Monday, Jan 21, 2013 - A Day On Not a Day Off

“If the cruelties of slavery could not stop us, the opposition we now face will surely fail. Because the goal of America is freedom, abused and scorned though we may be, our destiny is tied up with America’s destiny.”
I cannot tell you how many times over the past years that I have seen regrettable instances of a black congregation having a falling out with its membership or over its own internal rules or bylaws or with the pastor and when they reach an impasse...BAM! They are off and running to Caesar. Note: such an incident happened recently in our local courts.

For those who do not know what “Caesar” is, Caesar is the word we use for the world’s judicial or court system. For the life of me, and I am scratching my head on this one, why is that when we run into a disagreement or a conflict within the black church and we cannot resolve it by the grace at our disposal, we run downtown to the court house and file some nonsensical complaint against the offending party or the pastor or the frazzled committee? I mean look at this mixed-up scenario. People form a church and they hopefully form it with the permission of God and, as such, they claim to have the presence and wisdom and power of the Holy Spirit to lead and guide them into all truth. They attend corporate services and pray and hear sermons and shake each other’s hand in fellowship and are told that they are forgiven sinners and they, in turn, should forgive others and also to make prayerful decisions regarding any internal disputes.

Yet, how many times when a church dispute reaches 170 decimals in volume, that someone or some church group gets the bright idea that they will take their “dirty” laundry and go to the world’s court system and ask Caesar for his answer? Now, mind you, the church has the mind of Christ and has the power and ability to judge among its own members and one day they will even judge the angels but somehow it cannot resolve a simple dispute as who took the offering monies or who should or should not be in a certain position or who should be or not be the chairman of the deacon board.

What shame the church brings to itself and to the name of Christ when it cannot muster enough common sense, wisdom and discernment to tell the difference between a head of green lettuce and a purple eggplant! How said it is when churches begin to form cliques and wage warfare against each other but still try to maintain a facade of being in love with Jesus and with each other but yet they draw out the spiritual knives by running to Caesar and ask for its admonishments.

If that be the case, why then simply turn all decisions and management decisions over to the Caesars of the world and quit playing church?

Why in the world would a bickering church rather seek out the worldly wisdom of a fallen world system than rely upon the scriptures as to the provided prescriptions of making broken things whole or even how to address a reprobate in its midst? If the squabbling church or church members cannot even submit to the reign and rule of scripture as to figuring out its own disputes, what do you think or why do you think the “world” system has a better answer than godly wisdom?

If there ever was a situation by which we can say that the world’s values and beliefs have invaded and gripped the church, it is when wimpy churches or their members cry out for the world to solve its problems! Not a good witness to the world that the church is better equipped to solve disputes or to heal ruptured relationships. So, it seemingly would rather go to court and yell and rant and rave and demand its “rights” than to submit and accept a perceived wrong or suffer a loss of title or lose a few dollars.

It appears that it is more important to be right than righteous and not let anyone “get over on you.”

What does such carnality say about the spiritual growth of a church body when their motive or goal is either vengeance or the soothing of their injured pride when they are, “done wrong”?

It says that the battling church or “offended” church members are still carnal and have not yet walked in the basic 101 principles of the Book of Ephesians (read it and thus learn from it).

A carnal church is a vided church that is unable or unwilling to say, “I’m sorry or forgive me.” It wants to show that they are not to be taken for granted and that they are no one’s fool! As it normally happens, when the battling church groups come away from Caesar’s court with Caesar’s ruling, they are no better off than before and that same bitterness or evil in their hearts still abides, ready to rise up at a moment’s notice when an offense is provoked or otherwise, is again felt.

Notice to battling churches!: Caesar cannot do anything for you that the God of the World cannot do for you...that is, if your pastor or your leadership are not babes in discernment and wisdom and the pew sitters are willing to submit to godly authority. How? The battles continue and when someone steps on your sore bunion or says the wrongthing to you, BAM!..it is off to Caesar’s court to demonstrate in front of the world how sad and foolish you are that you cannot settle disputes amongst yourselves.

Question? Who in their right minds would want to join a battling church? An answer: the carnal minds of the same type that are bickering! Like attracts like! So, do yourself a favor. When disputes come up and they will, have the presence of mind and the grace of God to first seek out reconciliation and affirmation and when that does not work, you can always expel the bellicose offending sister or brother and turn them over to Satan for chastisement.

And when that fails, you take the hit on the chin and leave the vengeance to God. Tough advice? Sure. Expert advice? Sure. Will the battling church factions lose members? Sure. But what? If they are not amenable to reconciliation, you cut away the dead wood and go on. Some people who profess Christ but are carnal in their thinking will never acquiesce to godly advice because it is not what they want.

They want their proverbial pound of flesh and want the other person or group humiliated or rebuked or scolded and for this task, they would rather chose Caesar to do it for them!

