The 48th Annual Debutante Cotillion

Aleshia Miller,
Miss Debutante 2012

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Well, it is that time of the year when the Toledo Public Schools and their allies start their Pamplona-style Running Of The Bulls.

This time the bulls are aiming their horns at the placement of a permanent school levy (yes, I did say permanent levy) on the upcoming fall ballot.

Permanent as in colorfast. Permanent as in never to go away. Permanent as in dye in the wool. Permanent as in, water is always wet.

So, now that we have established that TPS want to make a permanent nest in your wallet or purse, we need to find out what are they giving in return for this, “tails, I win and heads, you lose”, deal.

What goodies is Pecko & Company giving to allure the already tax-fatigued property owner to come and drink their water? I mean, there must be something, even a box of imported chocolates, that will cause the voter to do cartwheels and vote for a permanent garnishment against their income that will endure forever and ever!

Even though I quietly resigned as the outside consultant to the school board when they would not increase my compensation, I nonetheless maintain very cordial ties with certain persons in the administration who are willing to slip me nuggets of information when so needed.

I am in need, so I went nugget hunting and this is what I found out.

The school board is a little antsy about this permanent levy passing in light of their prior history of woeful report cards from the department of education regarding the status of the public schools (except for the bright spot being the Toledo Early College High School...great results...great program!).

My contact person gingerly asked me for some input as to what the school board needs to do in order to frame this ballot issue in the best possible light before the tax weary voters.

I was skeptical that the school board was using this person as a back channel to contact me about what they could do in light of my prior service as a consultant and my many ideas which were outright dismissed.

However in the spirit of compromise and trying to assist whenever I could, I dutifully again informed my inside source that the following measures, if implemented, would be major in showing good faith from the school board about being serious in systemic reform and changes which would produce immediate results and aid in the ballot measure.

ONE: The school board will require, commencing in the school year of 2014, that all school board members, principals, teachers, union members, administrators and staffing members place any and all school age children in a Toledo Public Schools due to their parents getting a paycheck from Toledo Public but their school board members having no children in the Toledo Public Schools.

The school board now realizes that it is idiotic to lose approximately the $5800.00 per child stipend (paid by the State of Ohio) for each child who is not in the Toledo Public Schools due to their parents getting a paycheck from Toledo Public but yet their kids attend non Toledo Public Schools.

It shows that TPS teachers do not believe in the soundness or the value of a TPS education and neither do they trust their own colleagues to properly teach their children. But yet, they want the parents to support their system!

TWO: Effective in the school years 2015, all new hires in Toledo Public Schools will reside within the city limits of Toledo, Ohio. TPS cannot afford to lose the tax base revenue or income of their employees who work in TPS but live in or buy homes in Sylvania, Perrysburg, Maumee and other outlying areas.

THREE: Effective in the school year 2015 and continuing thereafter, the school board will expand its board membership as to allow the election of three new board members who have children in the Toledo Public Schools.

These new members will be full voting members with all rights as any existing school board member. The school board now realizes that parents should have a greater say in the education of their children.

FOUR: Effective in the school year 2014 and continuing thereafter, each principal of each public school shall have the powers to make unannounced visits to any classroom for purposes of observations and comment and shall have the yearly duty to evaluate all teachers on his staff for purposes of re-training, promotion, demotion and yearly evaluations which will be sent to the personnel department of the school board for further review.

Where any inside contact read the above four points, he involuntarily shuddered as if slammed by a cold Artic wind, but reluctantly told me that he would do what he could do with the superintendent and the school board to get these items passed. Stay tuned.
Hollywood Casino Toledo
Offers an Early Peek for Area VIPS

The Hollywood Casino Toledo, due to open this past Tuesday for the general public, offered an early glimpse to a list of invitees last Thursday to showcase what the excitement is all about at the new gaming site. About 500 guests arrived to munch on delectables and toss a few dice on one of the first casinos in Ohio. The Toledo casino opened shortly after the Cleveland one.

