.

Yes, 96 percent support county-wide is extraordinary. Yet it was the overwhelming support Kaptur garnered from the African-American community that is astounding. Surprisingly, some precincts in minority wards such as 8C and 8D voted almost unanimously for Kaptur, something we may not have expected even with President Barack Obama as a candidate.

“Support for Marcy Kaptur from the African-American community was the absolute bedrock of her victory. They had her back! That’s a fact,” states Steve Fought, Kaptur communications director.

What are the implications and insights that can be drawn from this?

First of all, I think that solutions to persistent community problems lies in our ability to rethink methodologies and strategy. But there are some hard questions we need to ask.

Is it time to quit “wolffing” like wannabe ‘gangstas’ and begin to reinforce argument with results? Or time to “replace wise politics over skin pigmentation” and “racial reasoning with transracial progressive coalitions?”

“A view from the balcony” of the Kaptur campaign seems to reveal a team of ordinary people - African Americans, Hispanics, labor, middle and underclasses, suburban and inner-city residents - all working together.

We often overlook the fact that Americans of European descent have always been part of the black struggle and willing to fight. Sometimes they have been very vocal participants and at other times working quietly and effectively behind the scenes. On the other hand, there have always been individual African Americans who took flight, distancing themselves from the issues that affected poor blacks and black people as a group, only to attempt to return and claim their blackness and black group assistance only when they personally got in trouble.

I’m not saying that you don’t keep the race card in your hand, but I do think that playing the card as a strategy for empowerment can be perceived as suspect if it merely grants short-term benefits to one or two individuals while denying transformation, change, and the distribution of wealth and power for the entire group.

The Kaptur plan received overwhelming black and community-wide support because it regularly engaged in dialog to identify the diverse needs and goals of its community and then set out to work together to achieve them.

What does that mean going forward?

“It means,” Fought assures, “that the community can expect 1,000 percent support. It is a matter of identifying the hopes, goals and dreams of the community and constituents and Marcy will go for them with everything she has in order to achieve them.”

How about fighting to revive a culture of learning in the African-American community?

“Absolutely!” states Fought. “We can no longer allow our kids to become zombies watching the garbage that is on television. The only way to turn this around is to get everyone involved - parents, ministers, educators, the business community augmenting where needed, everyone. We can only go as far as our community will take us. We need and we want it. So we gotta get a ruffneck!”

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

Community Calendar

March 15
IU South Bend Choir: Historic Third Baptist Church; 7 pm: 419-248-4623

March 18
The Movement Church Clothing Closet: 12:13 pm to 1:15 pm; Clothing of all sizes for men, women and children: 419-322-1889

New Prospect Church Annual Pew Rally: 4 pm; Guests are Canaan Baptist Church

Calvary MBC 23rd Pastoral Anniversary Services: 4 pm; Guests Bishop Tisdale and Friendship

New Hope MBC Installation Service: Rev. Michael Prince; 4 pm; Guest speaker Rev. William Brown of Meridian, MS

Jerusalem MBC Pastoral Anniversary: 7th Anniversary celebration of Rev. W.L. Perryman; Guest church St. Mark MBC; 4 pm

House of Bread Ministries 5th Community Dinner: Bethlehem Baptist Church Life Center; 2 to 4 pm: 419-241-9360

March 19
Self Expression Teen Theater Performance: Robinson Elementary; School Parent Power Hour and Community Friends After-School Event; 3:30 to 4:30 pm: 419-671-4200

March 20
Self Improvement Workshop Series: Lagrange Library; 6 to 8 pm; Presenters Ben Hester, Wayman Farmer and Washington Muhammad discuss the topic of expungement: 419-242-2255 or 419-973-0248

March 23 & 25
Christian Festival Choir and Orchestra Annual Concert: “Exhaltation 2012;” 7 pm on Friday, 3 pm on Sunday; Northwood High School: 419-865-5795 or 419-260-8284

March 24
City Wide Trustee Association Meeting: United MBC; 10 am: 419-514-1052

Fundraiser for Starlene Burkett: Sunrise Park & Banquet Center; 6 to 10 pm: 419-531-2500

March 25
Calvary MBC’s 23rd Pastoral Anniversary Services; 4 pm; Guests are Bishop Jones and Agape Love Ministries of Sandusky

Jerusalem MBC Pastoral Anniversary: 7th Anniversary celebration of Rev. W.L. Perryman; Guest church Indiana Avenue MBC; 4 pm

End Time Christian Fellowship Free Community Feeding Day: Celebration/Worship service – 10 am; Free Community dinner from 1 to 2:30 pm: 419-472-5993

Phillips Temple CME Church Gospel Explosion: Interfaith Mass Choir and other special guests; 5 pm

April 1
Indiana Avenue MBC 47th Pastoral Anniversary: Rev. John E. Roberts; 3:30 pm; Guests are Rev. John Williams and Eastern Star MBC

April 7
Grace Temple #424 Easter Egg Hunt: 1 to 3 pm; Fundraiser

April 22
Cookoff Kickoff: 2 to 5 pm; Gesu Sullivan Center: 419-320-4157 or gvesha03@yahoo.com

The Sojourner’s Truth
Toledo’s Truthful African-American Owned and Operated Newspaper

Fletcher Word
Becky McQueen
Publisher and Editor
Business Manager

Brittany Jones
Terri Blanchard
Reporter
Reporter

Rev. D.L. Perryman
Michael J. Hayes
Columnist
Entertainment Critic

Jason L. Lee Sr.
Jennifer Retholdt
Layout Designer
Webmaster

Kathy Sweeney
Pam Anderson
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Account Executive

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A Certified MBE, 2009
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So! You think you got it made in the shade? You think that you help rule the roost with the white man? You think that he thinks of you as a valuable helpmate.

That your comfort and joy are the highest importance and concern to him?

That your health, vital to a meaningful relationship, should be number two on a list that has no number one?

You would think that you have proven yourself by your adroit skills in homemaking, business acumen and being a reliable confidant; and that your sundry rights would be secure and free from attack.

Wrong so on many accounts!

If you have been watching the recent televised idiocy of white men acting the fool regarding women’s health care issues, you would think that the next matter in store for white women would be the requirement that they now wear a red, white and blue burka (??…go look it up).

Some have characterized this latest nationwide male Republican onslaught as the War on Women. It is not a declared war with tanks and bullets and a draft.