What a mockery to the Word of God that such worldly standards are sorted to and relied upon instead of considering that the offending or offended party is in need of balanced Bible counseling and admonishment if they refuse to reconsider their ways.

Yes, believe it or not, The Bible allows for stages of discipline when things get out of whack and people resort to foolishness in order to get their way. Carnal-minded people or “babes” in Christ do not want discipline because it is antithetical to their own private missions or goals and they have lost sight (or never even had it in the first place) that the local church or assembly is to be attuned to a different radio frequency and not to the raucous sound of the world and its fleeting standards.

So, the next time that you hear about “church” folks running to the courts and asking the courts to make other church folks do or not do something, you are seeing an example of a dysfunctional carnal church that is out of order and is losing or has lost its witness to the world.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at Tolliver@Juno.com

The Sojourner’s Truth

January 20
Bethlehem New Life Center Community Dinner: 3 to 5 pm; An Italian Dinner

January 21
MLK Unity Celebration: Presented by The University of Toledo and the City of Toledo; UT Savage Arena; 9 am; Keynote speaker John Barfield; Lunch to follow: 419-530-5538

January 26
Warren AME Church 2013 Gospel Extravaganza: Featuring youth and young adults; 4 pm; Praise teams, choirs, vocalists, poets: 419-243-2237

January 30
The Arts Commission Workshop – Ohio Vendors’ Licenses for Artists; The Professional Building; 6 to 8 pm: 419-254-2787

Community Calendar
Staying Healthy During Flu Season

By Sen. Sherrod Brown
Special to The Truth

Terry Allan, RS, MPH, Cuyahoga County Board of Health Commissioner, and President-Elect of the Ohio Association of County and City Health Officials, says that the flu shot is an important tool in fighting spread of the illness. Most patients being seen by health professionals have not had the flu shot. He reminds us that, “There is still plenty of time to get vaccinated, and plenty of vaccine available. Cases can peak in late January or February, and new cases can be found into March and even April. Shots are available from your doctor’s office, health department, or local drug store.” He also encourages calling your physician if symptoms persist or worsen, especially high fever or listlessness. He explains that, “A doctor can help you decide whether an emergency room visit is warranted. In most cases, you can ride the flu out at home.”

In addition to the recommended vaccine, there are several other precautionary measures individuals can take toward preventing the flu. Some simple steps you can take to stay healthy during the flu season include:

- Washing your hands with soap and warm water for about 20 seconds.
- Covering your cough with your elbow and using a tissue when sneezing.
- Practicing healthy habits like eating a balanced diet rich in fruits and vegetables; drinking plenty of water; exercising regularly; getting adequate rest; and staying away from sick people.

Also, public health experts advise that individuals or children who get sick stay home from work or school and childcare if they become infected.

The State of Ohio through the Ohio Department of Health is also monitoring this season’s flu. More state specific information as well as links to your local health department is available at: http://www.odh.ohio.gov/features/seasonalflu/seasonalflu.aspx.

I encourage all Ohioans—parents and teachers, employers and workers—to learn how to protect themselves and their family from the flu. Together, we can work to prevent the illness from spreading and tragically taking another life.

Senators Schiavoni and Brown Seek Insurance Coverage for HPV Screenings

Legislation Modeled after recommendations from Center for Disease Control

Special to The Truth

Last week, State Senators Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman) and Senator Edna Brown (D-Toledo) announced that they will introduce legislation requiring insurance providers in Ohio to cover human papillomavirus (HPV) screenings and vaccinations. The legislation is modeled after recommendations provided by the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). It will ensure that all insurance companies in Ohio will provide benefits to cover expenses related to two vaccinations approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to fight the HPV disease.

“The human papillomavirus and cervical cancer continue to affect too many families across the country,” said Senator Schiavoni. “However, studies show that early detection and treatments available through vaccinations can be very effective.”

According to the CDC, HPV is the most common sexually transmitted disease in the United States with approximately 20 million people currently infected in the U.S. Half of those infected are adolescents and young adults between the ages of 15 and 24.

“The time is now to address this issue head on through legislation that allows for greater preventative screenings and treatments in the state of Ohio. By providing our citizens with broader insurance coverage, we can help provide Ohioans with easier access to both prevent and treat HPV.”

As reported in the January 7, 2013 edition of The Columbus Dispatch, “a recent collaborative report indicated that the numbers of HPV-linked cancers of the tonsils and the back of the tongue have increased significantly.” More specifically, “HPV infections and their connection to an increase in throat cancer and anal cancer are considered an area for improvement.”

“We cannot continue to ignore reports from experts such as the CDC, the American Cancer Society, the National Cancer Institute and the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries regarding the prevalence of HPV cases. This disease affects young and adult members of our society, males and females alike, and has given rise to related cancers that can often lead to death,” said Senator Brown.

