“I think my spirit, left from my mother, is just a spirit of helping. I’m about helping, engaging and doing what I can do. Not sitting back, but jumping in helping people. I like to be someone that can be called on, someone that can be relied upon.”
Listening Between the Lines
By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, D.Min.

The theses have changed - and so have I. I’m no longer just a candidate. I’m the President. - U.S. President Barack Obama, 2012 DNC speech

Are you better off than you were four years ago? It depends on which “you” you’re referencing.

The mantra coming out of Charlotte at last week’s Democratic National Convention was “We are absolutely better off than we were when President Obama took office and over 750,000 jobs were being lost per month.”

However, for most African Americans, with unemployment at 14.1 percent compared to the overall U.S. rate of 8.1 percent, it has been a matter of going from abominable to atrocious or dreadful to godawful. Besides joblessness, nothing else has changed much either in the community’s sorry state of affairs.

The crime and violence are still there. The poverty, disparities and despair also remain. The devastation of inter-city neighborhoods, evidenced by vacant lots, boarded up houses and abandoned factories and industrial buildings, continues to paint a symbolic but real picture of an era which passed away some time ago but is yet to be buried.

Yet what has changed for the black community is that the white hot expectation of change created by Obama’s 2008 presidential campaign has almost completely cooled, having been tempered by the hard realities of the prolonged economic crisis and the politics of obstruction practiced by a Congress determined to perpetuate the status quo.

The president recounted his message for the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, N.C. to account for the nation’s economic dysfunction. But, will his new tagline shift from hope to faith resonate with black voters or will they feel that for them, hope has again died unborn?

While many in the traditionally social-conservative black community disagree with the POTUS over issues such as gay marriage or women’s pro-choice rights, it is clear that African Americans will support a Romney/Ryan ticket or settle for becoming merely “one-issue voters.” It remains to be seen whether black voter turnout will reach recent presidential election year levels.

What I did observe from the president’s 2012 nomination acceptance speech was not the death of hope or expectancy of change but its growth and maturation.

While the president may not have been talking about the black community specifically in Charlotte, he was talking to them indirectly. Using the same words he was able to convey an audience-specific message which seemed to vary according to the listener.

Here is my own read-between-the-lines interpretation of a few of the messages sent to the community’s way.

Obama: “Michelle, I love you. The other night, I think the entire country saw just how lucky I am. Malia and Sasha, you make me so proud...”

Translation: The sanctity of the black family is now back in vogue.

Obama: “I’ve met workers in Detroit and Toledo who feared they’d never build another American car. Today, they can’t build them fast enough, because we reinvented a dying auto industry that’s back on top of the world.”

Translation: Racism is probably here to stay. But rather than becoming fixated on the obvious, the community must adapt its thinking to present realities. In order to get things accomplished, this might require redefining our activism and moving beyond the politics of protest or minority grievances and developing new multiracial strategies to transform our own schools, revitalize our inner-city neighborhoods and making our own community new and better.

Obama: “We don’t want bailouts for banks that break the rules.”

Translation: No more free money without responsibility and accountability.

Obama: “But when all is said and done... you will face the clearest choice of any time in a generation. On every issue, the choice you face won’t be just between two candidates or two parties. It will be a choice between two different paths for America. A choice between two fundamentally different visions for the future.”

Translation: The quality of followers is the main determinant of the quality and quantity of leadership results.

Obama: “America, I never said this journey would be easy, and I won’t promise that now. Yes, our path is harder - but it leads to a better place. Yes our road is longer - but we travel it together. We don’t turn back. We leave no one behind.”

Translation: The community should not allow the president’s policies to go unquestioned or protest political issues without critically thinking through viable alternatives, while clearly understanding that change is a protracted - rather than a quick-fix - process.