No, it is more crafty and insidious than that because it is a vapid ideological war that is crafted to psycholog-ically imprison women back into a preferred image of a scared white male.

A frightened white male who fears his “woman” asserting rights regarding her health care that the men are in angst about in trying to understand what does this mean because, in the final analysis, all that seemingly matters to them is control and power.

The white male wants to reassert control over women’s health care issues so that his world, which is becoming increasingly more uncertain and dicey, can regain some semblance of structure and order.

Although women outnumber men in the USA, nonetheless, the white male still has the overwhelmingly need to control and block access to the levers of political power and the attendant money.

White women have failed to understand that having white pigmentation with their white male may be a common factor of birth and bonding but when it comes to issues of birth control and health care issues attendant thereto, the white male is in the outside looking in and apparently is not happy with what he sees.

These latest flailings of white males trying to impose male hegemony over the female is fraught with reciprocal dangers.

What is good for the goose is good for the gander and as such, white females are beg-inning to ask if white males can demand that they undergo certain invasive medical procedures without their expressed permission, then surely the white male should first obtain permission from the white woman to undertake vasectomies and written permission for prescriptions for their erectile dysfunction… namely Viagra, Cialis, among others.

If the white male can demand that he be allowed to view, on line, tapes of sexually active women who take birth control funded by insurance companies (as recently advocated by Rush Limbaugh) then surely the white male would not mind if the white woman were to ask for some reciprocity.

The reciprocity would be for the women to first approve of their out-of-marriage illicit relationships, credit card checks of ques-tionable Internet web sites, cessation of insurance payments for Viagra and of course monitoring of the fabulously wealthy smut industry.

Again, what is good for the goose (male) is good for the gander (female).

Now that white women see that their counterpart, the white male, is willing to kick them to the curb on this vital issue of woman’s health care, they should now understand that white males having such unshared power over their bodies was corrupt and is corruptible.

Ask any black male or female over the age of 30 about the excesses of unchecked white privileges and authority when exercised by white males.

When you view the vast history of the civil rights movement and the recorded interviews and tapes and ex-amine the legion of victims of white power, it was over-whelmingly the white male who bore the economic cudgel, the poison pen and the swinging noose.

Now, is it possible that we are seeing a brief resurgence of a white male Republican who is deaf and dumb to what is right and fair and he is willing to cause physical, mental and emotional anguish to the white woman simply for the thrill of saying, “I am powerful!”

If the white woman has not yet learned in this current fight, that her closest ally is with people of color whom are still clashing under the boot of white male privileges gone amuck, she is in for a rude awakening as to who her real friends are and it is not those who want to tell her, “Who’s Your Daddy?”

This is a battle that the white woman may eventually win but she is now forever placed on notice that unless and until she fights to share in the to access to the power switches and the attendant wealth of this country, she will become what I call “A New Negro!”

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com

Putting Kids First

Because United Way’s concern is for the future of our kids, our interest is not who receives the Head Start grant, but rather how the grant is implemented to get the best outcome for our community. United Way has no intention of applying for this grant.

We believe there is enough talent in this community to create a solution for all of our children. While 2,000 kids are currently enrolled in Head Start, some have estimated there are up to an additional 5,000 kids eligible to be served. While exploring solutions, we must be mindful this issue is swirling around an urban environment facing very real struggles, and be sensitive to our families and neighborhoods.

Although United Way will not apply for this grant, we stand ready to support the already-assembled task force and the community in any possible way. We urge every one involved with this issue to put aside politics and personal agendas and work together, recognizing how critical a successful Head Start is to the future of our children, who are the future of our community.

Members of the United Way of Greater Toledo’s Public Policy Advisory Committee

Women & HIV/AIDS in Our Community Special to The Truth

The Toledo-Lucas County Public Library and the Neighborhood Health Association (NHA) present a three-part series titled Women & HIV/AIDS in Our Community scheduled at 6 p.m. on the following Tuesdays — March 13, 20 & 27 – at the Kent Branch Library @ CCES Center, 3101 Collingwood Blvd.

Please join these organizations in a discussion led by Domi Miller, NHA CEO and Michelle Smith-Wojnowski, NHA Perinatal Outreach Services supervisor. This vital discussion is designed for ages 13 and older.

This three-part series is FREE and open to the public.

NOTE: For additional information visit toledohiv.org, or call Kent Branch Library @ CCES Center at 419 259 5340

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Lenora Barry: 2012 Milestones Award Winner for Government

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner’s Truth Staff

“My total engagement is [ex-offender]/re-entry,” says Lenora Barry, retired for the past seven years from the U.S. Probation Office and this year’s YWCA Milestones honoree in the government category. “My concern is that [ex-offenders] change their lives and become tax payers. It’s all about connecting with family and the community.”

Barry, who spent 30 years in the federal probation office of the Northern District of Ohio – the last 17 as the deputy chief probation officer, has found another passion in retirement as a result of those career experiences. She works with The Reentry Coalition of Northwest Ohio “sensitizing the community to the fact that you have those who need to re-connect.”

The Reentry Coalition, which Barry served as project director from 2009 to mid-2011, works with ex-offenders in training, finding housing and mentoring to ease the transition from prison to freedom.

Having been in the Probation Department for virtually her entire adult life, Barry has kept her hand in inmate services in other ways as well. She’s a faculty advisor for the Federal Judicial Center in Washington, D.C and serves as a Juvenile Court mediator on truancy issues.

Mediation,” she says, “teaches you to listen – it’s awesome. I have learned so much just by sitting still.”

Barry grew up in Alabama, earning her bachelor’s degree in social sciences from Miles College in Birmingham, AL. She then headed north with her sister to attend the University of Michigan where she earned a masters degree in social work in 1970’s – had no black employees here in Toledo. “Judge Franklin was encouraging people of color to apply for jobs there,” says Barry, who took that advice to heart and became the first African American in the Toledo office.

As a probation officer, Barry’s duties entailed conducting pre-trial and pre-sentence investigations and supervising ex-offenders when they were released into the community.

In 1988, Barry became the first black deputy chief probation officer in the Northern Ohio District supervising and overseeing employees in Cleveland, Akron, Toledo and Youngstown offices. The offices averaged 800 pre-sentence investigations annually and supervised over 1740 ex-offenders.

She sums up her philosophy during those years in dealing with future and former inmates thusly: “We are all human beings and all make mistakes – some can change and those are the ones I prefer working with.”

