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A Matter of Respect

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

I know one thing we did right
Was the day we started to fight
Keep your eyes on the price...
-Civil Rights Movement Song

The days of civil engagement went out with The Cosby Show and was replaced with a culture of disrespect and insensitivity that emerged with Beavis and Butt-head and the arrival of The Simpsons.

Treat human beings with dignity and respect. This is the universal law that states: “unanswered transgressions encourage further transgressions.” In order to avoid being bullied and bothered, both decent and street must say loud and clear through behavior, words and gestures “if you mess with me, I’m man enough to take you down.”

Sunday in church parking lots or even sanctuaries. Women, are being maliciously and openly labeled ‘sluts,’ and minorities publicly demeaned and devalued by patriarchal, misogynistic and supremacist political ideologues. Perhaps most troubling, has been the evil-minded disrespect shown to President Barack Obama since being elected to office. During an address, he has been called a liar by a member of Congress, had a finger pointed in his face by a governor, had guns brought to presidential appearances and has been under a constant barrage of verbal attacks by pundits and elected officials pursuing political capital. And depending upon how the Supreme Court decides, the most aggressive put down of all, may be the attempt to “get in the President’s face” by ‘jacking him for his crowning jewel’ - the Affordable Health Care Act.

How to respond seems to be the relevant question for the president? President Obama’s response to date has been to “fly above” the negativity, placing his quest for a second term in jeopardy. Whereas, studies show that these incivilities can be precursors to other spiraling, increasingly intense, and overtly aggressive acts. Rarely is violence a spontaneous act. More often, it is the culmination of escalating patterns of negative interactions resulting in violent incidents such as the recent Trayvon Martin or Tulsa, Oklahoma killings.

To ignore the current culture where the lack of mutual respect or failure to treat others with dignity, is to court danger. The president might turn to his organizing roots or early inner-city experiences, and where respect is the unchallenged framework for survival, to understand the universal law that states: “unanswered transgressions encourage further transgressions.”

One thing is certain, “the streets” is THE acknowledged arena that truly has an appreciation for the consequences of winning and losing. The “brothers” might also be the only ones who can advise the president on how to escape constantly being “rolled on” politically.

How might they advise President Obama regarding being “disdised”? They would tell him that the first point of business is to “manage your position of respect” in order to maintain your honor, you have to act crazy in order to let those who try to elevate themselves by putting you down know in no uncertain terms, that “you ain’t the one who can be messed with.” You got to get your props from them upstarts or everybody and they mama will try to roll you.

President Obama’s image management, which has portrayed him as “decent” and hip rather than “street,” seems to have deprived him of the flexibility needed to respond appropriately to his political opposition. It is this struggle between decency and street or the Nice Guys’ dilemma, faced by many young blacks and which Obama himself, must now negotiate.

Sylvie Taylor, PhD, in sharing her parental concerns for black adolescents, stated:

“How do I ensure that his self-esteem remains strong and intact while I protect him from the harms that await him? How do I make sure he survives? How do I make sure that he comes home alive and unharmed every day?”

“In my household, that has been about many talks and life lessons. We started with a lot of rules that were passed on from grandparents, parents, and other elders. Don’t touch things in the store that you do not plan to buy. Be kind and courteous; make sure that he comes home alive and unharmed every day?

And President Obama must also understand, that in the dog eat dog worlds of both poverty and politics, “it’s better to be feared than loved.”

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

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Becky McQueen
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Reporter
Reporter

Rev. D.L. Perryman
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Entertainment Critic

Jason L. Lee Sr.
Jennifer Retholtz
Kathy Sweeny
Layout Designer
Webmaster
Graphic Designer

Pam Anderson
Kathleen Greely
Account Executive
Account Executive

A Certified MBE, 2009
The Sojourner's Truth, 1811 Adams Street, Toledo, Ohio 43604
Phone 419-243-0007 • Fax 419-255-7700
thestruth@thestruthledo.com
www.thestruthledo.com

Community Calendar

April 11-13
City of Zion, Mt. Zion Church Toledo District Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship International Intercessory Prayer Conference: 6 pm nightly; Speakers Bishop Jerome Ross, Bishop Duane Tisdale, Bishop William H. Murphy: 419-246-1850

April 14
Global Youth Service Day: Hosted by United Way and North Toledo Network; 9 am to noon; Friendly Center Gymnasium: 419-243-1289 ext 304

Community Health Fair and 14th Annual Prostate Cancer Education & Awareness Program: Sponsored by Toledo Council of Black Nurses and OACW/Cordelia Martin Health Center: 10 am to 2 pm; Raffles - $100 Kroger Gift Certificate and $25 gas card: 419-531-4319 or 419-534-2915

Women Empowerment Luncheon: Parkwood Community Center; Anger issues, behavior problems, doubtfulness, fear, bad finances, and more; 11:30 am to 1:30 pm: 419-241-9789

District 4 Community Cleanup
Phillips Temple CME Church Beginners Ballroom Class: 5 to 7 pm; Pre-Women’s Day Event

April 15
St. Paul AME Zion T.A.R.Z. Dance Ministry 4th Anniversary: 4 pm; Guests include Warren AME Dance Ministry, Tyrese Bell, Trina Willis, Tonya Steward, Selina Perryman, Opal Dunlap: 419-870-5747 or 419-243-1065

Beulah Baptist Church Pastoral Anniversary: 6th Anniversary for Pastor Ronald Taylor; 4 pm; Guests – Rev. F.A. Shears and Rossford Baptist

April 17
Northwest Ohio Psychiatric Hospital Annual Health Fair: In recognition of Minority Health Month: Refreshments, massages, screenings, etc; 11 am to 4 pm: 419-381-1811

Community Health Fair: 11 am to 4 pm; Sponsored by the NW Ohio Psychiatric Hospital and the African American Women Cancer Support Group; 930 S. Detroit: 419-381-1881