Casino cast member

Valentine Ononye

Richard and Hope Mitchell

Linda Alvarado and Monique Ward

Sharon and Jimmy Gaines

Lucas County Clerk of Courts
Bernie Quilter and Michelle Quilter

Letters from the Heart

Their grief counselors helped me cope.
When my wife, Joan, died, my reaction was overwhelming. Pain I couldn’t imagine. Emotions I hadn’t experienced before. After searching for help, only one place had everything I needed – Hospice of Northwest Ohio and their bereavement programs. I was in groups with people who felt like I did, led by trained professionals who knew where we had been and where we were going. I was amazed at how effective these programs are.

Jim, 2007

For 30 years, families have been writing to Hospice of Northwest Ohio to express their thanks for support before, during and after the loss of a loved one. Our bereavement programs help each person work through grief in a way that’s right for them.

Visit hospicenwo.org
419-661-4001 (Ohio) • 734-568-6801 (Michigan)
When you see vans rolling around the city with this question on the side “Need A Ride?,” then you are seeing the fulfillment of a goal that was set three years ago by two local entrepreneurs. Roye and Yolanda Durden launched their new transportation company, “Need-A-Ride?” in Toledo this year after hard work, sacrifice and a lot of prayer.

“The idea for our company came about because we realized that many of the jobs in the Toledo area are located in the suburbs, like the new casino and the Chrysler plant and we thought how are people in the city, without cars going to get to interviews and to work? Especially those people who work second or third shift and on weekends,” said Yolanda.

“We also do a lot of volunteer work at our church and we know a lot of seniors need transportation to medical appointments,” Roye added. “So Yolanda started doing research and found that there were not any transportation companies operating in Toledo that could meet the needs of these two groups; there were gaps,” he said.

It was a big leap, however, from coming up with a good business idea to actually starting a new company. The Durden’s are both professionals but neither had ever worked in the field of transportation. Roye is a licensed clinical therapist who provides counseling services to people with substance abuse and anger management issues and Yolanda is a human resources professional. In 2009, when the economic downturn hit, Yolanda was laid off from a recruitment firm. She had been down this road before and, like many other professionals, she became frustrated with the cycle of finding a new job in the current insecure economy.

“We decided it was time for us to create something of our own because we were tired of working for other people,” she said.

“We were very nervous about it,” said Roye. “It is very serious to think about starting a new company because there is risk involved in going into debt and giving up on the security of a full-time job. We wanted to do it but we couldn’t see clearly how we could take on the risk and responsibility,” he said.

While Roye worked a full-time and two part-time jobs to support the family, Yolanda immersed herself in research on the transportation industry and started networking with people who could help her write a good business plan. It took a lot of time and work but she found great resources at the Minority Contractors Business Assistance Center and through SCORE, a nonprofit group that helps small businesses get off the ground. Yolanda was assigned a mentor, a retired business executive who helped her think through the business model and business plan.

“Yolanda was so passionate about this idea,” said Roye. “After all the research and work she put into it, she really sold me on it. She convinced me this service is needed in Toledo and it would work.”

“I knew the key to our success would be to provide a safe ride for the seniors at an affordable price,” said Yolanda. “There are many older people who can’t drive anymore but they still want to be independent. We can take them where they need to go and give them a sense of independence,” she said.

“Need-A-Ride? is not a taxi service. Individuals who use the service schedule rides in advance so that they can feel confident they can get to work, school, or appointments and then back home. One-way or two-way service is provided seven days a week. The company also operates a specialty van that is ADA compliant and equipped with a ramp to help people in wheel chairs get to work or appointments. All of the drivers are CPR certified and undergo thorough background checks.