In 1988, everything changed in the Probation Office for Barry. Congress had passed the Sentence Reform Act in 1984 and the Anti-Drug Abuse Act in 1986 – the former introducing sentencing guidelines for offenses, the latter establishing minimum mandatory sentences for many drug trafficking offenses.

Barry became an expert on sentencing guidelines and was moved into a training position for other probation offices. That situation facilitated her move into management.

“Being a trainer for guidelines sentencings got me to the table,” she recalls.

The guidelines and the mandatory minimum sentences were drastically harsh reactions to the drug trafficking problem. “They took away any discretion that judges had,” says Barry. The new laws meant that pre-sentence investigations became rather pro forma. “We still did the total investigation,” she recalls. “But we all struggled for a while.”

The harshness and lack of flexibility of both the sentencing guidelines and the mandatory minimums have been altered in ensuing years by the U.S. Supreme Court and Congress, restoring a bit more discretion to district court judges, much to Barry’s relief.

“I hold in high regard the system I worked in,” she says now of her years with the office. She also has high praise for the judges she worked with over the years. Former Chief Judge of the Northern District of Ohio, George White (one of the few black judges on the bench) is one she recalls with fondness, along with Judge Donald Young of Toledo and Chief Judge James Carr of Toledo.

“I’ve enjoyed working with the entire bench,” she says.

Barry is married to retired Toledo Police Officer Earl Barry. The couple have three children – Katrina, Roderick and Kimberly – and five grandchildren. Lenora Barry will be honored on Thursday, March 15 at the SeaGate Center during the YWCA’s 17th annual Milestones: A Tribute to Women awards luncheon. The other honorees are Patricia A. Hogue, Ph.D., in education; Anita Sanchez-Serda in arts; Susan E. Morgan in business; Margaret C. Danziger in sciences; Charlotte L. Shaffer in social sciences and Cindy Dana for volunteerism.
A Recap of Super Tuesday’s Election Results

For Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (Dem – Tol), Super Tuesday proved to be super indeed. The 15-term representative of the 9th Congressional District comfortably defeated another veteran Democratic legislator, Dennis Kucinich of Cleveland, in a battle to see who could survive Republican efforts to squeeze out at least one such long-term federal legislator.

Kaptur rang up an unprecedented 94 percent of the vote in her hometown to help her garner more than 42,000 votes in the primary – 56 percent of the total. Kucinich managed just under 30,000. Newcomer Graham Veysey, a Cleveland businessman, ended up with less than four percent of the district’s total.

The spotlight on the Republican side of the ballot, of course, was the presidential nomination battle between front-runner Mitt Romney, former governor of Massachusetts, and former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum. Romney eked out a victory with a margin of less than one percent over upstart Santorum whose social conservatism has kept Romney tacking to the right in an effort to secure the support of the Republican base. Ominously for Romney, although he would appear to be unstoppable on his way to the nomination, is the fact that he hasn’t exactly enthused Republican voters.

This year’s GOP turnout on Super Tuesday was only eight percent higher than in 2004 when the Ohio primary was well after Super Tuesday and Senator John McCain had all but wrapped up the nomination.

In fact, the total votes for this year’s Republican candidates – Romney; Santorum; former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich; Rep. Ron Paul (Rep – TX); Texas Governor Rick Perry and former Ambassador Jon Huntsman – was less than the overall total then-Senator Hillary Clinton received in 2008 when she topped then-Senator Barack Obama by more than 200,000 votes. The Democratic candidates’ votes in 2008 in Ohio were one million more than Republican candidates received in 2012. Such a lack of enthusiasm will be cause for concern for Romney, should he earn the nomination, in the general election. Conventional wisdom has it that a Republican cannot win the White House without winning Ohio.

Another close Republican contest was the one in the 9th Congressional District between Samuel “Joe the Plumber” Wurlzelbacher and opponent Steve Kraus for the honor to face Kaptur in the November general election. Wurlzelbacher, who gained the national spotlight four years ago when he engaged candidate Obama in an impromptu debate, won but just barely. He received 15,015 votes to Kraus’s 14,152.

For all of Joe the Plumber’s national fame, his chances in the general election look pretty slim in this heavily Democratic district.

In the City of Toledo, Issue 1, the renewal of the ¾ of a percent income tax, passed once again, this year by a margin of 57 to 43 percent. The tax, a “temporary” one that has been on the books for 28 years, will put about $51 million annually into the city’s coffers enabling the hiring of more police officers and fire fighters and enhancing the street repaving program.

One of the most interesting local races in November will be for Lucas County Recorder. On the Republican side, Toledo Councilman George Sarantou, who narrowly lost his bid for Lucas County Commissioner to Democrat Carol Conrada in 2010, received 18,549 votes running unopposed.

On the Democratic slate, Toledo Councilman Phil Copeland earned 17,801 votes – 57 percent of the total. Copeland has also run for commissioner. In 2006 he finished a distant third in the Democratic primary to Ben Konop – who would go on to the beat Sarantou in the general election – and Maumee Mayor Tim Wagener.
According to Albert L. Scott, Ph.D., director of the Economic Opportunity Planning Association’s Head Start Program, the information in the media disseminated by Toledo Public Schools about the program’s inability to prepare students for kindergarten is far too incomplete to judge what the program is accomplishing.

“There is a definite myth in that [information],” Scott said recently. “What TPS put out does not measure all we do.”

The TPS critique of the Head Start program that services children from low-income families in Lucas County appeared to show, according to the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment – Literacy (KRAL) tests, Head Start graduates scored in about the same range as their non-Head Start classmates. The results of the Head Start students’ KRAL tests were compared to those of Head Start students district-wide, to students in Title 1 schools (free and reduced lunch) and to students in Race to the Top schools - the lowest five performing schools in the district. All comparisons showed statistically insignificant differences.

“The KRAL test,” said Scott, “only covers language and literacy – that’s only 20 percent of what we are responsible for.”

In fact, historically, educational preparation for kindergarten was not at the top of Head Start’s original agenda in its goal of assisting kids from low-income families. The program’s early emphasis, when it was implemented in the 1960’s under the control of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, was almost exclusively on feeding, nurturing and imparting socialization skills.

That emphasis was re-inforced in the late 1970’s when then-President Carter formed the Department of Education but left Head Start under the management of the revamped Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

That emphasis changed with the Head Start Act of 2007 in which the mission of the program was now described as “promoting the school readiness of low-income children by enhancing their cognitive, social and emotional development that supports children’s growth in language, literacy, mathematics, science, social and emotional functioning, creative arts, physical skills and approaches to learning.”