April 17-19
Calvary MBC Spring Revival: 7 pm: Tuesday – Pastor Derek Arnold of Bethlehem Baptist; Wednesday - Pastor Stanley Clark of United Vision; Thursday – Rev. Pat McKinstry of Worship Center: 419-242-8379

April 19
Tiffany Reynolds Ministries Conference: 1-855-234-9797 or www.followingmypassion.org

April 20
Glass City Gospel Celebration: 7 pm; River Life Church; Featuring Half Mile Home, Bryan Scott, Min Mark, Williams, Twinksie Clark, Debra Brock, The Difference, Newsom Family Singers and many more: 419-810-2483

April 21
"A Holistic Workshop Focused on Mind, Body and Spirit": 11 am to 1 pm; Featuring guest speaker LaQuinta Newton; United MBC: 419-380-1445

Global Youth Service Day: Graffiti Free Project; Hosted by United Way and North Toledo Network; 9 am to noon; Friendly Center Gymnasium: 419-243-1289 ext 304

Warren AME Second Annual Community Dental Clinic: For families; 12:30 pm; Dental screenings, skin care, nutrition and exercise clinic, budgeting for health: 419-243-2237

Take Back the Night: Community rally women’s march to end all violence against women; Collier Bldg at UT Health Science campus; 6 pm – resource center; 7 pm - clothing line project, silent witness project, bandanna project

April 27-29
Calvary Baptist Church Women’s Ministry Spring Retreat: 419-787-9635
The Future of Medicare

By Senator Sherrod Brown
Guest Column

That’s why I will continue to stand up for Ohio seniors who deserve better than this plan. And I will fight back against attempts to turn back the clock on the advancements America has made to protect our seniors.

In recognition of the power of young people to change the world, Westfield Franklin Park, in partnership with the United Way, is proud to be a part of bringing the 24th Annual Global Youth Service Day to Northwest Ohio. Global Youth Service Day, the largest annual service event in the world, brings together millions of children and youth every year to improve their communities through service and service-learning.

Westfield Franklin Park is proud to support Global Youth Service Day. Young people have so much to give, and we’re proud to help them shine,” said Erika Williams, general manager of Westfield Franklin Park. Community-wide, more than 1,600 people will disperse from 9 a.m. until noon the morning of April 21 for service projects like graffiti cleanup with neighborhood centers, arts and crafts with seniors, or storm drain stenciling with Partners for Clean Streams, and many more. Participants will come together at the conclusion for a free lunch and celebration at the Toledo Zoo. Local personalities, such as Mayor Bell, will be on-hand to serve up lunch and speak to youth about the importance of service. There are also several youth entertainment groups performing. As an additional incentive, the Toledo Zoo will be granting participating youth free access for the remainder of the day.

One of Westfield Franklin Park’s team members, Carla Leonard, and her 12-year old daughter Corryn decided to participate in this year’s Global Youth Service Day after hearing about it on Facebook. They will spend the morning together painting a home for the Epilepsy Center.

“I want my daughter to understand the value in serving the community she lives in. Life is bigger than just you, and I want her to understand the importance of service,” said Carla Leonard.

Participants can pick up their t-shirts and supplies at Westfield Franklin Park on Saturday, April 14 in the center court from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. Caribou will also be offering free coffee to participants with a volunteer shirt.

To contact Carla and Corryn Leonard for comment, contact Julie Hoigel at 419-473-3317 and she will connect you.

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NAACP Reacts to Decision to Cancel the Grand Jury in Trayvon Martin Case

Special to The Truth

The NAACP released the following statement from NAACP President and CEO Benjamin Todd Jealous regarding special prosecutor Angela Corey’s decision to forgo a grand jury in the Trayvon Martin case:

“We hope this decision signals the special prosecutor’s intention to live up to her reputation as a passionate, justice-focused attorney and bring charges against Zimmerman herself,” stated NAACP President and CEO Benjamin Todd Jealous. “The future of this case now rests solely with her and we have faith that she will do her best to secure justice for Trayvon Martin.”

Over the last two weeks, tens of thousands of people around the country have signed the NAACP petition that asks the special prosecutor to handle Trayvon’s case with passion and an eye for justice.

The petition can be found here: http://action.naacp.org/page/s/trayvon-letter
Children ran around, squawling with delight and parents had plenty of smiles this past Saturday as nearly 200 kids enjoyed a carnival like atmosphere at the Frederick Douglass Community Association (FDCA).

The FDCA held its 1st annual Easter Egg Hunt and children had the opportunity to enjoy games, face painting, prizes, hot dogs and drinks, a bounce house, and of course an egg hunt. Most of all they had a visit from the Easter Bunny!

As the FDCA focuses on “Renewing its Relevancy” to the community, it decided that having a Easter Egg Hunt would be one event that area children would enjoy. Special thanks are in order for Natacia Parker and interim Executive Director Sonya Newton, who put in many hours of planning and organizing the event. The board of the FDCA and members of the community contributed financially to make it a huge success. As one parent put it, “Hats off to the FDCA!! It was very well done. It was good to be in the midst of the community from where we were reared.”

The FDCA program committee has already begun planning for next year’s Easter Egg Hunt to make it bigger and better. As one board member stated, “we want kids to enjoy themselves and we want even more next year.”

The FDCA’s next event will be Saturday, April 28, 2012 with its Spring Talent and Fashion show.
Education Section

Celebrating 10 Years of Education Reporting

By Candice Harrison
Sojourner’s Truth Reporter

Education is the passport to a better future. According to the U.S. Department of Education, it is important to prepare students for the world they will face in 18 years or more. For many years, education has been a major topic of discussion and debate. With graduation and achievement data, standardized test scores and school district report cards all being at the forefront of the discussion, the question remains: where are we as a community and beyond in terms of education completion for 18 years or more?