“It’s really easy to talk about stepping out on faith but in reality it’s hard to leave your safety net behind and go out on a high wire,” said Roye. “It’s a real spiritual thing. We really feel that we are being called to provide this service to help people. The Lord wants us to give our all and we are fully committed. We want the business to grow into something great,” he said.
Elegance, Style and Grace- The 48th Annual Debutante Cotillion

By Candice L. Harrison
Sojourner’s Truth Reporter

Young ladies hailing from various schools in the Toledo area joined in a showing of class, character, congeniality and excellence for the 48th Annual Debutante Cotillion presented by the Toledo Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women’s Clubs, Inc. (NANBPWC), on Saturday May 26, 2012, in the Stranahan Theater Great Hall.

The annual dance is the culmination of five months of rigorous rehearsals, unprecedented commitment on the part of the participants and their escorts as well as personal development events. It serves as a “Rites of Passage” and presentation of an elite class of young ladies to society. Participation also provides opportunities to embark on various personal learning and cultural exposure through events centered on careers, education and waltz rehearsal.

The participants are selected and nominated by their respective schools based on criteria provided by the Toledo Club which includes moral character and citizenship in and out of school, grade point average and not having children or currently being pregnant. The criteria has not changed or wavered since its original years.

Toledo Club member and Debutante Cotillion Chairman Wilma Brown shared that the event’s purpose is to “encourage them (participants) to continue their college education and display their talent. We also try to provide them with experiences they may not have had before.”

The Toledo Club of NANBPWC INC., provided $6500.00 in scholarship funding to this year’s winners as part of their commitment to ensuring that post-secondary education is at the center of the Cotillions focus. This contribution is also aside from the three University of Toledo Scholarships and monetary prize for Mr. Escort.

The program began with a welcome by Toledo Club President Denise Black Poon followed by greetings from North Central District Governor of The NANBPWC Inc. Barbara Tucker. First (Continued on Page 6)
Vice President Wanda Terrell presented Miss 2011 Debutante, Olivia Phifer. Judges and talliers were introduced by Talent Co-Chairman Beverly Tucker. Judges included Mercy Health Partners President and CEO Andrea R. Price; Toledo Public Schools educator, Robert Duris; renowned entertainer Ramona Collins and retired flight attendant Veeda Cooper. Desiree McGee and Lashonda Horton both served as talliers.

Debs-in-Waiting Chairman Leola Hayes and choreographer Jackie Black presented the Debs-in-Waiting who donned scarlet dresses symbolic of the NANBPWC INC., colors. The flow of the evening was then guided by the Mistress of Ceremony Rhonda Sewell whose talent for ensuring the audience was engaged and having a great time was exceptional and well received by the crowd as she led the presentation of the 2012 Debutantes. Each Debutante graced the floor in the Cotillion promenade with her presenter as she approached the judging table for the traditional curtsy. The escorts met them in ceremonial fashion as the audience learned of the many outstanding achievements earned by each Debutante.

Each Debutante received financial awards from various universities ranging from just under $10,000 in scholarship awards to more than $100,000. Many of the ladies are University of Toledo bound. However, others will attend the likes of The University of Kentucky, Howard University, Alabama A&M, Eastern Michigan, Wright State, Bowling Green State University, The University of Cincinnati, among others.

After the initial traditional cotillion waltz, many were wowed and encouraged an encore presentation of the cotillion waltz which they willingly obliged. The Debutantes then danced with their fathers or other relative in the tradition parents waltz. The moment that each guest waited for arrived and Wilma Brown approached the podium to announce the awards. The 2012 Miss Debutante was Aleshia Miller, daughter of Al and Fran Miller and a student at...
Debutante Cotillion  
(Continued from Page 6)

Bowsher High School. Miller also placed first in the talent division with a mime dance presentation to the gospel song “Jesus” by Leandrea Johnson.

Miller explained the feeling as “A complete surprise! There was another girl who did a really good monologue, when she didn’t win second; I knew she would win first.” She also added that, “I worked really hard preparing for Cotillion over the past year. I was a Deb-in Waiting first and did a lot of work to get to this point. To see my hard work pay off was exciting and makes me very proud!”