Which is also suggest that the community must depend less on Obama to represent us and more on grassroots participation in bettering our own condition. This does not mean that hope is dead, but that it has grown and matured. It also suggests that an old era has come to an end while pointing to the positive possibilities presented by a new one.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, D.Min. at dperryman@centerofhobaptist.org

The Sojourner’s Truth

Community Calendar

September 13
Robinson Elementary School Parent Power Hour: 8:30 to 9:30 am; Meet the community partners and student families: 419-671-4200

September 14
The Friendly Center Community Talent Show: 6 pm; Youth between ages 6 – 20 – dance, voice and poetry: 419-243-1289

September 16
Mt. Zion Church Praise @ Scott Park: 10:30 am to 3 pm; Musical concert, picnic, games, crafts: 419-389-3953

Toledo Bikers for Babies: 11 am; 60 mile ride along the Maumee: 567-298-4819

Beulah Baptist Women’s Day: 11 am service featuring speaker Min. Desiree Rayford; 4 pm service featuring speaker Bishop Marjorie Holt

Roses of Calvary Flower Ministries Anniversary: 4 pm Guest speaker Rev. Charles McBee of Family Baptist

St. Paul MBC Annual Women’s Day Program: 10:45 am; “Christian Women Living in the Moment;” Guest speaker Linda M kullagato from Detroit

Southern Ministry of The Christian Community Church Gospel Musical: 6 pm; 419-535-0933

September 18
Candidates’ Forum: Sponsored by the League of Women Voters and the American Association of University Women; Scott Park Campus of UT; 7 to 9 pm: 419-787-8258

September 18-20
Calvary MBC Fall Revival: 7 pm nightly; Tuesday – Elder John Hobbs of St. John COGIC; Wednesday – Bishop William James of The Armour Church; Thursday – Rev. Cedric Brock of Mt. Nebo

September 20
UT Africana Studies Brown-Bag Lecture Series: Noon; “Bringing Light in Ohio 2012: ‘Coon’ Davis Finds His Place at a True the Vote ‘Voter Integrity’ Meeting;” Prof. Ben Davis; Student Union Rm 3106

September 21
Northside Family Reunion: 5:30 to 11:30 pm; Sullivan Center Gesu Parish: 419-464-2277, 419-205-1735 or 419-535-9567

The Sojourner’s Truth

Toledo’s Truthful African-American Owned and Operated Newspaper

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Becky McQueen – Business Manager
Artisha Lawson – Reporter
Candice Harrison – Reporter
Rev. D.L. Perryman – Columnist
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The upcoming presidential election will be one of the most closely watched events in our nation’s history. You probably know that Ohio will play a key role in how this election plays out.

There are powerful people trying to discourage you from being part of this process. If you care about your community, voting in this election is not just a right, it’s a responsibility, and it all starts with being registered to vote.

The registration deadline is October 9. This gives you less than one month. It’s time to get to work.

Am I an Eligible Voter?
The answer is probably yes!
Voter eligibility requirements are simple. If you’re a U.S. citizen over 18, you’ve lived in Ohio for six months, and you are not currently incarcerated for a felony, you are eligible to vote with very few exceptions.

Let me repeat that. You only lose your right to vote when you are in jail on a FELONY conviction. Once you are released from prison, you get your voting rights back. All you have to do is re-register. If you’ve served or are serving time for a misdemeanor, you do not lose your voting rights at all.

How do I Register?
The registration process is as simple as filling out a form. You can get this form in many places throughout the community, including your local library, BMV office or public high school. You can also download and print from the Secretary of State’s website or visit your local Board of Elections office and fill out the form in person.

The form asks for basic information and also ID in the form of a driver’s license number or the last four digits of your Social Security number.

DO NOT GIVE UP if you don’t have this information. Simply enclose a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck/government check or any other government document showing your name and current address. These are perfectly valid forms of ID and will be accepted.

Wherever you get your registration form, mail it to your local board of elections. Better yet, hand-deliver it; the address for the Lucas County Board of Elections is: One Government Center, Suite 300 Toledo, OH 43604.

Remember, if you mail your registration form it must be postmarked by Tuesday, October 9.

What if I’m Already Registered?
It’s always a good idea to check the status of your registration. In order to vote without problems, your information must be current. This often creates problems for people who move or change their name in between elections.

If you’re unsure whether your information is updated, or whether you are still officially registered to vote, call your local board of elections or visit www.sos.state.oh.us (Ohio Secretary of State Website) the phone number for the Lucas County Board of Elections is: (419) 213-4001.

If you need to update your registration, the process is easy. Simply fill out and submit a new form, just like you did the first time you registered. It’s the same form; you just need to fill it out with your new information. Or, if you prefer, you can update your registration online through the Secretary of State’s website.