In the 2000-01 school year, the average dropout rate for grades nine-12 was 3.9 percent according to the National Center for Education Statistics. The dropout rate in Ohio schools was the lowest for Asian-Pacific Islanders (2.4) and non Hispanic whites (3.0) and highest for Hispanics (8.9) and blacks (9.2). Reports have shown that education is an important indicator of economic well-being. Not only do higher levels of education reflect higher income, but also in many circumstances more education leads to higher levels of health and well being. In the U.S., adults ages 18 and over who worked at any time during 2001 earned an average of $35,805 per year. Average earnings ranged from $18,783 for those without a high school diploma to $101,375 for those with a professional degree. The 2005-06, the Toledo Public schools graduation rate was 90.5, according to the Ohio Department of Education.

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) also known as the “Nation’s Report Card,” is a nationally representative and continuing assessment of what 9-year-old students know and can do in various subject areas. Assessments are provided on the state level as well.

Results indicated that Ohio eighth graders performed at or higher than the national average in the subject areas of math, science, writing and reading. In 2003, there was no statistical difference in average math score between male and female eighth graders—representing a change from 1990 when males had a higher average score than females. Female students had higher average scores than males in both reading and writing; however, in the area of science, eighth boys had a statistically higher average score than did girls.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP);

How are students performing now?

Third Grade Reading – 35 percent of third grade students enrolled in the public schools read at below proficient levels, with 27 percent reading at the proficient level.

Graduation Rate – 63 percent (based on new state rate to more accurately account for on-time, cohort based student rates of graduation)

Over the past 10 years, there have been significant adjustments made in an effort to improve and increase the number of educational opportunities.

Charter Schools

Charter schools are another driving force in the debate and discussion that is being had around education. Numerous states have a charter school law in place. The United Way has also reported that the drop-out rate impacts entire communities as students who drop out of school are more likely to be unemployed during economic downturns, pay far less in taxes and consume far more in public assistance benefits. Those same students are more likely to continue the cycle of poverty and remain six times more likely to drop out than their peers.

They have charged the community to look at each child as a whole person, not just as a student because when children start behind, they remain behind. Education Director for The United Way of Greater Toledo Greg Braylock said that, currently, kindergarten readiness is at 37 percent of students from low-income households. Students from these families are generally under-prepared and not ready to succeed when they enter kindergarten. The local United Way early childhood-school readiness efforts span education, health, and public policy. They are working to ensure that children receive adequate health care to focus and thrive in the classroom.

Schools as Community Hubs

Community Hubs are a strategy for organizing the resources of the community around student success. This initiative is intended to make a school – a place that already acts as a natural anchor for children – the center of an entire neighborhood. Its integrated focus on academics, services, supports and opportunities leads to improved student learning, stronger families and healthier communities.

Not only will children learn at their school, but that school will become a hub outside of normal school hours for an entire neighborhood, offering services like out-of-school activities and enrichment, parent involvement, medical and dental services, mental health services, social services adult education and community and economic development. The Hub strategy is in the implementation stage and four schools locally are considered community hubs - Scott High School, Leverette, Pickett and Robinson Elementary Schools will all serve as a location that will attend to the barriers in the community that hinder student success on holistic level.

One newly-hired Community Hub director said that this new strategy “has the power to break barriers that have a longstanding history of contributing to disparities. Things like access to medical care, parent education, economic and community development are all things that help families become more stable. When families are stable overall, the student will be more successful.” She went on to add that, “if we have a student whose parent is in need of a job, lack of income is a barrier. If there’s a student (or parent) with a chronic illness, that’s a barrier. We want to be able to provide services that can in breaking those. The thing that makes this program work...”

(Continued on Page 6)
some is the idea, that even if you don’t have a student who attends one of the hubs, the services are still available to you if you live in that community! A neighborhood with their needs met while building community with each other is a neighborhood that ultimately takes care of one another. The hubs will transform the way the community provides support for our kids and delivers services to our neighborhoods simultaneously.

Mentoring groups
The Village50 - The Village50 is a non-profit organization of dedicated African-American male professionals, who strongly believe that it takes a “village” to not only raise a child, but to save a child. The Village50 is a non-profit organization of dedicated African-American male professionals, who strongly believe that it takes a “village” to not only raise a child, but to save a child. The organization is found on both the middle, secondary and college levels with the national headquarters being located in Toledo.

The organization was founded and still continues to be led by Tyrone Bledsoe, Ph.D. Scott High School S.A.A.B coordinator Joshua Archer says the organization “connects students to a national network of positive role models, the national network provides support and holds it’s members accountable throughout their academic career and beyond.

Toledo Public School District “Race to the Top”
The 2PS district received federal dollars to implement national educational standards, use data to drive instruction, reward great teachers and leaders while turning around the lowest achieving schools. The monies will also prepare teachers to implement the standards and provide accessible data in the building and classroom level. Another new piece includes the introduction and implementation of performance-based evaluations for teachers and administrators as well as research based intervention in high need schools.

This is merely a fraction of the programs and services developed in the area to assist in student success. As presidential administrations increasing place education as a top priority, and continue to make federal dollars available creating more access for students to continue to utilize the programs and services, it is hoped by policy makers that student achievement will show measurable and significant improvement.
Library Offers Living Well with Less Series - Great Opportunities in Home Ownership!

By Rhonda B. Sewell, Library Media Relations Coordinator
Special to The Truth

In observance of Money Smart Week (April 21-28), the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library is pleased to offer more programs in its Living Well with Less, a FREE series designed to provide adults with information on opportunities to work at home, saving money, home ownership and more.

Money Smart Week is a series of free classes and activities nationwide designed to help consumers better manage their personal finances.