First runner-up was Skylar Thompson of Toledo School for the Arts and second runner-up was Kia Franklin of Central Catholic High School. The other talent winners were: second place Kia Franklin and third place Key Anna Jordan of Notre Dame Academy. The University of Toledo President’s Community Scholarship Award that provides tuition funding for four years and room and board for the first year was awarded to Cherine Brunner of Whitmer High School and Jacqueline Ford of Start High School.

The Ms. Congeniality award was presented to Isabella Nelson of Notre Dame Academy who received a silver bracelet by Henry Triplett of Henry’s Jewelry who sponsored the piece. Mr. Escort 2012 was Timothy Woodson who escorted Kiarah Allen of Central Catholic High School received a monetary award for outstanding work as an escort.

After the club sisters of NANBPW INC. were presented the dance floor opened up and the sounds for the evening were provided by Dance Time-Unique Sounds. The event was immaculate and filled with class and elegance and is surely to remain the talk of the town until the next Debutante celebration arrives in 2013.
Residents of the Old West End Work with County to Target Vacant Homes for Demolition

Selected sites will be torn down using money from the national Attorney General robo-signing settlement.

Residents of the Old West End are worried about the safety risks posed by hundreds of vacant homes in their community. Last night they met with city leaders and presented David Mann, director of the Lucas County Land Bank, with a list of 150 vacant properties they want torn down.

Mann accepted the list and says he plans to work with the concerned residents to get many of the properties demolished saying, “neighborhoods like this, which have a plan, are the ideal neighborhoods to work with.” Homeowner Brenda Sawyer told the gathering she identified 100 vacant properties within a 15 block range on streets like Parkwood Avenue and Detroit Avenue. Several of those houses had significant fire damage as a result of arson. She fears for the safety of area seniors, youth and even her own family.

Mann told the group that 1800 burned out, tax delinquent, vacant houses have already been identified as needing to be torn down. The challenge now is to get down to roughly 850 houses to be demolished using the Attorneys General settlement funding. He said that a sizable chunk of the houses on the residents’ list would be prioritized first.

City Councilwoman Paula Hicks-Hudson also told the residents about potential legislation which will hold mortgage lenders more accountable for foreclosed vacant properties. She believes there is already enough support to pass the ordinance but encouraged the residents to voice their support to make sure it goes through.

As for residents’ concerns about neighborhood safety, Toledo Police Chief Derrick Diggs was invited to attend the meeting and address their concerns. Instead he sent a completely unprepared sergeant in his place with no information about the topic of the meeting. Residents of the Old West End plan to follow up with the chief to make sure he addresses their concerns for more visible police presence in their neighborhood.
The Basic Problem

Decades ago, white neighbor-
hoods across America
had gang activity, youth vio-
ence and rampant sale of il-
legal substances. Yet it didn’t
result in massive arrests, bal-
looning prison populations,
or ridiculous zero tolerance
stances. Many of the young
men during those times still
went on to lead fulfilling
lives. But what if police re-
fused to differentiate between
which white teens were in-
volved in criminal activity
and which ones weren’t?

Sure would be a lot fewer
white men who have had the
luxury of growing old as free
men regardless of how much
dirt they may have on their
hands.

Crime is not new. Urban
crime is not new. Illegal drug
use is not new.

Gang activity is not new.
These societal ills have
plagued many nations
throughout civilization’s his-
tory.

Don’t let them trick you
into thinking you are animals
or less than human.

Don’t let them trick you
into thinking that black
people are inherently danger-
ous.

Don’t believe the bull that
Toledo is somehow the most
violent place in America.

There is a concoction of
deliberate conditioning and
lack of will that has led to the
current climate on our streets.
Personal responsibility is
always the key component.

Any inner-city youths
dumb enough to carry guns
and become involved in
criminal activity are going to
have to face reality for deci-
sions they have made.

However, the justice sys-
tem takes other factors into
account when the people
charged with crimes aren’t
minorities in urban areas.