Some of you, like the former residents of the Brand Whitlock Housing Complex, may still be registered to vote at an address that no longer exists. If you find yourself in this position it’s vitally important that you update your registration and make your voice heard in this election.

It’s also important for all registered voters to double check the location of their polling place. Sometimes polling places change even if your address does not. You can get this information easily by calling your local board of elections, or through the Secretary of State’s website.

Registering to vote is the first step on the way to making your voice heard during this election. Your community is here to help you.

Get Help
If you still have questions about the voting process or need help registering to vote, consider attending the upcoming Toledo Votes Rally in City Park on September 22 from 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. The event will feature food, music, and experts who can answer your questions and help you get registered.

Next week, we’ll discuss the many ways you can choose to cast your ballot in the upcoming election, including the use of an absentee and early voting, which allows you to cast your vote well before Election Day arrives.
Michael Alexander admits he’s a very busy guy, a guy who prefers to quietly go about his community work with some anonymity. Nevertheless, on Friday, October 5, 2012 Michael Alexander - along with five others - will be honored by The African American Legacy Project as an AALP 2012 Emerging Leader.

Alexander was appointed by UAW Local 12 President Bruce Baumhower and then-UAW Regional Director Lloyd Mahaffey to be the UAW Labor Liaison for the United Way of Greater Toledo. In this capacity, Alexander assists with all the UAW accounts for the United Way and he and his labor partner, Laura Harrison, assist all the labor accounts. They assist United Way in fundraising, but also work with labor organizations within the community to shore up education, income and health related issues for the organizations. If that weren’t enough, Alexander is also the second vice president of the Toledo Chapter of the NAACP, vice president of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, serves on the City of Toledo’s Board of Community Relations and the Salvation Army’s Advisory Board, is a deacon at Southern Missionary Baptist Church and a participant in the Black Men in Union Conference sponsored by the University of Michigan Labor Studies Program.

Alexander - an alumnus of Scott High School – is deeply rooted in the African-American community. During a recent interview with The African American Legacy Project a simple question was posed to Alexander, if someone would ask, who is Michael Alexander, how would you answer?

He responded, “If someone would ask… I am a person concerned and connected – my heart is connected - to the African-American community first and foremost and … to God. If you ask what I am … I think my spirit, left from my mother, is just a spirit of helping. I’m about helping, engaging and doing what I can do. Not sitting back, but jumping in helping people. I like to be someone that can be called on, someone that can be relied upon.”

With humble, but important beginnings, Alexander credits his parents for his success. He speaks with pride regarding the life lessons taught to him and his seven sisters and two brothers by his parents. Alexander reflects, “My dad taught me how to put in a hard day’s work and my mother. I think, I picked up her sensitive side of caring.”

He shared those same lessons with his children. He and his wife Carolyn will become grandparents again and will shortly have a total of six grandchildren.

One of Alexander’s personal goals is and remains the opportunity to interact with young African-American males. He strongly be-

(Continued on Page 5)
African Art Has Arrived!!

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

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

See more art online at www.thetruthtoledo.com
Gabriella Olivio may be just a high school freshman but the 13-year-old already knows what she wants to do for a living.

“I want to be a doctor,” she said. “I like helping people and being able to know that I’ll be able to help them if they’re hurt or injured.”

Olivio’s dreams of becoming a doctor are common among many teenagers. However, most would have to wait until they started college before they could really learn about what it takes to become a physician. Luckily for Olivio she does not have to wait that long.

She is part of a new program called STEMM (science, technology, engineering, math and medicine), which debuted last month at Toledo Early College High School. The program prepares incoming freshmen for careers in the healthcare industry by immersing them in a rigorous four-year exploration of various medical fields. Medical related courses, seminars, internships and job shadowing opportunities are all part of the program, which was created due to demand from students.

“We’ve always had students interested in medicine and healthcare occupations,” said Robin Wheatley, Ph.D., principal of Toledo Early College High School. “Now we’re trying to pull them all in and make sure they’re getting the guidance and information about careers they need to make sure good, sound decisions.”

One of the program’s goals is to make students aware that even if they are not experts in math or science that does not disqualify them from a career in the healthcare industry.

“I think it’s important that we provide our students with information that allows them to make informed decisions,” said Wheatley. “A lot of students will assume that everything involving math and science is difficult or highly technical and a lot of times that simply isn’t true.”