If you’re having a hard time stretching your budget, or just want to find creative ways to make some extra money, our Living Well with Less series is designed just for you:

- Monday, April 23
  a) (6-8 p.m.) – Great Opportunities in Home Ownership! @ McMaster Center, Main Library, 323 Michigan St. (Great opportunities in home ownership in Toledo and Northwest Ohio. Find out about programs that can help homebuyers find financial help with mortgages and down payments, and attractive homes renovated and built by local community groups.)
  b) (6:30 -8 p.m.) – Learn about Working at Home @ Heatherdowns Branch Library, 3265 Glanzman Rd. (A panel of experts will tell you what to be of aware of when looking for jobs at home. Hear from the following experts - a home-business owner, the Arts Commission of Greater Toledo, Better Business Bureau, Ohio Attorney General’s Office, and Advocates for Basic Legal Equality.)

Get information at the Main Library segment on programs by: The Northwest Ohio Development Agency, Neighborhood Housing Services, Lucas County Land Bank, ONYX, United North, Habitat for Humanity, Toledo Community Development Corporation, Ohio Housing Finance Agency, and more!

Thank you to our generous Living Well with Less series sponsors: Directions Credit Union, and Fifth Third Bank

NOTE: For additional information visit toledolibrary.org, or call 419.259.5200

Black Students Graduating From Toledo Schools Outnumber Those Dropping Out

The Sojourner’s Truth, May 1, 2002

Ed. Note: The following is an excerpt from an article we published in our second issue in 2002. In light of a change during the ensuing years in the method of calculating drop out rates, it would appear that we were overly optimistic in our assessment

High school dropout rates among African-American students have been an issue of some importance for some time in our nation, our state, and our city. Statistically, out of the 648 students who dropped out of Toledo high schools in 2001-2002, 6.4 percent are black females and 7.2 percent are black males. Statistics are not available for 2002. According to Bob Rocker, Director of Toledo Public School’s Research and Analysis Department, the dropout rate for black males “is the lowest it’s been in a while.”

A survey of Toledo high schools in 2000 showed that of the 1483 graduating students, 309 (or 20.8 percent) are black females and 255 (or 17.2 percent) are black males. Scott High School, Toledo’s historical black high school, had the third highest percentage of its seniors graduating at 86.6 percent, while Libbey High School, which also has a large number of African-American students, had the lowest at 66.3 percent. Statistics are not available for 2001 and 2002.

Further analysis by Dr. Rocker’s department shows that 46 percent of black females who graduated from Toledo high schools in 2000 attend college full time and 12 percent attend college part-time, while 46 percent of black males who graduated from Toledo high schools in 2000 attend college full time and 7 percent attend college part-time. The total percentages of black female and male students who graduated from Toledo high schools in 2000 attending college are 58 percent and 53 percent, respectively. There are over three times as many black females graduating as there are dropping out of school and over twice as many black males graduating as there dropping out of school in Toledo, according to these figures. The statistics for the African-American students continue in school until graduation has improved, according to Dr. Rocker’s analysis, particularly black males. Does this mean that Toledo is doing a better job of edu-

(Continued on Page 11)
Congratulations to the Toledo chapter of the Student African American Brotherhood (SAAB), as they were named as the District SAAB Chapter of the Year at the organization’s national conference. The Toledo contingency competed against 260 other SAAB chapters from across the country.

Locally, SAAB is very active and has grown at an amazing rate in the past year. Currently, there are more than 250 members of 13 chapters across Toledo Public Schools. The TPS chapters meet monthly with The University of Toledo Chapter, as well as hosting other surrounding universities. The TPS chapter provides peer-to-peer mentorship between the elementary, high school, and college chapters. The members are very involved within their respected school, and the community.

Through a variety of educational and cultural activities, SAAB focuses on:
- Ensuring that all males on educational campuses take full advantage of their academic years and to better understand and practice their full responsibilities, rights and privileges to obtain an advance education.
- Works in the community with young men who are in need of guidance and direction.
- Strives for members to become role models for each other as well as for other males in the community.
- Prepares their members to enter the workforce as professionals and be among the best competing for a meaningful place in their community.

Given the overwhelming success of SAAB, Toledo Public Schools is introducing a new organization for young ladies – the Young Women of Excellence or YWOE. More than 300 female students have expressed interest in this new ‘sisterhood’, which will adopt many of the philosophies and goals that SAAB has for its members.

For its April 2012 installment, the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library recommends the book *Harlem: A Century in Images* (2010, Skira Rizzoli) by authors Deborah Willis, Cheryl Finley, Thelma Golden and Elizabeth Alexander.

This coffee-table-style publication encompasses a century of Harlem, through the eyes and lenses of some of the most important artists and photographers of the 20th Century. The vibrant and bustling neighborhood occupying the upper reaches of Manhattan has been at the crossroads of the artistic, literary, and political currents of the African-American community since the early days of the twentieth century. Home to writers and revolutionaries, artists and agitators, Harlem has been both subject and inspiration for countless photographers. This sweeping photographic survey includes nearly two hundred images that tell the story of Harlem - its distinctive landscape and extraordinary inhabitants - throughout the twentieth century.

Featured artists include: Gordon Parks, James VanDerZee, Eve Arnold, Alice Attie, Cornell Capa, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Richard Avedon, Dawoud Bey, Chester Higgins, Jr., Helen Levitt, Aaron Siskind, Bruce Davidson, Roy DeCarava, Leonard Freed, Carl Van Vechten and Weegee. The book features essays by leading scholars of African-American studies and art - including Deborah Willis, Cheryl Finley, Elizabeth Alexander, and Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Ph.D. - which are paired with the work of eighty artists and photographers, affording this enclave the richest chronicle in its history.
Imagination Station announced its newest experience, Eat It Up! – a highly interactive, nutrition and exercise focused exhibition presented by ProMedica. After over 18 months of planning, Eat It Up! opened to the public Friday April 6, 2012. This engaging selection of individual exhibits blends the newest in technology with nutrition information and human physiology to tell the story of how the choices you make today affect your body as a whole.