Even now, however, the program requires a focus on developing a range of skills in order to prepare youngsters for school. The Early Learning Framework chart that HHS dispenses still places emphasis on physical and social development and creative arts expression along with other education subjects such as mathematics, logic, social studies and science.

The KRAL tests, Scott pointed out, only measure language and literacy skills. He also pointed out that so many of the children starting the program are simply not equipped to start the learning process before they can handle basic life skills.

“Some of our kids don’t even brush their teeth in the morning,” said Scott. “When they come to us, they learn to brush their teeth and wash their hands – critical skills relative to health. We service the whole child and that is how we want to be judged.”

Scott’s remarks were made to The Truth in the midst of an onslaught of community activity related to the recent announcement by HHS that EOPA is one of 132 of 1,600 agencies currently running such programs that will have to re-bid to secure the grant.

Meanwhile, other institutions, TPS among them, have declared their interest in seeking the grant and thereby duplicating the EOPA coffers of $12.8 million of the agency’s $19.5 million operating budget.

Critics such as the Toledo NAACP have decried such announcements and called those efforts a blatant power grab that will result in the demise of one of the last-standing African-American operated agencies in the city.

On the other hand, the local Head Start’s internal evaluation process, said Scott, does not reveal such academic deficiencies as noted in the KRAL tests.

Head Start teachers, he explained, assess students on a one to four scale – one being the lowest score and four – meaning that a child is ready to move to the next level – being the highest.

These assessments occur three times during the year – fall, winter and spring. According to the assessments totaled during the 2010-2011 school year, the children in the program had an overall average score of 2.3 in the fall and then improved to 2.9 by winter and 3.4 by the spring – indicating progress showing that 55 percent of the kids were ready to move to the next level and only three percent were still at a level one – the lowest level.

The teacher observations covered such skills as: counting, cooperation, following direction, knowledge of the alphabet, recognizing names or graphics, speech, familiarity with sounds, understanding stories, counting, knowledge of shapes, use of limbs, interest in music, interest in the environment and familiarity with colors.

These assessments, said Scott, cover the entire range of the Early Learning Framework.

As EOPA prepares to seek renewal of the Head Start grant, one other issue looms large for the program – teacher certification. By 2013, HHS has decreed that 50 percent of the lead teachers in an agency’s program must have a bachelor’s degree or an advanced degree in early childhood education.

Very few of EOPA’s lead teachers currently meet this standard, said Scott, but he is optimistic the agency will meet that deadline.

He said that 30 to 35 employees are working towards a degree at the moment. “We have had as many as 49 to 51 in school at a time working on some sort of early childhood education degree – some have their associates degrees. I think we are going to meet our obligations.”

EOPA, said Scott, has a need for 54 lead teachers at any given time.

Scott has been at the helm of Head Start since November, 2011. He has spent the past 10 years with EOPA. Prior to that, he was with TPS for more than 30 years ending his career with the district as director of Adult Continuing Education and Career Technology.

Scott earned his undergraduate, master’s and doctorate degrees from The University of Toledo. His doctorate is in education administration with a minor in education technology.
Phoenix Academy Offers Toledo Students a Path To High School Success

Phoenix Academy, a community charter school, gives students the opportunity to achieve academic success and graduation despite behavioral issues, problems they may have encountered in the traditional school setting or lifestyle challenges such as job conflicts, lack of transportation, or family concerns.

Phoenix students study at their own pace using NovaNET, a computer-based curriculum, which allows them to learn at their own speed. They advance at their own comfortable pace, neither pressured nor held back by other students as often happens in the conventional classroom.

Students can study at Phoenix’s downtown location or at one of three neighborhood satellite locations. At the Phoenix computer labs, they have access to one-on-one attention from caring, experienced teachers. Students with access to a home computer can also study 24/7 at home with teacher support by email. All students are required to come to a Phoenix Academy site to take a test after each module to ensure that they understand the course material and are fully prepared to move to the next level.

Full-time Phoenix students attend school on a regular basis in accordance with an Individual Education Plan that is tailored to their special needs. Outreach students — those currently enrolled at a traditional community school — can register for specific courses they would like to complete in order to fast track their progress toward early graduation or to recover lost credits.

Phoenix Academy offers educational success to all kinds of students, including: Challenged students who can advance at their own comfortable pace without the stress of keeping up with others.

Highly motivated students who want to speed toward graduation in a program that ensures mastery of each module before moving to the next level.

Suburban districts as well as Toledo Public Schools recognize and respect Phoenix Academy’s flexible curriculum. Counselors in northwest Ohio communities including Ottawa Hills, Sylvania, Perrysburg, and Rossford recommend Phoenix Academy to their students.

Phoenix Academy is located downtown at the corner of 1505 Jefferson Avenue and 16th Street, across from the Catholic Club. Neighborhood labs are conveniently situated at 1100 North McCord, 3055 West Alexis, and at the East Toledo Family Center on Varland Avenue.
Serving Your Community Through AmeriCorps

TOLEDO, Ohio – This week, United Way AmeriCorps is recognizing Bryan Wynn in honor of National AmeriCorps Week. Bryan is serving in the United Way Volunteer Center as a volunteer coordinator.

Bryan’s chief role is recruiting volunteers for the community’s three-year Campaign to Recruit 5,000 Readers and Tutors. His daily activities include driving around searching for places to hang flyers or recruit volunteers, meeting with community and neighborhood leaders, and spending hours on the phone referring volunteers. Bryan also evaluates organizations that may need readers and tutors and helps bring them on board with the Campaign.

“When everyone here at United Way, my main goal is to graduate kids!” Bryan said. “By engaging people and increasing awareness, I hope the residents of Toledo will take on the responsibility of helping our kids become more self-sufficient in academics so the can compete in the classroom to the best of their abilities.”

When asked why he serves, Bryan said, “No one benefits from complaining. Only when we take the challenge and answer the call to serve do we see life-changing progress. We can either complain about our schools or we can convert that energy into cultivating a young child’s mind.”

“We thank Bryan for his service to this community!”

To find out more about the AmeriCorps program and how to become a United Way AmeriCorps member like Bryan, visit www.unitedwaytoledo.org/americorps. To find out how you can join the Campaign to Recruit 5,000 Readers and Tutors, visit www.unitedwaytoledo.org, dial 2-1-1 and ask to speak with Bryan!