One of those students who has occasionally struggled with math is Yasmina Ahmad, a 14-year-old freshman enrolled in the STEMM program.

She believes the way she was taught math as a child might be the reason for her lack of complete comprehension today.

“Math is something I’ve always had trouble with,” she said. “It’s the way it was presented to me when I was younger; it made it harder for me to learn it.”

However, despite past struggles, Ahmad is more optimistic about overcoming her problem these days.

“At this school I feel math is easier,” she said. “I think I’ll eventually learn to like it.”

The STEMM program is part of a new collaboration between Toledo Public Schools and ProMedica, which donated $110,000 to help the new venture get started. Nearly 30 people, which included staff members from Toledo Early College High School, ProMedica and the University of Toledo’s Medical College, helped design the STEMM program, which some see as a way to address a growing concern among those in the medical field: the U.S. is not producing enough healthcare professionals to keep up with the current and future needs of the profession.

“There’s a shortage of various healthcare providers,” said Gaye Martin, who is charge of community advocacy for ProMedica. “Even though nursing has gotten better, there are still shortages in some areas. Also, there are other professions in healthcare that a lot of hospitals have trouble recruiting for.”

One of the main areas where healthcare is experiencing a decline is in the number of physicians across the country. The American Academy of Family Physicians estimates that the nation will be short 39,000 primary-care doctors by 2020. The reasons for this shortage and shortages in other healthcare professions are numerous.

Many medical school graduates do not want to go to small or rural areas and open up a private practice, which often leaves those communities shorthanded. Some prefer a warmer climate and avoid areas where the temperature dips below the 60s in the winter. Then there is the long wait. Unlike their college friends, most medical school students will not have a full-time job until they are at least 30-years-old.

For some, the long wait for their first job and the debt that comes along with it are too much.

“It’s increasingly difficult to get people interested in going into medicine and becoming a physician,” said Dr. David James, the chief quality and integration officer for ProMedica. “It’s a very long haul and it takes a lot of education. In the meantime, you’re accumulating a massive amount of student loan debt. That’s a lot of delayed gratification.”

Dr. James admits that Toledo and some surrounding areas are starting to feel the effects of both the physician and nursing shortage. He is optimistic that the STEMM program can help alleviate some of those concerns in the future, but he realizes it will not be easy.

“Toldeo is a great town, but when you’re competing with all the other metropolitan areas in the country and a kid can go anywhere, it’s easier to have some of our own brain power stay here,” he said. “It’s a tough recruitment when someone has no connection to this area.”

Officials at Toledo Early College High School say the STEMM program will be honest with students about how long and hard the road to working in the healthcare industry can be. Thus, topics such as the potential debt, the time it takes to become a physician and the job opportunities available will be emphasized. That way students understand what they are getting into may take longer than they originally thought.

However, the program also wants to emphasize that there is more to the medical profession than being a physician or nurse. There are numerous careers in healthcare that do not involve seeing patients or drawing blood, which is something that appealed to Tiana Cole.

“I’ve been wanting to be a pharmacist since the sixth grade,” said Cole, a 14-year-old freshman who is also enrolled in the STEMM program.

“Since I was already interested in the medical field, I felt that it (the STEMM program) could help me explore it more. Not everything about the STEMM program has been finalized yet. Adjustments are still being made regarding certain aspects of the curriculum and it has not been decided how the $100,000 will be spent yet. Still, even though the program has only been in existence for a short time, Wheatley is excited about the effect it will have on her students.

“A lot of these careers appear to be glamorized,” she said. “Once the students really get into doing the job shadowing and learning about the specific programs, they’ll realize it’s not all glamour. It’s guts and gory, not guts and glory.”
United Way Announces Goal of $13.8 Million

Special to The Truth

This week, United Way of Greater Toledo kicked off the 2012 campaign with an inspiring appearance from national education innovator and advocate, Geoffrey Canada, and by announcing a community goal to raise $13.8 million.

At this morning’s kick-off, presented by Marshall & Melhorn, LLC with business sponsors Health Care REIT, Hollywood Casino and ProMedica, Canada addressed a room of approximately 600 people about the importance of community involvement in the success of our kids.

Canada is founder and CEO of the Harlem Children’s Zone, where he developed a program from birth to career, recognizing the importance of community involvement, services, early childhood education, after-school programming, and parent involvement in the comprehensive support of a child.