In the past, cervical cancer claimed the lives of more American women than any other type of cancer. But due to the widespread advancement of cervical cancer screening procedures, such as the Pap test, both the number of occurrences and deaths have reduced significantly. Despite these advances, U.S. screening programs are not reaching all women in the United States.

“The oft-quoted adage, ‘An ounce of prevention, is worth a pound of cure’ may well be applied to this opportunity for future savings in health care costs,” said Senator Brown.
YWCA Announces 2012 Milestones Honorees

At the YWCA downtown Toledo last week, Lisa McDuffie, YWCA president and CEO, announced the 2013 Honorees for the YWCA Milestones: A Tribute to Women annual award:

Arts - Carolyn Putney, chief curator, director of collections and curator of Asian art, Toledo Museum of Art

Business - Linda Ewing, senior vice president fifth third Bank (Northwestern Ohio)

Education - Janet Robinson, Ph.D., interim president Lourdes University

Government - Teresa Fedor, Ohio state representative

Health Sciences - Dr. Anne Ruch, OB/GYN, director of SewHope, founder of Kids Against Hunger

Social Services - Wanda Butts, founder of the Josh Project

Volunteerism - Patricia Appold, president of Library Legacy Foundation and Oliver House Development

This marks the 18th year that the YWCA of Northwest Ohio has recognized extraordinary women in the community who have demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities and have demonstrated efforts contributing to the empowerment of women. Honoree bios and photos will be made available later this month on our website at: www.ywcanwo.org

“The members of the YWCA and I are honored to recognize these outstanding women with this prestigious award,” said McDuffie. “We invite the community to join us for this awards luncheon and help us pay tribute to this year’s Milestones Honorees.”

The YWCA 18th Annual Milestones: A Tribute to Women Awards Luncheon will be held at the SeaGate Convention Center, Thursday, March 14, 2013 at 11:30am.
Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream Speech” and Me

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

January 16, 2013

My senior year at Scott High School, I had an honors English class.

Freshly back from Christmas Break, Ms. Ransey had our class prepare for our next assignment which focused on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Instead of just the typical regurgitation of historical mum-drum factuals, she wanted us to write our own take on where Dr. King’s dream stands today.

The iconic “I Have A Dream Speech” was to be dissected by each student and made relevant to our current reality.

My own personal current reality was a severe case of senioritis, even though it was only mid-January.

My own personal reality was a mixture of extremes that you usually find in a movie.

Weeks before this assignment I watched a boy my age nearly bleed to death on my back porch after being shot and stabbed due to Crip-on-Crip violence.

But just as deep as I was in the hood, my work on the Youth Commission Advisory Board had me meeting down the hall from the mayor’s office every week.

My four best friends and I divided our time between church, our girlfriends, our business and our after-school jobs. January for me was about sneaking into The University of Toledo icebreakers on the weekend just to celebrate the fact I actually made it through another week.

Racism, at least the kind faced during Dr. King’s era, was the furthest thing from my mind. I knew the dreams of the Civil Rights era, slavery and bondage, Ku Klux Klan killings of our people, the Civil Rights era, and even the gangs and drugs we were now using to kill ourselves. I went back and stared at that mural at night under the streetlights. It clicked to me that somehow, we as black people had tricked ourselves into thinking we had achieved Dr. King’s dream when in reality we had a fraction of it at best.

It became clear to me that we had become so comfortable that our self-destructive habits as a people were now threatening the dream he had for us.

It was our own bad habits, it was racist white people, it was racist institutions, it was all of it.

We sat down for a full-course meal and since we had never even been invited to the table before, we settled for an appetizer thinking that was all we had coming.

And that…that sentence right there became the metaphor and premise for my entire paper.

When I turned it in on the due date, I was nervous.

Ms. Ransey usually liked what I wrote but she could be unpredictable.

The day she was giving out our grades for the assignment, I noticed she held mine in her wrong.

She told the class the class not only was she giving me an A, but that she had entered my paper in the upcoming city-wide Martin Luther King Day Speech Contest.

My heart started pounding. I distinctly remember feeling lightheaded standing there at Ms. Ransey’s desk thinking I must have heard her wrong.

She was ecstatic. The class was like…whatever. And I was beside myself.

This contest was three days away.

This means, the paper I had just conceived and written a few days prior had to be memorized and rehearsed by Monday and it was Friday.

I stayed after class and asked this woman what on earth had she gotten me into.

Ms. Ransey, forever the lighthearted joking type, was amused at my worry and told me three days is plenty time to memorize and rehearse an eight-page paper.

Students from her next period started to pour in, I was about to be late for my next class and still I didn’t budge from beside her desk.

I just knew this was some elaborate joke.

She gave me a pep talk, and after school that day I remember walking home dazed.

That weekend, I didn’t party with my friends.

I barely spoke to my girl.