United Way of Greater Toledo, serving Lucas, Wood, and Ottawa counties, changes lives by mobilizing the caring power of the community. United Way is focused on the building blocks for a good life: education, income, and health. Starting at the root, United Way addresses the circumstances that destabilize communities. United Way recruits people and organizations who bring the passion, expertise, and resources needed to get things done. You can give, you can advocate, and you can volunteer – that’s how to LIVE UNITED. For more information, visit www.unitedwaytoledo.org.

Lourdes Student Alicia Murphy Named Among Who’s Who in American Universities & Colleges

Toledo resident Alicia Murphy has been selected for inclusion in the 2012 Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities & Colleges publication. Students in Who’s Who are honored based on their academic achievement, leadership, service to their campus and/or community and potential for continued success.

Alicia is a senior in history/pre-law at Lourdes University, where she has made the Dean’s List for the past four consecutive years and currently holds a 3.91 GPA. In 2011 Alicia received the Sister Ann Francis Klimkowski Student Leader of the Year Award. She is a member of Lourdes’ Diversity Action & Awareness Committee and also serves as president of the Black Student Union. She is certified as a Court Appointed Special Advocate and has also served as a mentor for AmeriCorps and Upward Bound.

Alicia has also been involved with the African American Homeschoolers of Toledo and the African American Parents Association.

Developed in 1934, Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities & Colleges is a distinguished biographical volume that honors the nation’s most noteworthy students of higher learning. In its 75+ years serving higher education institutions, Who’s Who has become one of the most highly regarded and long-standing honors programs in the nation. For the students who are selected, national recognition by the Who’s Who program marks a pinnacle of scholastic achievement. For more information on Who’s Who, visit http://www.whoswhoamongstudents.com.

Rooted in the Catholic Franciscan tradition, Lourdes University offers baccalaureate degrees in more than 30 academic majors as well as graduate degrees in business, education, liberal arts, nursing, organizational leadership and theology. Community outreach programs include the Appold Planetarium, the Life Lab, Lifelong Learning and Theater Vision. A member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, Lourdes students can also compete in baseball and men’s and women’s basketball, golf and volleyball. Named a “Best in the Midwest” college by the Princeton Review, Lourdes University is nationally accredited, veteran and transfer-friendly institution offering a variety of student scholarships. Discover us online at www.lourdes.edu or by phone at 419-885-3211.
For the month of March and in observance of Women’s History Month, the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library recommends the recent book *African American Women Chemists* (Oxford University Press, 2011) by author Jeannette E. Brown, a black female chemist herself.

Marie Maynard Daly received her Ph.D in chemistry from Columbia University in 1947. Although she was hardly the first of her race and gender to engage in the field, she was the first African-American woman to receive a Ph.D in chemistry in the United States.

In this book, Brown presents a wide-ranging historical introduction to the relatively new presence of African-American women in the field of chemistry. The book details their struggles to obtain an education and their efforts to succeed in a field in which there were few African-American men, much less African-American women. The book contains sketches of the lives of African-American women chemists from the earliest pioneers up until the late 1960’s when the Civil Rights Acts were passed and greater career opportunities began to emerge.

In each sketch, Brown explores women’s motivations to study the field and detail their often quite significant accomplishments. Chapters focus on chemists in academia, industry, and government, as well as chemical engineers, whose career path is very different from that of the traditional chemist. The book concludes with a chapter on the future of African-American women chemists, which will be of interest to all women interested in science.
BGSU Africana Studies Conference to Host Actor, Filmmaker Anthony Sherwood

Anthony Sherwood, one of Canada’s most successful black actors and documentary filmmakers, will give the keynote address Friday, March 16, for Bowling Green State University’s 14th annual Africana Studies Student Research Conference. Hosted by the Africana Studies Program, the conference will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Eva Marie Saint Theatre at the Wolfe Center for the Arts. This year’s theme is “Africana World: Transatlantic Dialogues.” The event showcases the research and creativity of undergraduate and graduate students from Ohio and surrounding states as they address issues affecting African people around the world. Sherwood will give his talk at the noon luncheon. His career spans over 35 years in stage, television and motion pictures. He has worked internationally with such stars as Henry Fonda, Sidney Poitier, Martin Sheen, Burt Reynolds, Leslie Nielsen, Lou Gossett Jr., Meagan Fox, Kathleen Turner, Jamie Lee Curtis, Christopher Reeve and as Jessica Alba’s father in the film “Honey,” and with such film directors as Sidney Lumet and Michael Crichton. A dedicated social activist, his production company specializes in documentary films dealing with social justice and human rights issues. In 1980, Sherwood formed the first group of black actors to lobby the television industry for greater representation of minority performers. He has received international recognition and awards for his efforts in raising awareness to the importance of racial equality. To make reservations for the luncheon, call 419-372-7814 or 419-372-9463 by Monday, March 12. For more information, contact Apollos Nwauwa, Ph.D., director of the Africana Studies Program, at 419-372-9483.

OCCS Offering Postsecondary Scholarships to Ohio Charter School Students

The Ohio Council of Community Schools (OCCS) is pleased to announce it is offering multiple postsecondary scholarships to support students who have attended a charter school in Ohio. Note – any student who has attended a charter is eligible, not just those graduating from a charter school. These scholarship opportunities are for students enrolling at the University of Toledo; other Ohio-based four-year colleges or universities; two-year colleges or technical schools in Ohio; or, an online university.

As a sponsor of charters schools across Ohio, OCCS is granting these scholarships as an extension of its commitment to helping students succeed in college and the workforce through continued education. Dr. Darlene Chambers, Executive Director of OCCS, noted, “We know the cost of education and training can be overwhelming, especially for those first-generation attendees. We have seen many exceptional charter school students, and are pleased to help offset costs so more students can realize their dreams.”

OCCS plans on awarding multiple scholarships of at least $1,000. The deadline for all scholarship applications is May 4, 2012.

To learn more about the eligibility requirements for each scholarship, you may click on the applications below or visit www.ohioschools.org for more information.

- University of Toledo scholarship
- Four-year college or university scholarship (Ohio-based)
- Online university scholarship
- Two-year college or technical school award (Ohio-based)

To read OCCS’ official press release, go here.

http://occs.ohblogspace.com/occs-news/occs-offering-postsecondary-scholarships-to-ohio-charter-school-students/
Youth Symposium Focuses on Healthy Choices for Toledo Teens

By Artisha S. Lawson
Sojourner’s Truth Reporter

Healthy living, healthy choices and healthy generations define the theme of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc.’s annual youth symposium. Over 50 Toledo-area youth, local youth-minded organizations and advocates filled the Frederick Douglass Community Association building on Indiana Avenue on Saturday, March 10, 2012.