“Mr. Canada’s address could not have been timelier for this community,” said Randy Oostra, president & CEO of ProMedica and chair of United Way of Greater Toledo’s 2012 campaign. “His message of school-community partnerships speaks directly to much of the work United Way is doing to build strategies around education, income, and health that support our ultimate goal of helping graduate more kids in our community.”

After Canada’s address, Oostra, along with United Way’s interim president & CEO, Jane Moore, announced a community fundraising goal of $13.8 million.

“I want people to be aware of the great initiatives and programs United Way is investing in every day to help make better tomorrows a reality for our kids and families,” Oostra said. “This is not the United Way of 10 years ago. This is a new United Way focusing resources on very targeted strategies and outcomes.”

“I also want people to know this vital work requires significant support. $13.8 million is something we are humbly asking this community for in an effort to maintain and build upon the progress already being made,” Oostra continued.

Moore added comments about the collective scope of United Way’s work.

“I have spent nearly my entire career at United Way of Greater Toledo because I passionately believe this organization has the unique ability to bring together the right people to make the right changes,” she said. “No other organization has quite the ability United Way does to look at the big picture, bring together the right people and partners, and create the collective impact our community needs.”

“I also believe we are more open than ever, listening to the community and figuring out how to bring the right resources to the table to address needs.”

One huge way our community is coming forward is by volunteering for our Week of Caring in conjunction with the campaign kick-off. Typically one Day of Caring, this is the second year of coordinating an entire week and the results have been tremendous.

“During this year’s Week of Caring, more than 1,500 people from 42 companies will volunteer 5,600 hours helping nonprofits across our community,” Moore continued.

The Week of Caring helps emphasize United Way’s move from not just asking people to give financially, but asking our community to LIVE UNITED by giving, advocating, and volunteering.

“Lending your time and voice to the cause can be as just as important as giving financially,” Oostra continued. “Giving, advocating, and volunteering are all essential to continue moving the needle. However, financial support is absolutely necessary to sustain and grow the substantial progress already being made by United Way and its partners.”

To help drive giving, many local companies or groups have stepped forward this year.

Leadership Matching Challenge Grant: Presenting sponsors ProMedica and the United Way Board of Trustees will match new gifts made at, or increased to, the leadership level ($1,000 or more) or match the increase amount of existing leadership level gifts dollar-for-dollar up to $100,000.

Income Matching Challenge Grant: Presenting sponsors ProMedica and the United Way Board of Trustees will match new gifts made at, or increased to, the leadership level ($1,000 or more) or match the increase amount of existing leadership level gifts dollar-for-dollar up to $100,000.

Education Matching Challenge Grant: Presenting sponsor Medical Mutual of Ohio and business sponsors The Blade and BP-Husky Refining, LLC, will match designations of $100 or more to United Way’s education focus area dollar-for-dollar up to $50,000.

The Andersons, Inc., Consultants in Laboratory Medicine, Fifth Third Bank, Health Care REIT, Inc. and Owens-Illinois are sponsoring the 2012 United Way Fellow Program (formerly Loaned Executive Program), allowing United Way to temporarily expand staffing capabilities for the duration of the campaign.

Contributions to the 2012 United Way campaign can be made securely online at unitedwaytoledo.org, by calling 419-248-2424, or by pledging at your workplace.
SAVE OUR LIBRARY Levy Kick-Off – ISSUE 23

By Rhonda B. Sewell, Library Media Relations Coordinator

It’s official!!! The Toledo-Lucas County Public Library kicked off its levy campaign last week (September 6) with a rally attended by some 200 staffers and supporters at Fifth Third Field, 406 Washington St. in downtown Toledo. The system received its issue number recently, which will be ISSUE 23 on the ballot this November.

Community volunteer Margarita De Leon, a consultant for The Kaleidoscope Group, enthusiastically served as the levy rally’s Mistress of Ceremonies, joined by Library Director Clyde Scoles.

During the rally, Scoles emphasized the importance of passage of ISSUE 23, the 2.9 mill operating levy the Library will place on the November 6 ballot.

“This operating levy represents nearly 50 percent of our operating budget and must pass in November in order for our entire system to sustain what we’ve all come to expect and cherish and enjoy . . . we have been good stewards in the past and you can count on us to use these critical funds to the best of our ability and in the interest of every Lucas County resident,” he said.