Eat It Up!, a permanent 2,000+ square foot exhibition contains seven major exhibits, including the Wheel of Fire, over eight feet tall, just step inside and the faster you walk or run, the higher the 10 foot tall flames will grow, showing calories virtually burning off; the Heart Rate Rally which makes players race against their opponent to keep up with an unpredictable light show; the Social Table, an interactive, multi-touch experience that uses video projected floating icons to teach about the impact of personal choices on life expectancy, along with a number of other exciting exhibits, demonstration area and larger-than-life graphics, to help educate visitors to make healthy choices, even when in situations where the choice is not clear.

“We strive to meet the ever changing educational needs of the children in our community by offering exciting, educational, state of the art exhibits that help to shape and inspire the decisions of the world’s future scientists,” said Lori Hauser, executive director of Imagination Station. “Partnering with ProMedica on bringing Eat It Up! to the Toledo community, was a natural extension of Imagination Station’s mission, of inspiring in children the wonder of science and technology.”

Childhood obesity has more than tripled in the last 25 years. For the first time, many children face health issues that used to be reserved for parents and grandparents – diabetes, high blood pressure and high cholesterol. As a science center in the state with the 12th highest rate of childhood obesity in the nation, Imagination Station and ProMedica saw this partnership as an opportunity to directly impact the children in our community by providing accurate nutrition and health information, in a fun, engaging atmosphere.

“ProMedica is excited to partner with Imagination Station to bring this new exhibition, Eat It Up! to our community. As part of our mission to improve the health and well-being of those we serve, this partnership is a perfect fit,” said Randy Oostra, president and CEO of ProMedica. “I am confident this exhibit with its fun, interactive components is a great way to share our message about the importance of eating well and exercising to stay healthy.”

As with all of Imagination Station’s exhibitions, the exhibits within Eat It Up! is aligned with the State science academic content standards in both Ohio and Michigan and the National health standards, making the exhibition an extension of the classroom. The Imagination Station, located on the downtown Toledo riverfront, is a science center dedicated to delivering science and technology based programming to youth and their families throughout Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan. Eat It Up! will be included in the cost of admission.
Another Day” campaign is designed to increase awareness of alcohol and drug use, misuse, and abuse. Every day, 2500 teenagers use a prescription drug to get high for the first time. And alcohol use remains extremely widespread among today’s teenagers. Nearly three quarters of students (72 percent) have consumed alcohol (more than just a few sips) by the end of high school, and more than a third (37 percent) have done so by the eighth grade.

One bad decision can impact their entire future and parents should intervene now before an irreversible choice has been made. Unison Behavioral Health Group has launched their spring prom and graduation campaign to urge parents to participate. The “Live to Celebrate Another Day” campaign is designed to increase awareness of alcohol and drug use, misuse, and abuse during the graduation months of April through June where one third of alcohol-related fatalities involving teens occur.

Bonnie Kauffmann, Ph.D., director of Unison Behavioral Health Group’s Alcohol and Drug Treatment Program for Youth, encourages parents to intervene – even when it seems like your teen does not care. Kauffmann states that, “based on the stage of their brain development, adolescents are more likely to: act on impulse, misread or misinterpret social cues and emotions, get involved in fights, engage in dangerous or risky behavior. We also know that adolescents are less likely to: think before they act, pause to consider the potential consequences of their actions, modify their dangerous or inappropriate behaviors.” The teenage brain is different and being aware of these differences can help parents and concerned adults manage the behavior of adolescents. Kauffmann reminds parents that “74% of kids (8-17) said their parents are the leading influence on their decisions about drinking and using drugs.”

Bonnie Kauffmann and the staff at Unison Behavioral Health Group know all too well that addiction is a developmental disease, typically beginning in adolescence. Kauffmann’s team currently treats 100 adolescents who suffer from substance abuse and dependence disorders. The teens involved in Unison’s program often have family and school problems, poor academic performance, health problems (including mental health), and involvement in the juvenile justice system. These teens often begin to abuse alcohol and or drugs during times of transition, such as changing schools, moving, or divorce.

Kauffmann advises parents, caregivers, and concerned adults to recognize youth diagnosed with the following mental health disorders are at an increased risk for substance abuse: attention deficit disorder, oppositional defiant disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and bipolar disorder. Warning signs to look for include: sudden changes in personality, drop in school performance and attendance, sudden and frequent outbursts (temper tantrums), increasing conflict with family members, withdrawal from responsibility, changes in peer group, borrowing/stealing money, difficulty concentrating, loss of interest in hobbies, secretive behavior regarding actions and possessions, change in appearance, poor grooming habits, and redness around the eyes or face.

Unison Behavioral Health Group treats youth ages 11-17 with substance abuse and dependence disorders, including behavioral health disorders. Through an integrated team approach, the program offers clients and their families the option of receiving services in their home or in our offices at 1212 Cherry Street. Youth involved with Unison’s substance abuse treatment program also have full access to the agency’s psychiatric services. Professionals and family members who are concerned about a child’s behavior and suspect a mental health condition and or substance abuse, can obtain confidential support by calling Unison Behavioral Health Group at 419-693-0631.

Information on Unison’s “Live to Celebrate Another Day” prom and graduation campaign can be found by visiting the agency’s website at www.unisonbhg.org.
Culturally Specific Tips for African-American Parents: Praising the Positive

By Kerby T. Alvy, Ph.D.
Special to The Truth

Praising children is an important parenting practice that has been downplayed in homes of African-American children because of an experience during the time of slavery that unfortunately has been passed down in some black families. During slavery, when a master or overseer commented on a black child’s “coming along,” parents quickly corrected that image by noting the child’s bad qualities - he’s stupid, shiftless, unruly, can’t work - to keep him from being sold. Thus, avoiding the public and verbal praising of children was part of the parent’s desire to protect the child.

To the extent that this legacy of slavery is still active, it is especially important for parents of black children to use good praising skills.