The free one-day program geared towards youth between the ages of 12-18, opened with an official proclamation from Toledo Mayor Mike Bell and continued with educational and interactive workshops.

“This is a nation-wide event. Sigma Gamma Rho sponsors this every second Saturday in March as our youth initiative. It includes various members of the community to form collaboration to focus around healthy choices, healthy living and healthy generations. Each year we sponsor in a community location, this center serves as a second home for many in the community,” said Kimberly Davis-Grable, youth symposium chairman.

Toledo Police Department Detective Tonya Rider’s workshop focused on Internet safety and cyber bullying. ProMedica Teen Peers Educating Peers, a sexual violence prevention program of northwest Ohio, provided an interactive conversation and facts about violence, relationships and safety tips.

Toledo Technology Academy students Cole Keeler, Ben Quintanilla and Michael Clay presented their Capstone projects on robotics, scientific research and mathematical equations. This portion covered the sorority’s commitment to encourage S.T.E.M, also known as science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

“The presentations were excellent, there was more peer-to-peer instead of adults talking and I enjoyed that,” said Padua Center Executive Director Virginia Welsh.

The symposium also provided local youth organizations and services with the opportunity to sponsor information tables. Josh Project offered swimming resources and early registration for their April 21 pending open enrollment; Girl Scouts had a list and resource pamphlet for parents about all levels of scouting from kindergarten to High school.

Sigma Gamma Rho in partnership with the CDC sponsored The Act against AIDS leadership institute information table that shared ways to ask, accept and act against the spread of HIV.

The program closed with the announcement of the chapter’s first scholarship recipient, Delanie Garman, a senior at Bowsher High School, and hustle demonstrations by Glass City Hustlers. Garman was accompanied by her father, Benjamin and plans to eventually find a cure for cancer. “I’m honored to receive this scholarship, it will definitely help. I plan to study biomedical engineering to find mutations in cells to possible cure cancer.”

The symposium was sponsored locally by Iota Theta Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. with support from Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc local chapters; Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; Alpha Xi Lambda Chapter; Barry Bagels; Darnise St. Andrews and Gamma Phi Delta Sorority, Inc; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc; Toledo Alumnae Chapter; Frederick Douglass Community Association; Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.; Kroger’s; JLJ Vision Outreach, Inc.; National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women’s Club Inc. Maumee Bay; Sam’s Club; Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. Pontiac Chapter; Subway and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Zeta Xi Zeta Chapter.

Save to $1,250 for your child’s private school! Apply for a scholarship today!

African Art Has Arrived!!

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www.theturhotledo.com
An Interview with “Pops” a/k/a John Witherspoon

By Monique Ward
The Truth Contributor

John Witherspoon, comedian and actor, has had roles in over 28 movies and 20 television shows. Known for the Friday series, he has been acting for more than three decades and has appeared in films such as Hollywood Shuffle and Boomerang. He also has a line of comical greeting cards called The John Witherspoon Collection.

Witherspoon will be appearing at the Toledo Funny Bone this weekend. The Sojourner’s Truth caught up with the comedian early this week by telephone.

Monique Ward: You are an entertainer who has worked very hard and has succeeded in remaining relevant in an ever-changing entertainment industry. How do you do it?

John Witherspoon: I’m a real entertainer and a real person. I grew up in Detroit so I can’t change who I am. I’m real and I believe in realism! I grew up very poor, came from a family with 11 kids so I had to wear two left boots to school. I also don’t take any drugs because I get high when I count that money. That gives me a natural high that makes my hair stands up like Don King!

Monique Ward: What do you enjoy doing more - movies, television shows or stand-up comedy?

John Witherspoon: I was a dad a lot of the time. I had an Asian guy come up to me after a show and say, “I’m Pops” and eventually convinced me not to be judgmental. He also has a cooking show called, “Cooking for Poor People Because When You’re Hungry Everything Taste Good” on Youtube.

Blessed Sacrament Students Donate Recreational Supplies to School and Orphanage in Haiti

Blessed Sacrament School presented Catholic Charities Adoption Services Coordinator Joy Shakur with a donation for her upcoming mission trip to Haiti during a school assembly on March 8. Students and staff are presenting Shakur with $500 worth of recreational supplies for Institution Unives, a Haitian school and orphanage. Shakur will visit Institution Unives in mid-March with Toledo Hope Lutheran Church.

Blessed Sacrament School raised $250 in a recent Penny War, and the Toledo Physical Education Association provided a matching grant for the purchase of additional recreational supplies. This is the second year Blessed Sacrament School has made a donation from money collected in a Penny War to Institution Unives. The Haitian school has 2,200 students in pre-kindergarten through grade 13, and the orphanage has 500 children. The facility has a playground, but no playground equipment.

Shakur is traveling to Haiti for her third mission trip to the country since the 2010 earthquake. Shakur will speak to students at Institution Unives about social work careers and will provide free pregnancy support at a volunteer medical clinic. She spoke about her past and upcoming missionary experiences with the Blessed Sacrament students during the assembly.

For the Penny War, Blessed Sacrament students competed to bring in the most pennies and change for their grade and raised a total of $500. Half of the money collected in the Penny War will be donated to a Blessed Sacrament family in need.

Catholic Charities serves more than 31,000 people of all backgrounds in the Diocese of Toledo annually by providing food, shelter, prescription and emergency rent assistance as well as adoption services, jail and prison ministries and guardianship services for the elderly.
How to Communicate in Business

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

What I’ve learned so far as a start-up business person is that I do rely heavily on my education and everything I was taught about group and interpersonal communication. I didn’t realize how many people didn’t know this stuff until recently. So, for those of you with small labels, studios, promotion companies etc.

We always discuss the business. Now let’s discuss how to do business.

GIVE NOTICE

A heads up of what to expect is one of my favorite business communication methods to use. When an artist expresses interest in getting with our company, I let them know everything they need to know to make an informed decision early because nothing is worse than that constant “oh, I didn’t know, my bad” that some people like to rely on. So to alleviate that, I put it all out on the table in the first meeting.