The Library’s 2.9 mill operating levy will replace an existing 2 mill levy that expires at the end of this year. The .9 increase (9/10s of a mill) will replace what users lost due to budget cuts of the past and would cost the owner of a $100,000 home less than 8 cents per day.

Lucas County Commissioner Pete Gerken spoke at today’s rally and urged the audience to spread the word about ISSUE 23. He was joined by speakers Dennis Johnson, Library Board President, and Levy Chairperson, and also Levy Honorary Chairs John and Jeanie Hayward. John Hayward holds emeritus status on the board of the Library Legacy Foundation.

During the rally, Library donors, including the Friends of the Library (FOL), Library Legacy Foundation (LLF), the Association of Library Employees (APLE), and Communication Workers of America (CWA), pledged a joint check of $245,500 for the ISSUE 23 levy campaign.

Nearly 50 percent of the Library’s funding is at stake on November 6.

NOTE: For additional information visit toledolibrary.org, or call 419.259.5200
Second Annual Dads and Kids Kamp Out

Sojourner’s Truth Staff

R.E.S.T.O.R.E., Inc’s third annual Dads and Kids Kamp Out drew about 100 dads and kids to Camp Miakonda this past weekend for several days of old fashioned fun, food, games, contests, giveaways and quality time with dad.

This year’s Kamp Out started at 6 p.m. on Friday and continued until noon on Sunday. For a nominal registration fee, attendees were treated to meals, snack and a variety of activities.

R.E.S.T.O.R.E., Inc was founded in 2006 by Mark Robinson, director of Field Education at Lourdes University’s Department of Social Work. R.E.S.T.O.R.E. provides referrals and links to community resources that help fathers meet the needs of their families as well as staff development training while raising community awareness of the important role fathers play in the lives of their children.
Hoop Star’s Homecoming Combined Books with Basketball

Special to The Truth

Toledo native and retired NBA champion Dennis Hopson served as both guest and host at 10 a.m. this past Saturday, September 8 in the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library’s Wintergarden at Main Library, 325 Michigan St., where he gave away prizes and read stories to children on behalf of an ongoing literacy campaign.

Currently serving as assistant coach of the Bowling Green State University men’s basketball team, Hopson is the latest local celebrity to support Books 4 Buddies in its efforts to promote reading among youth, especially boys.

“It’s a great message to send to kids and teenagers that you will always need skills like reading, no matter what profession or goal you choose,” Hopson said. “I work with talented athletes every day, who couldn’t meet the academic requirements of college basketball if they weren’t competent in literacy.”

A Bowsher High School graduate, Hopson went on to Ohio State University where he became the all-time leading scorer, a title that he still holds today. During the 1990-91 NBA season, he won an NBA title ring, playing alongside the legendary Michael Jordan.

Joining Hopson at the September 8 event, where free books were given to children, were the mascots for his current team, Freddy and Frieda Falcon. Among prizes was a basketball signed by Bowling Green Falcons players. The event was free and open to the public.

Books 4 Buddies has collected more than 5,000 donations, with support from Toledo-Lucas County Public Library, Cedar Creek Church, The Blade, WTVG 13abc, and Buckeye CableSystem, among other partners.
President’s Community Address to Showcase How UT Is Rising

When President Lloyd Jacobs, MD, takes the stage in Henry J. Doermann Theater at 11 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 13, his primary goal during his sixth annual address will be to lift up the community by demonstrating that The University of Toledo is an institution rising.

“This is an invigorating time on The University of Toledo campuses,” Dr. Jacobs said. “We have a new influx of students and the chill of fall beginning to enter the air. This is the perfect time to reflect upon our strengths and look at how they will propel our success this year and far beyond.

“Like any organization, we experience our share of challenges at UT,” Dr. Jacobs said. “However, despite those challenges, we continue to emerge as a leader in research, economic development, athletics, the arts, the social sciences and numerous other areas. It is imperative that we take a moment to refocus our attention on these successes, as they are the foundation for our future.”

The entire Toledo area community is urged to attend the forum, “The University of Toledo: A University Rising.”