Here is a seven-part praise approach that is very helpful. It is a technique that focuses on the exact behavior that is praiseworthy and which involves praising that behavior as opposed to saying something like “You’re a good boy” or “You’re a good girl,” which would be considered as praising the child and not the behavior. This is a very important emphasis as it helps the child know exactly what of his or her actions are of value to their parents and therefore can be also considered as a discipline technique because it teaches the right ways of acting. It is a technique that exemplifies the African proverb, When the heart overflows, it comes out through the mouth.

The use of this skill becomes more culturally-specific by using phrases that are of an Ebonics or black nature while praising a child’s behavior. For example, enthusiastically saying, “You rock!” “On the one!” or “Hey, that’s too tough!” or “Go girl/go boy!” or “That is so fresh!” or any other contemporary phrasing that is used in African-American communities.

Another component is using a non-verbal gesture or action that is consistent with praise, such as giving a high five or whatever such gesture is popular at the moment. The seven components of this praise method (behavior-specific praise) are:

1. Looking at the child.
2. Moving close physically.
4. Saying lots of nice things to the child.
5. Praising the behavior, not the child.
6. Showing physical affection.
7. Praising immediately after the child engages in the behavior.

This method is best used in response to such positive child behaviors as proper table manners, hanging up clothes, cleaning the dishes, brushing teeth, making the bed, being polite such as saying “please” and “thank you.” It is important to use this method as often as possible and for even the smallest improvements and for effort.

Coming alive like this and being appreciative of children can make parent-child relations more rewarding, and bring out more of those actions that parents want to see. The method promotes harmony in the home.

Kerby T. Alvy, Ph.D. is a clinical child psychologist and the Executive Director and Founder of the Center for the Improvement of Child Caring (CICC). He is the author of two recent books, The Soulful Parent: Raising Healthy, Happy and Successful African American Children; and for all parents, The Positive Parent: Raising Healthy, Happy and Successful Children, Birth-Adolescence; for more info, see www.ciccparenting.org

Black Students
(Continued from Page 7)

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Spring Cleaning: Part I

By Terri Schlichtenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

There’s always something cathartic about throwing open the windows and doors and preparing to throw old stuff out. Things you’ve accumulated over the winter, gone. Stuff you bought to combat the coldrooms, outta here. You always find some treasures, don’t you? There’s always something discovered that you’d totally forgotten you had. Like, for instance, the bookstore gift card you got back in December. Uh oh.

What do you use it for? You have no ideas, but I do. Here are some great ideas for that gift certificate you forgot you had…

IF YOU’RE INTERESTED IN A LOT OF DIFFERENT THINGS…

then you’ve got to go find The Superhero Book by Gina Misrugi. This book, filled with color pictures of comic book covers, will lay to rest the age-old question: if Superman and Batman had a duel, would Iron Man step in and kick tail?

If you’re a baseball fanatic, there are two books you should look for: Trading Manny by Jim Gallio, which is the story of a father and son, how baseball disappointed them so badly, and how they once again touched base with their love of the game. The other book, Summer of ’68 by Tim Wendel, is the story of one baseball season and the players that made it fantasti-c, even as the world seemed to be falling apart around the field. Catch both books. Home run!

If your bucket list is still too empty, then use your gift certificate to find What Do You Want to Do Before You Die? by The Buried Life (Jonnie Penn, Dave Lingwood, Duncan Perry & Ben Nemtin). This book is likewise filled with pictures and ideas from others who’ve dreamed about life’s can’t-misses. This is an easy-to-read book, and a sure conversation starter.

For wondering minds, look for The Reality of ESP by Russell Targ. Is extra sensory perception something you can learn? Can someone really predict the future, read minds, see ghosts? Find out. Read the book.

If you’re in a contemplative mood, look for Hey, America, Your Roots Are Shows by Megan Smolenyak. This is a book about finding your roots, learning where your ancestors came from, and finding those tantalizing secrets and skeletons in your family tree. How fun is that? You’re always loved a good mystery, so why not try a real-life crime book? From Crime Scene to Courtroom by Cyril H. Wecht, MD, JD and Dawna Kaufmann is all about some real-life cases that have made the news. Wecht is one of the world’s foremost forensic experts, and this book delves into the Casey Anthony case, Michael Jackson’s death, the death of the Stones’ Brian Jones, and others. Whodunit? You might find out here.

IF YOU LOVE A GOOD NOVEL…

then you need to find Finding Our Way Home by Charlene Ann Baumhlich. This is a story of friendship, and how two vastly different women find it in an unlikely place. It’s also a book you’ll want to share with your own friends, so maybe you’ll need two copies…

Who doesn’t like a wildly scandalous book that involves scams, framed innocents, and a hasty fleeing across the country to avoid enemies? Oh, you know you want Low Down and Dirty by Vickie M. Stringer. This novel includes all that, when Sherry Red’s past comes back to haunt her and the people she wronged want the ultimate revenge. Read it… just not at night, or you’ll never get any sleep.

So you want a chilling thrill ride in your books, eh? Then look for The Magnificent Life of Grand Howl’s Dog DeVaughn Lilly. Starting at the turn of the last century and moving forward, this is the story of race and discrimination, one man’s irresistible act, and how his mother set the course. Set in New Orleans… it’s… magnificent.

Older fans of Watership Down and younger fans of the “Ga’hoole” series will like Doglands by Tim Willocks. This is the story of a young dog who’s meant for a rough life and eventual death in D e d b o n e ’ s Hole… but he’s not going down easy. Instead, he figures out an escape and a way to find his father and, subsequently, his destiny. This is supposedly a young adult novel, but even if you’re well-past YA books, you’ll like it just fine.

What’s more fun than a love triangle? Inside Deception by Faynetta Lavernea Burrle is the answer to that question. When a woman finds the love of her life, there’s only one thing in the way of her happiness: another woman. Vengeance, lies, deceit… how can you go wrong?