Stress. Personality disor-
ders. Environmental influ-
ences. Cognitive awareness
of one’s actions and so on. If
law enforcement is savvy
even to weigh in all of those
issues when some hillbilly
holes someone to pieces in
some obscure rural town, then
why doesn’t urban crime get
the same level of sophistica-
tion?

What makes a police of-
ficer so different from you
and me?

They show up to work
dressed for the job they have
just like you and I do.

They show up to work with
all the prejudices, pre-con-
ceived notions, fears and phe-
noes they have built up over
time just like you and I have.

After 20 years of slanted
news coverage, they may
have a negative view of
young, black youth just as
most of America does.

They have just as many
off days, lapses in judgment
and character flaws as any-
one they could ever arrest or
protect.

They are simply at work,
just like the rest of us.

The basic problem is, they
have the authority to imprison
and even kill human beings.

Even though they are not
super heroes and have no
keener judgment or access to
premonition than any of the
rest of us.

We all want the crime to
subside.

The amount of counselors, job
developers, teachers,
non-profit workers and clergy
members out there in the
streets doing their part to save
the youth far exceeds the
amount of cops even with
their new cabbie buddies in
rank.

But if the goal is to have
more eyes on the streets for
the police,
shouldn’t we first do a

better job at training those
eyes on how to spot what
truly is a criminal? Because
more eyes could just mean
more mistaken identities.

More eyes could simply
mean more prejudices hav-
ing dire consequences.

We don’t want to protect
criminals.

But we do want to protect
ourselves from them and
those who can’t tell the dif-
ference between them and us.

Who is “us”? “Us” refers to the multi-
tude of people... of all col-
ors... living in inner city ar-
 eas who are tax-paying con-
tributing members of this
community.

We are living next door to
the criminals, we see them on
our way to work.

I saw on line that there are
gun ranges now using silhou-
ettes of Trayvon Martin for
target practice. People lined
up with cash in hand to be the
first to take aim.

Before you go crazy with
police efforts to curb crime,
we really need you to make
the distinction of who is and
who isn’t a criminal.

Who are the violent ones,
really?

How much are our lives
worth to the people with the
power to end them, really.

More eyes and ears won’t
mean a damn thing without
first having a mind and a

The Sojourner’s Truth

Eyes & Ears for the Police?

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

They are saying that this
so-called partnership be-
tween Black & White Cab
and the Toledo Police De-
partment will be a way to
increase eyes and ears on the
streets, not just for crime but
for all emergency situations.

Meanwhile, last week, I
was downtown about four
blocks from Fifth Third Field
and I drove through three
straight intersections where
the traffic lights had stopped
working. Not just flashing, but
stopped working entirely and
in the middle of the after-
noon, during moderate traf-
fic.

This isn’t the first time
I’ve seen such a catastro-
phic waiting to happen, so I called
911 and reported which streets and all that. My point is, if TPD wants to use this
arrangement to basically say
they’ve just added hundreds
of additional patrol cars for
the purpose or reporting dan-
gerous situations... this too
could be a catastrophe wait-
ing to happen.

I’ve been in quite a few
stalls over the years and no
disrespect to the drivers earn-
ining a living working those
long hours, but I doubt that
all of them want to get cozy
with the cops.

Senator Brown Announces
Funding to the University
of Toledo

Funding will help technology-based
Business start-ups in NW Ohio

State Senator Edna Brown (D-Toledo) has announced the state Controlling Board
released $87,500 to
The University of Toledo to expand its incubation program, which is designed to
deliver training and outreach to technology-related entrepreneurial companies and
individuals.

“I am pleased that additional funding will be given to The University of Toledo to
increase their business outreach efforts in the community,” said Senator Brown. “These
business incubation centers help create exciting opportunities for business growth and
the creation of higher paying jobs in northwest Ohio.”

The additional Ohio Department of Development funding will allow the university to
expand its work with communities seeking to establish business incubation facilities and
to assist in the ongoing development of their incubation companies. This expansion will
increase the services provided to clients as they work to establish technology-based start-
ups in the region.