This is our company. This is what level we are. These are our goals. This is how we operate. And then I ask them quite matter-of-factly if they honestly feel that they can work in our system and meet our expectations.

After I’ve informed someone of all that, I’ve done my job. If someone isn’t a good listener, or they skim emails and miss valuable information, hey, I’ve done my part.

For those of you reading this, doing business should be transparent in many ways. So don’t hesitate to employ this method. Especially in the arts and entertainment world because expectations are so typically out of whack.

I tell new artists all the time, “no, we don’t have our studio in building, not yet”. Just so they will understand what to expect and not to expect. If you have a small promotion company and it is a rule that everyone on your staff go to at least one club per week to promote, you need to spell that out early on. It gives people time to weigh all factors and decide if they can meet that demand or not. If you want work done, you’ve got to explain how you work. Early.

ASK DIRECT QUESTIONS

No matter how awkward it may feel, no matter how touchy the subject may be…

If you need an answer, you’ve got to ask the tough questions.

As a rule, you should rely mostly on “open-ended questions” as opposed to “leading questions.”

An open-ended question allows the other party to explain their side, without you embedding the answer or making them feel defensive. An example of that would be: “How long have you been feeling this way?”

In that sense, you are letting them do most of the talking which is good.

The more you know about their side, the better equipped you are to reach a resolution. When a resolution seems threatened by tension or misunderstanding, then it’s best to keep it simple. In conflict, where parties are at odds, it’s always good to ask simple “yes or no” questions. Now, to be honest, this tactic makes some grown people feel as though they are being treated like children. But it’s really just a proven tactic to get to the ultimate goal, which is consensus (more on that in a sec).

An example of this would be: “Do you remember when we discussed what we expect of your performance?” And depending on an affirmative or negative response, your next line of questions can be as simple yet effective overall.

In business, a direct question met with a direct response should be the rule. It keeps situations from becoming emotionally charged and hopefully doesn’t result in a yelling match or insults. A calm, and direct question deserves an equally calm and direct answer. Even if the answer is something you may not want to hear.

CONSENSUS

When you go into Walmart and buy a box of cereal, the store gets your money and you get the cereal. Both sides came to an agreement on what was taking place.

In small businesses, consensus is vital. Without the corporate structure to distance the upper echelons from lower tiered employees, small businesses have to rely on consensus instead of trickle down as a method of management.

Have you ever tried to go to the movies with four or more of your friends at once? And everyone goes around saying which movie and which theatre and who has money and who doesn’t… well, that entire process is about reaching a consensus. As soon as everyone agrees on how to operate, now we can start the work.

The one person who finds fault with just about every idea and is usually the last hold out preventing consensus from being reached, is referred to as the “central negative character.” He has taken on the voluntary role to be anti-whatever it is being discussed. In some cases, a central negative member of your group may actually be a good thing. If someone spots a problem from within your circle and they mention it, at least they don’t want you to go out and look stupid in front of others.

But, consensus is key.

BALANCING BUSINESS AND PERSONAL

Sometimes the lines get crossed between a person’s business world and their personal world. It would be idiotic and straight up dishonorable to tell you otherwise. Let’s say you have a small company and four out of the five people all involved in this hustle are all family members.

How do you handle a difference of opinion that is business related from being a difference of opinion that’s fueled by personal feelings?

If you are doing business with family members or close friends, how do make sure all the dirty laundry you have on each other doesn’t get aired out for all to see?

First, it’s about picking the right people based on skill and potential success.

Not because they are your kin or relative, not because you look like how they look.

Simply because the job you need done, they can do it. Period.

If it happens to be your uncle’s daughter’s baby’s daddy, then fine. Just make sure you follow the first three steps in this article.

One serious hurdle about doing business with people you are close with is the lack of respect they may have for you as a business person. Because they love you, they may not ever tell you. But secretly, they are really just supporting you the best way they know how. In their minds, you aren’t a business person at all. You’re their homie, their boy, their sistah, their ace, their good friend who needed someone to help.

And that kind of help has very little accountability. If you have family members in your business, remind them often as you can… this is a business, period. So that way, even if you have to fire them one day, things won’t be too awkward at Thanksgiving.

Maybe I’ll revisit this topic soon, thank you all.

Peace.

Mhayes26@gmail.com
**Executive Director**
The Lucas County Land Bank seeks a dynamic leader to be Executive Director. The Executive Director is primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Land Bank, including its staff, programs, and partnerships. An ideal candidate will demonstrate a sincere commitment to the Land Bank’s mission of strengthening neighborhoods and restoring property values. Individuals with experience in real estate, local government, and community development are encouraged to apply. J.D., M.P.A., or Masters in Urban Planning preferred. Salary commensurate with experience. For more information or to apply, visit www.LucasCountyLandBank.org. EEO/AA.

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NAMI of Greater Toledo is looking for a person familiar and involved within the African-American Community, to represent NAMI in outreach efforts in local events, churches, and schools. To assist in promoting and facilitating NAMI's educational classes, and support groups. This position is about 8-10 hours per week.
The A.A. Outreach Coordinator will be paid on a monthly basis, and includes mileage for direct NAMI business. Interested and qualified candidates can send their resumes to: lcanales@namitoledo.org or mail a resume to: NAMI of Greater Toledo
2753 W. Central Ave.
Toledo, Ohio 43606
Attn: Education Director, Lisa Canales
A.A. Outreach Liaison position

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Part-time
Call Ken at 419-865-0089

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

**Interim Pastor**
Looking for Interim Minister and Pastor for New Prospect MBC, 1425 W. Delaware Ave. Toledo OH 43606. Please send resume to above address in C/O Search Committee.

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Attn: Education Director, Lisa Canales’ A.A. Outreach Liaison position

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For medical equipment maintenance of power wheelchairs and power scooters.
**Part-time**
**Call Ken at 419-865-0089**

**Wanted to Buy:Diabetes Supplies**
Earn up to $12 per box of 100 test strips. Must expire after August 2012. Leave labels on boxes. We remove and shred. Call 419-740-7162 and leave message.
Notice to Bidders: Inquiry # FY12-094, (Project # 5003-12-1992) for the Health Education Building Interior Entrance & Lecture Halls for the University of Toledo Health Science Campus. Sealed bids for this project must be clearly marked with the project number on all inner and outer envelopes and/or shipping containers. Bids must be addressed and delivered to the University of Toledo, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations, Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, Toledo, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 27, 2012. Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 2:05 p.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000. Copies of Plans, Specifications, and Bid Forms may be obtained from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Road, Toledo, Ohio 43615. Call 419-384-5303 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of $45.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Jim Price of Buehrer Group Architect & Engr., Inc. at 419-893-9021. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, March 20, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000, at the University of Toledo, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, Toledo, OH 43606. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 10%. Project Estimate: $245,000.00; Breakdown: General Const: $200,000.00 & Electrical: $45,000.00.