IF YOU’RE AN “ANIMAL PERSON”…

and you can’t get enough books about the furry love of your life, then look for Dogs Make Us Human by Jeffrey Moussiaeff Masson and Art Wolfe. Filled with pictures and a little narrative about our four-footed best friends, this book will put the wag in any dog lover’s tail. Another doggy book to find is Your Dog is Your Mirror by Kevin Behan. It will help you understand Poochie in a whole new way.

Is that a wolf on the floor? How did he get there? If you’ve often wondered that, then you’ll want to find Became the Dog by Mark Derr. This book looks at the evolution from predator to pampered, from ancient canine to couch potato, and how the breeds developed. It’s a science geek’s delight. It’s a dog-lover’s dream.

Here’s another irresistible book: Animals and the Kids Who Love Them by Allen & Linda Anderson. Consisting of stories of children (both two-footed and four-footed), this book also includes meditations and thought-provoking ques-tions on the subject at the end of each chapter.

(Continued on Page 14)
Race War in America?

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

Will we riot?
If our black elected officials watching this situation play out come to the realization that the corrupt systems that employ them still refuse to consider them deserving of basic human rights, will they stage massive walk outs?

What can we do to the crippling the establishment?
If we turn these praying hands into fists… if we take up arms… if we decide we are ready to stop being civil, who do we make the target for our fury?

Any random white person we see?
Members of our nearest justice and legal system?
The Ku Klux Klan?
The police?

One thing I’ve noticed since President Obama has been in office is that whites who are racist are bolder than ever. The days of expressing bigotry are long gone.
The whites who are racist seem to now feel empowered, almost as if they have a righteous calling to remind us of our place in this country.
I’m sure you’ve seen the Republican anti-Obama bumper sticker.

It has Obama’s logo crossed out with the words “DON’ T RE-E-NIG IN 2012.”
I’m sure you are aware that a small battalion of Neo Nazi fighters have gathered in Sanford, Florida as a show of respect (also show of force) for George Zimmerman.

Armed to the teeth, the all-white all-racist National Socialist Movement say they are patrolling the streets and acting on behalf of Zimmerman’s well-being.
I’m sure you are already hip to the documented proof that the Department of Homelessness has put an order for 450 million hollow point bullets… in anticipation of some sort of domestic need for excessive ammunition. That’s D.H.S. that’s domestic.

Not military bullets to be fired in a conflict somewhere else in the world. That’s a confirmed order for 450 MILLION bullets to be used here. On this land. For some conflict here.

It’s quite possible, a fuse has been lit. But what will it ignite is still anybody’s guess.

However, you and I both know that the likelihood of a massive black uprising is extremely low.

I love the New Black Panther Party. I love the Nation of Islam. I cherish every organized group of black Americans providing much-needed services to our community whether I know of them or not.

We need all the empowerment and self-determination we can find amongst our own ranks. But as much value as some of these respective civil institutions may add to their immediate black vicin- city, they are hardly capable of standing full-scale rebellion on our behalf.

The black America I see is still generations away from having the preparedness it would take to overthrow or overpower any fragment of what oppresses us. Millions of black would-be rebels are actually destitute. Millions of black would-be rebels are imprisoned or sick. Millions of black would-be rebels don’t give the slightest damn about fighting for the right to have justice. They are too busy fighting for a job or a place to stay or some semblance of peace of mind.

We are seeking out an existence in the midst of pitfalls faced exclusively by us and faced here.

And as much as it burns me up inside to know that, what am I gonna do?

Really, what are my options in a land that has historically shown me my life means nothing to white people.

For decades, it was a recrudescent event for white Americans to gather together and lynch a black person. I mean, recreational as in…

family and friends showed up, pictures were taken, everyone smiling. Black Americans were murdered in cold blood by ordinary white citi- zens, either by hanging and/or burning us.

Police were either involved or turned the other cheek, as certain white people justified their acts by alleg- ing our behavior left them no other options. How have we survived all of the racially motivated attacks with white people serving as judge, jury and executioner?

We have learned to endure. We have learned to play it safe. Safer than anyone else has to play it. With a black President in the White House we have made baby steps to- wards finally having the country we built be some- what agreeable to our pres- ence here.

Not at all hospitable, just (Continued on Page 14)

April 11, 2012
The Sojourner's Truth
Page 13

“While we rantin & ravin bout gat, n*gga they made them. They got somethin’ that’ll blow out our back. From where they stay at” – Andre 3000 of Outkast

Hip-hop is such an elo-quent teacher. While reading a few posts on line suggest- ing that a possible race war could erupt in our country, these are the lyrics that came to mind.

The Trayvon Martin situa- tion has gotten even more complex this past weekend with announcements that it won’t make it to federal lev- els. While we contemplate just how hard our collective faces are being slapped by these topsy-turvy developments, I’ll hold off writing specifi- cally about the Trayvon Mar-

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Spring Cleaning: Part I

(Continued from Page 12)

Do you often think that your dog (or cat) knows more than you think he knows? Prove it by reading Guardians of Being, words by Eckhart Tolle, art by Patrick McDonnell. This book – part cartoon strip, part philosophy – will make you want to smile, think, and hug the Fur One even harder. Bonus: it’s available in paperback now.

And if it’s been a rough year, that would explain why you misplaced the gift certificate on The Second You, by Scott Sherman. Set in the Big Apple, this mystery features a handsome full-time hustler who sleuths on the side, a series of murders that he needs to stop, and a few roadblocks in his way to doing so. Bookmarks? Won’t need one for this book.

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By the way, did you read it?