The Controlling Board provides legislative oversight over certain capital and operat-
ing expenditures by state agencies and has approval authority over various other state
fiscal activities.

Senators...
Ada’s Rules by Alice Randall

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

Nobody likes to be a loser but for once, you wish you were.

You’d like to lose the chub on your chin, the wiggle in your middle, take a few pounds of junk from your trunk, and that ain’t all. You know how much better you’d feel but it’s easy to make promises and hard to make weight.

In this case, losers always win. You just wish you could make promises and lose weight. You just wish you could make promises and lose weight.

Ada Howard wanted to lose weight, too, but being healthier was only one of the reasons why. In the novel, Ada’s Rules by Alice Randall, Ada’s got to lose her suspicions first.

Ada Howard was a daughter, mother, director at KiddPlay, the Preacher’s Wife and head bookkeeper for Nashville’s Full Love Baptist Tabernacle. Her hands were full and so was her head, so it was no sur-
prise that the pounds crept to her thighs and chest be-
fore she really noticed.

But what made her fi-
nally see herself was an
envelope that came in the mail. It was class reunion time and Matt Mason – her first real love – had written a personal note on her invita-
tion. It thrilled Ada to her toes just thinking of doing something with him that she hadn’t done before in the day. He’d wanted her then and she’d said no, but she wouldn’t let another chance pass by her.

Yes, Ada was Full Love’s First Lady, but that didn’t change the fact that her husband, Lucas – whom everybody called “Preach” and some ladies called “Lucious” – had been steppin’ out on Ada. She had no proof, but with his last-minute-meetings, emer-
gency calls, and disappear-
ing acts, Ada didn’t need it.

There was no way she’d meet up with Matt Mason carrying 220 pounds. She wasn’t about to put flab be-
tween her and her old love. She needed to lose weight, so Ada went on a diet.

It was easy to change things at the church’s daycare; kids love fruit any-
how. Her elderly parents ate whatever Ada cooked for them. Ada learned to exer-
cise and eat right, to trust her body and to look sharp. She was ready for the New Ada – but first, she needed to do a little housekeeping.

She needed to find out who her husband was cheat-
ing on her with... and follow me...

When I first started read-
ing “Ada’s Rules,” my first two thoughts were “Huh?” and “What?” The story’s introduction didn’t make any sense to me so – I’ll admit it – I skipped it.

Good thing I did. Once you get into the meat of this novel, Ada’s Rules is pretty good. Au-
ther Alice Randall gives her main character a sassy vul-
nerability that makes her feel like a good friend, like someone you’d want to ex-
ercise with. Sometimes, the story felt preachy to me, but the presence of such a strong, perfectly flawed character made it okay.

If you’re dieting, you’ll find sympathy here. If you’re already a skinny minnie, you know that books are fat-free so bite into a copy of Ada’s Rules. It’s a book you’ll lose your self in.
INTERESTED BIDDERS: Marshall Elementary School Phase 2 Site Work project

Sealed bids will be accepted by the Board of Education of the Toledo Public School District until 1:00 p.m. on June 6, 2012 at the Toledo Public Schools Treasurers’ Room 3, 420 E. Manhattan Blvd., Toledo, Ohio 43615, phone: (419) 385-5303. Drawings may be obtained on CD-ROM for no cost with the purchase of the specifications.

A PRE-BID CONFERENCE is scheduled for May 25, 2012 at 8:30 a.m. at the Marshall Elementary, located at 415 Colburn St. Toledo, OH 43604

To view full posting requirements and to apply please visit https://jobs.utoledo.edu. Online applications only. The application deadline is Wednesday, June 6, 2012 by 5pm. UT is an EEO, AA Employer and Educator.

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Contingent

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Qualified candidates must have excellent customer service and clerical skills. Computer experience is required. Previous experience in dealing with individuals with mental illness preferred.