Notice to Bidders: Inquiry # FY12-093, (Project # 1020-12-715) for Parking Garage Repair for the University of Toledo. Sealed bids for this project must be clearly marked with the project number on all inner and outer envelopes and/or shipping containers. Bids must be addressed and delivered to the University of Toledo, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations, Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, Toledo, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 28, 2012. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 10%. Project Estimate: $440,000.00; Breakdown: General Const: $440,000.00.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS ANALYST (Part Time)

Part-time (18-26 hrs/week) position available at Unison Behavioral Health Group for experienced individual to ensure continuity of computer system services for end users by providing technical expertise and assistance necessary to install computer software products and modify or repair hardware. The position will also assist in the customization and maintenance of Unison’s clinical software system.

Qualified candidates must demonstrate the ability to work independently, define problems, analyze data, establish facts, and draw valid conclusions and make recommendations. Applicants must possess an Associate’s degree in Information Systems or a related field. At least one year of experience troubleshooting at least two operating systems (Windows XP and Windows 7) operating systems and providing end user technical support is required. A basic understanding of computer systems and hardware is required. Experience with SQL and report writing is preferred.

Send resume with salary requirements or apply to:

Human Resources - IT
Unison Behavioral Health Group, Inc.
1425 Starr Ave.
Toledo, OH 43605
Fax: 419-936-7574
Email: hr@unisonbhg.org

EOE

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for bidding on Pearson Metropark Packer Hammersmith Center Improvements, Oregon, Ohio will be received; opened; and read at the Metropark Packer Park District of the Toledo Area, Fallen Timbers Field Office, 6101 Fallen Timbers Lane, Maumee, Ohio 43537, Thursday, March 29, at 4:00 p.m. Local Time.

PRE-BID WALK-THROUGH: Bidders must attend a mandatory pre-bid walk-through meeting held on-site, Monday, March 19, 2012 from 10:00–11:00am.

THE SCOPES OF WORK consists of interior park shelter renovations, repairs and site-work. General construction includes select demolition, rough and finish carpentry, concrete, electrical, plumbing, drywall, floor coating, HVAC, and paint. Bidders may request additional-specific, specifications and any other information that is required. Participants will be responsible for obtaining the Newfax Corporation Bidders List at www.newfaxcorp.com. For additional information, please contact Jon Zvanovec @ 419-360-9184, jon.zvanovec@metroparkstoledo.com.

EACH BIDDER MUST FURNISH either (1) a bond for the full amount of the bid or (2) a certified check, cashier’s check or irrevocable letter of credit in an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the bid with its bid. The successful bidder must furnish a 100 percent (100%) Performance Bond and a 100 percent (100%) Labor and Materials Bond.

No bidder may withdraw its bid within thirty (30) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF THE METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF THE TOLEDO AREA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to waive any informalities in bidding.

By order of the Board of Park Commissioners
METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF THE TOLEDO AREA

Catherine S. Marinelli, Interim Director
Mt. Nebo Holds Annual Black History Celebration

Banquet

Sojourner’s Truth Staff

Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church held its annual Black History Celebration banquet “Stepping Out In Faith” on Saturday, March 3 at the Ramada Hotel and Conference Center and recognized 12 members of the community as “Silent Soldiers.”

The Voices of Hope Outreach Ministry organized the annual affair which began years ago on a much smaller scale in the church on N. Detroit Avenue. Over the years it has expanded to the much larger space at the Ramada.

Once again, Larry Jones was the event’s master of ceremonies. Jones introduced Deacon Alan Crawford of Mt. Nebo, who welcomed the dinner guests, and Deborah Gardner of St. Paul MBC who offered a musical selection.

Pastor Dwight Gutridge of St. Paul AME Zion Church presented the invocation.

Guests were further greeted by U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur, Toledo Councilwoman Paula Hicks-Hudson and Toledo Board of Education member Cecilia Adams, Ph.D. The evening’s honorees were presented by Geraldine Scrutchns of St. Paul AME Zion. Those honored were Betty Williams, Irene Campbell, Margaret Huntley, Renee Heard, Ronald Burel, Barbara Tucker, Sheldon Hill, Cecil Wallace, Rev. David Banks, John Earl Quinn, Fletcher Word and Jackie Ellis.

Pastor Cedric Brock of Mt. Nebo closed the annual event with remarks and the benediction after First Lady Debra Brock enthralled the audience with a dedicatory solo.

Book Review


By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

The painting you hung on the wall near your desk relaxes you. Looking at it reminds you of a happy memory, and you wonder how the artist managed to create such a vivid emotion with colored goo. It’s pretty amazing, and it makes you wish you could paint like that.

You’re a hands-on person. You do, you don’t make. Still, you wonder if it’s possible to tap into some innate, unknown talent, maybe even one with a brush. Better yet, how do you free your employees and co-workers to use their imaginations? In the new book Imagine: How Creativity Works by Jonah Lehrer, you’ll find out how Pixar, 3M, Google, Bob Dylan, and others do it.

Every creative moment starts with a problem.

Think, for instance, about the last time you had an equipment breakdown. It happened on a weekend, of course, and it frustrated you beyond all measure. You tinkered around until you were about to break down yourself when an exquisitely “AHA!” moment dawned.

Aha! An unconventional, get-you-through-the-weekend fix. Lehrer says that the most creative moments arrive when you’ve stopped searching for answers, when you “sleep on it,” or when you’ve decided that the situation isn’t fixable. That’s because, like a petulant toddler, your left brain struggles and gets frustrated. When it’s done having its tantrum, your right brain – the calmer, Zen side that excels at insight – takes over with a fresh angle and a solution.

As it turns out, says Lehrer, a “relaxed state of mind” is essential for creative juices to flow. By not focusing on the problem or by distracting ourselves with something else entirely, the right brain begins to look inward: a subconscious tickle, a niggling detail.

For instance, let’s say you’re ready to solve, invent, and boost your productivity, grab Imagine: How Creativity Works and picture yourself inspired.