“This discussion will help to paint a picture of what the future looks like, with our University solidifying its role as a model for higher education and living our mission of improving the human condition,” Dr. Jacobs said.
Charly’s Epic Fiascos by Kelli London  
c.2012, Dafina $9.95 / $10.95 Canada 288 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

“No” is a foreign word. It’s something you simply cannot understand. It just doesn’t compute. Not in your vocabulary. When you want something – whether it’s a boy, a job, a grade, a pet, or a new gadget you must have – ain’t nobody better say that word to you because you don’t get it. It. Just. Doesn’t. Make. Sense.

And you’re not alone: Charly St. James has never met a “No,” she likes, either, but in the new book Charly’s Epic Fiascos by Kelli London, ignoring that negative word may take her places she really doesn’t want to go.

It was a good thing Mason couldn’t read minds.

He was one fine boy. She wanted him to be her boyfriend, but Charly St. James had been lying to Mason about nearly everything; she was from the South Side of Chicago, not New York. She didn’t just visit her father in Brooklyn; she hadn’t seen him since she was five. And she didn’t have all kinds of money like Mason thought she did. No. Charly worked at a restaurant called Smak’s BBQ and she was hiding her cash so she could buy a phone.

That was because Charly’s mom, Brigette (pronounced the French way: Bri-jeet), had been laid off from her job so she laid claim to every cent Charly made and every nice thing Charly owned. To say Brigette was nasty was being nice.

But the afternoon that Brigette stole Charly’s bankroll and lost it at the casino, Charly had enough. She packed her belongings in Brigette’s best luggage and left town on the first ‘Hound she found.

New York City was where Charly was headed. Her father lived there – somewhere. Her aunt did, too, and Charly was sure her father was from the South Side of Chicago, not New York. She’d have been happy to find her father in Brooklyn, but when she never did, she decided the only man she could ever love was one fine boy named James. And you’re not alone: Charly St. James has never met a “No,” she likes, either, but in the new book Charly’s Epic Fiascos by Kelli London, ignoring that negative word may take her places she really doesn’t want to go.

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That was because Charly’s mom, Brigette (pronounced the French way: Bri-jeet), had been laid off from her job so she laid claim to every cent Charly made and every nice thing Charly owned. To say Brigette was nasty was being nice.

But the afternoon that Brigette stole Charly’s bankroll and lost it at the casino, Charly had enough. She packed her belongings in Brigette’s best luggage and left town on the first ‘Hound she found.

New York City was where Charly was headed. Her father lived there – somewhere. Her aunt did, too, and Charly was sure her father was from the South Side of Chicago, not New York. She’d have been happy to find her father in Brooklyn, but when she never did, she decided the only man she could ever love was one fine boy named James.

On the other hand, Charly’s Epic Fiascos makes running away seem like a big event. Is that good? I think that depends on to whom you’re giving this book. For 13-to-17-year-olds who can see the story as a story, I think it’s a really fun read. But for teens who struggle to recognize fiction, Charly’s Epic Fiascos is a NO go.
What is a conspiracy? What is truth? Would you demand the truth if you could prove that CNN lied to you? Would you protest? Would you do so much as send an angry email? You’ve got messages coming at you from every which way all day every day. Do you ever stop to fact check? Do you listen simply to reply, or do you actively listen to what you are being told? Do you weigh it and measure it against common sense and logic? I think our culture has deeper divisions than race, class and politics. Our most immediate separation is between the intentionally aware and the intentionally ignorant. But if some are unaware and others are enlightened then who is fit to teach?

If we can’t trust our official news outlets to give us facts, does that automatically mean that every source we find on our own is credible? I would write another article telling you what I think, but I would rather encourage you all to do some thinking for yourselves. Like the old saying goes; “Give a man a fish…” etc.

But before we can deal with 9/11 truth, or government cover ups, and the ridiculous notion that conspiracies are silly and nightly news is honest, we first have to determine your interest. That’s right. Before breaking anything down, you have got to ask yourself; “Do I even give a damn?” The same way some women can sleep every night laying next to a cheating husband, there are people who have decided to simply accept the lies and BS just because they don’t care enough to challenge it. You kinda know what’s going on but you’ve got your bills, your kids, your immediate comforts and security to worry about so why rock the boat? I’m not saying fight every fight or raise a fist for every single cause, but isn’t it silly to be called the ‘home of the brave’ when we are obviously terrified of losing our comfort zone?