Happy Reading! – Next Week: Spring Cleaning - Part II

Spring Cleaning: Part I

(Continued from Page 12)

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Happy Reading! – Next Week: Spring Cleaning - Part II
Production Supervisors
Sunrise Windows, a Temperance, MI manufacturer of premium-performing windows and patio doors, seeks to fill Production Supervisor positions on 1st and 3rd shifts. Qualified applicants should have at least 3 years’ experience in production leadership supervising a large hourly workforce in a manufacturing or distribution environment and a Bachelor’s Degree in business, operations or other closely related field. In lieu of a degree, a combination of equivalent knowledge, skills and experience may be substituted.

Supervisors must be able to meet daily production targets, while meeting expectations for safety, quality and continuous improvement and creating a positive environment of teamwork and mutual respect with employees. Supervisors must maintain a hands-on, highly visible presence on the shop floor with extensive employee interaction. A “whatever it takes for our customers’” mentality is a must. In return, Sunrise offers competitive compensation, including incentive-based pay, excellent insurance and retirement plans. To apply, send letter of interest with shift preference, resume and salary requirements to employment@sunrisewindows.com. Applications without salary requirements will not be considered.

Business Development Professionals
NHA is seeking PT (20 Hours) professionals to expand services by generating new clients and developing new services. Sales and Marketing professionals with health care, strategic planning, forecasting, and an extensive network will be ideal candidates. Forward resumes with salary requirements to: resume@nha-inc.org or NHA, Business Development, 313 Jefferson Ave., Toledo, OH 43604. No phone calls.

Notice to Bidders: Inquiry # FY12-104,
(Project # 5004-12-1726) for University Medical Center 1st Floor Neuro Biplane 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, Main Campus, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 24, 2012. Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 3:05 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 419-385-5303 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of $40.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Julie Cavese of MBA Architects and Planners at 419-873-8450. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, April 17, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. in the Health Education Building, Room 105, at the University of Toledo, Health Science Campus, 3300 Arlington Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43614. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 10%; Project Estimate: $320,000.00; Breakdown: General Const: $150,500.00; Plumbing& Fire Protection: $16,500.00; HVAC: $55,000.00; Electrical: $98,000.00.

Van Needed
TruLight @ 950 Prouty is in need of a donation of a passenger van or bus for our growing church. Bishop Greg Early and Pastor Sheila Early Contact: Dale 419-283-7585

Place Your Ad Today!
CALL PAM @ 419.243.0007

Finish Drywall and Painting
Residential and commercial
Patch and match existing textures
References upon request
419-280-2967

Special Notice
RE: Examinations for Journeyman Wireman
Applications for the Journeyman Inside Wireman test will be accepted April 9-13, 2012 at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 8, 807 Lime City Road, Rossford, Ohio between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. The qualifications to be eligible for this examination are:

- Must be 18 years of age or over.
- Must live in the jurisdiction of Local 8 for one year prior to application.
- Must have proof of 4 years employment in the commercial/industrial electrical construction industry.

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

Manager of Public Service
The City of Toledo is seeking qualified candidates for the position of Manager of Public Service at the Hoffman Road Landfill. The manager will perform work of considerable difficulty in providing managerial, technical, administrative and supervisory direction and assistance at the landfill. The manager will also be responsible for ensuring the facility remains in compliance with Ohio EPA rules and regulations. Qualified candidates must possess a Bachelor’s Degree in Engineering or in the chemical, physical or biological sciences and four (4) years of administrative experience in environmental enforcement. Interested individuals may apply at: Department of Human Resources, One Government Center, Suite 190, Toledo, Ohio 43604 (419) 245-1500, or you may ask for an application online at toledo.humanresources@toledo.oh.gov. The City of Toledo is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Minorities, females and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

Request for Proposals
Fleet Leasing and Management Services
RFP #12-R002
The Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) will receive proposals for Fleet Leasing and Management Svcs. Proposals received in accordance with law until Wednesday, April 25, 2012, 3:00 P.M. RFP documents available at LMHA, 435 Nebraska Ave., Toledo, OH 43604, 419-259-9446 (TTY 419-259-9529) and www.lucaspha.org. All proposers required to meet the Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. Section 3 compliance applied.

NAMI of Greater Toledo
Minority Support Group
Held Every Wednesday from 6-7:30p.m. at United Church of God -1122 Bronson Street , Toledo , Ohio 43608
NAMI Sponsors : Soup and Sandwich Fellowship. Please join us EVERY WEDNESDAY for (FREE) soup and sandwich, followed by : Support Group from 6-7:30 p.m. With 1 out of 3 people that suffer from Mental Illness this affects us all. No Pressure, No Commitment, No Reason to go through this alone.

Wanted to Buy: Diabetic Supplies
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.

Part Time Maintenance Person
For medical equipment maintenance of power wheelchairs and power scooters Part-time
Call Ken at 419-865-0089
Super Fun Show Comes to Quality Time

Sojourner’s Truth Staff

Entertainer Shawn Brown brought his Super Fun Show to Toledo last Saturday and was rewarded with smiles and gales of laughter from the children in his audience.

Quality Time Child Care Center presented the comedian/educator/disk jockey/recording artist at the Franciscan Center of Lourdes University. The Super Fun Show is a curriculum enhancement program that uses music, puppetry, comedy and storytelling to encourage youngsters to grow and develop as they explore the world.

Saturday’s program began with an in-service training for Quality Time’s staff during the morning. Quality Time, which provides day care services for some 74 children, using a staff of 13 in its two locations, held the morning session to address the social and emotional issues of dealing with students.

“The training showed us how to relate to children,” said lead teacher Sheila Wilson. “And showed us how children will react to us.”

Along with the morning’s training session, vendors were on hand with a variety of products: blankets, purses, jewelry and children’s clothing.

Brown, however, was the star of the show. After lunch, parents and children piled into a conference room, children seated on the floor directly in front of the entertainer. Brown used a variety of music, hats, voices, physical stunts to teach life lessons to his young audience.

Quality Time opened 10 years ago under the direction of Aletha Braswell. The day care center has served more than 1,000 students over the years and has maintained its one-star rating from the State of Ohio during that time.