Submit resume or apply to: Human Resources Director - SCS
Unison Behavioral Health Group, Inc.
1425 Starr
Toledo, OH 43605
Equal Opportunity Employer

Notice to Bidders: Inquiry # FY12-129, (Project # 0031-12-807) for Glass Bowl Alumni Pavilion 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, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 12, 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 419-385-5303 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of $75.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from William Beauregard of SSOE, Inc. at 419-295-3830. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesdays, June 5, 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 under section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 10%. Project Estimate: $825,000.00; Breakdown: General Const: $925,000.00.
20 North Gallery proudly presents “Tom & Friends: a Tribute to McGlauchlin’s Legacy in Glass”, the first major gallery exhibit of the work of studio glass pioneer Tom McGlauchlin, since his death in 2011. The exhibit will run from Saturday, June 9 – Saturday, July 14, 2012, as one of the Concurrent Glass Exhibitions held in conjunction with the Glass Arts Society (GAS) Conference commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Studio Glass Movement in Toledo. A public reception for the exhibit will be held Friday, June 15, 2012, from 6:30 – 10:30p.m., in conjunction with the GAS conference downtown Gallery Loop.

Tom McGlauchlin was one of the leading co-founders of the Studio Glass Movement, from its initial workshop at the Toledo Museum of Art in 1962 and continuing until his death in 2011. McGlauchlin began as a ceramic student of Harvey Littleton. He and Littleton became pioneers in creating what would become a major field of contemporary art, the Studio Glass Movement. In addition to his fine artwork, McGlauchlin also enjoyed a prolific teaching career. Tom McGlauchlin’s work is included in the permanent collections of numerous national and international institutions such as Corning Glass Museum, Corning, New York; The Smithsonian Collection, Washington, D.C.; Portland Art Museum, Portland, Oregon; Kunstmuseum, Dusseldorf, Germany; The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto, Japan, and the Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, Ohio.

The “Tom & Friends” exhibition will feature a retrospective of the work of the late Tom McGlauchlin with special emphasis on his previously un-exhibited, final flat glass pieces. Showcased in the exhibit are works representative of all of his major series throughout his lengthy career, including: McGlauchlin’s early studio blown glass work, pieces of the famed Dessin de Bulle series, prism blown glass, as well as his more recent blown glass and colored pencil abstract portrait heads, cast paper bas relief sculpture and flat panel glass. The exhibited works serve to demonstrate the importance of the human face and figure in the development of his artistic career.

McGlauchlin’s work will be lovingly surrounded by that of national and regional colleagues and friends—contributing glass and mixed media glass sculpture, as well as ceramic work by McGlauchlin’s initial collaborators in studio glass who have continued their artistic careers in other media. This is the first joint exhibition, since the movement’s earliest days, to showcase the artwork of all the initiators of that first Studio Glass Workshop in 1962.

The “Tom & Friends” exhibit is a comprehensive gathering of many legendary and iconic talents including: Herb Babcock, Clayton Bailey, Fritz Dreisbach, Edith Franklin, Henry Halem, Philip Hazard, Janet Kelman, Harvey Littleton, Shawn Messenger, Mark Peiser, Jack Schmidt, Norman Schulman, Robin Schultes & Patrick Dubreuil, Kelly Sheehan, John Stephenson and Meredith Wenzel, as well as privately-owned work by Dominick Labino. 20 North Gallery will be welcoming friends, the exhibiting artists and collectors at the free Public Reception on Friday, June 15th, from 6:30 – 10:30p.m., in conjunction with the GAS conference downtown Gallery Loop. Reception attendees can celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Studio Glass Movement—and the artistic accomplishments of McGlauchlin and his colleagues—with the opportunity to view and purchase works by the legendary artists of the genre.

To view a virtual tour and online exhibition catalogue of “Tom & Friends: A Tribute to McGlauchlin’s Legacy in Glass”: visit www.20northgallery.net (The website posting begins June 9, 2012.)