Bush wins the presidency in 2000 even though dozens of independent recounts say Florida went to Gore. Then video surfaces of George Bush sitting next to the governor of Florida (who happened to be his brother Jeb Bush) months earlier going on record confirming that his campaign will win that state. That would be enough for a full-fledged riot in some countries, but not ours.

Sending our soldiers to a pointless war in Iraq when there were no weapons of mass destruction or involvement in 9/11 to be found, other countries would have forcibly removed the Bush regime from office…but not ours. You have seen the address the Sept 11, 2001 hoax in this paper nearly every year but if you don’t believe me you should listen to an expert.

Who is an expert? ANY EXPERT, pick one! Pilots For 9/11 Truth is an organization full of military and commercial aviation professionals with enough years and experience to be taken seriously. They say the official story of how the planes were flown and crashed on Sept 11 defy simple laws of flight physics.

Engineers & Architects for 9/11 Truth is an organization of respected professionals with decades of experience in building and construction. They use logic, science and historical record to prove that even though skyscrapers have been hit by airplanes before not one has ever collapsed.

Demolition experts explain in detail how World Trade Center 1 and 2 had to have been purposely razed with pre-planted explosives. I could go on and on, but these aren’t my views. This is not some random Internet goofballs who can offer details. These are hard core facts offered by professionals who you can look up for yourself. Even if they weren’t professionals risking their livelihoods to debunk the lies and they were just Internet geeks who can make a scientifically compelling argument. There’s still enough questions unanswered that the mainstream media should be conducting investigations before any late night blogger even gets the chance.

But even if they did… even if CNN aired Loose Change uncut and un-edited, then what? What are you going to do about the lies you live in? Not the ridiculous and absurd lies like “Obama is a Kenyan born, Muslim socialista.” I mean the lies that affect you and your freedoms. Lies that run deep in our government for decades told by a few hell bent on retaining power and resisting change and transparency.

If all the truth you could handle was told to you today, what would you do with it? I hope you research some of what I’ve mentioned here in this article.

I hope you get meaningful information and can discern when to listen and when to bypass. I believe Public Enemy said it best y’all; “Don’t Believe The Hype.”

The war in Iraq was real. Real deployment, real deaths, real occupation for a really long time…but for what real reasons?

Seven months before the World Trade Center incident, George W. Bush’s Secretary of State, Colin Powell was asked a simple question about the air strikes already being carried out in Iraq… this is part of his answer in regards to Saddam Hussein:

“He has not developed any significant capability with respect to weapons of mass destruction. He is unable to project conventional power against his neighbors” — February 2001.

Other military experts and government officials reached similar conclusions. But we all know how quickly that tune changed after 9/11.

With eleven years of evidence now circulating, I’m sure anyone reading this paper is smart enough to know the official story behind 9/11 is complete and total bull.

But somehow, we seem to readily accept that we went and invaded a country that by all accounts had zero involvement in the so called attacks. Even if there’s a person living in a cave somewhere that still believes the official story, none of it has anything to do with Iraq. None of the alleged “hi-jackers” were from Iraq.

The Bin Laden family is from Saudi Arabia, not Iraq. The Taliban/Al Queda was known to avoid Iraq. So when we welcome these soldiers back from fighting so called “insurgents”, as glad as we are to have them home shouldn’t we still be examining why they were there in the first place?
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The City of Toledo, Department of Public Utilities, is seeking qualified candidates for the position of Electrician. The minimum requirements for this position are: High school graduation or equivalent and possession of a journeyman’s card in the electrical trade or possession of a City of Toledo Journeyman Electrician’s License. Experience in industrial panel wiring and installation, motor controls, and troubleshooting electric machinery preferred. Starting salary $33,895/yr. To obtain an application, email your request to: toledo.humanresources@toledo.oh.gov or pick up an application in person at the Department of Human Resources, One Government Center, Suite 1920, Toledo, OH. The City of Toledo is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Minorities, females and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

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This past Saturday, canvassers came out to hear from Toledo native and Democratic National Convention speaker Kenyetta Jones and Lucas County Democratic Party Executive Director Yvonne Harper who recently returned from the convention. Before volunteers made their way out to canvas, they listened to a brief but moving speech from Jones and encouraging words from Harper about how important it is to re-elect the president.