I wasn’t out on the block, writing rap or watching TV.

I pretended my dresser was a podium, and I practiced that speech all day every day until the day of the contest.

Using the metaphor I came up with that night staring at that corner store mural, I wrote about black people’s struggle to realize the fullness of what Dr. King’s vision had in store for us. I studied part of the original “I Have A Dream” speech and used it to further illustrate my point about settling for an appetizer when we were supposed to get a full course meal. I tried to paint a picture of black people as legitimate sufferers of human atrocity but also masters of our own fortune.

I changed some elements of my paper to connect with a live audience, but I really (Continued on Page 6)
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Holds 21st Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Scholarship Breakfast - Rev. Kevin Bedford to speak

Rhonda Sewell to receive 2013 “Drum Major” Award

(Continued from Page 5)

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Breakfast - Rev. Kevin Bedford to speak

On Saturday January 19, 2013, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Alpha Xi Lambda Alumni Chapter will sponsor the 21st annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Breakfast.

The MLK Breakfast will be held at Central Park West, which is located at 3141 Central Park West. The program begins at 9:00 a.m. and doors open at 8:30 a.m. The theme for the 2013 program is “The Dream Moving Forward.”

The MLK Scholarship Breakfast raises money for the Alpha Phi Alpha scholarship fund. Each year the fraternity sponsors two programs to raise money for scholarship: the MLK Breakfast and a golf outing, which enables the organization to award over $3,000 in scholarships annually to deserving college-bound young men who reside in the Toledo area.

The program features a keynote address from Rev. Kevin J. Bedford, senior pastor of Third Baptist Church in Toledo, Ohio. In addition to his role as senior pastor at Third Baptist Church, Bedford also serves as the president of the Toledo branch of the NAACP.

Alpha Phi Alpha will present a community award called the “Drum Major” award to Rhonda Sewell. The Drum Major Award is given to a deserving individual or organization who has served the community in the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.


Tickets are $25 per person and are sold in advance and a limited number of tickets will be available at the door. For tickets and information contact program Chairman Craig Teamer at cteamer76@bex.net or 419.654.7490.

I ended up winning first place at the Ghanaian Foundation Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Speech Contest that year. A nice-sized trophy (which my mom still has on display) and a check for $500 that I didn’t even know was part of the deal until it was handed to me.

After three years of being picked on or mostly overlooked at Scott High, I had been determined since the previous spring to have my senior year be the year I mattered. The previous summer I had worked two jobs to buy all new clothes. Also during the previous summer, my friends and I all shaved our heads bald and since I was the only one who looked okay with it I kept it. I basically walked into Scott High School that year a different dude. Which helped me go from un-noticed to at least slightly acknowledged beyond my core circle. Winning this speech contest though, that was my one and only brush with some level of temporary high school popularity. People I didn’t know knew me and what I had accomplished. I spent the next few months winning speech contests around the state.

But what still sits with me years later, is that a teacher believed in me enough to push me and that I believed in myself enough to rise to the occasion. I’ll never forget that January. In that one month I start taking steps to becoming a first-generation college graduate, but then days later I’m getting robbed at gunpoint on my way to school.

And that was the day I had that $500 check on me, but I managed to keep it.

The point is, life didn’t calm down long enough for me to get breathing room. I just had to push myself in the midst of all I was going through at the time. That is a lesson that I’m still perfecting, but it’s one that relates to any inner-city youth striving for a goal. It’s a lesson that relates to us as a people as well.

Maybe the mountaintop isn’t about living in the suburbs next door neighbors with our former oppressors. Maybe Dr. King’s dream lies in each of us finding the will to push beyond our current circumstances, whatever they may be… to achieve what we never thought we could.

Dedicated to:
Ms. Ransey, Ms. Warnsley, Ms. Clark, Ms. Leplisto, Ms. Barron (elementary school) and all the educators who took time to push me.

And, of course, dedicated to the memory of Dr. King.
Building Rapport During an Interview

By Tiffany Reynolds, Job Coach
The Truth Contributor

Are you looking to make a good impression during an upcoming job interview? Possessing good rapport with your interviewer is key. Webster’s defines “rapport” as relation, connection, especially harmonious or sympathetic relation. The following are some great tips to help you build rapport during your interview and increase your odds of getting hired.

1. Prepare – Research information about the company/interviewer prior to your interview. Put information such as the company’s history, news events, corporate leadership, etc. can be found on the company’s website and through social media like Facebook and LinkedIn. This will show that you have a sincere interest in the company you are interviewing with while also building your confidence level.

2. Be well-dressed and well-groomed – It’s important to dress professionally for a job interview, regardless of the work environment.

3. Choose appropriate attire for your interview. Check out About.com for some gender-specific tips on how to dress for a job interview.

4. Be on time – Better yet arrive early. This will convey that you are excited about the position you are interviewing for and that you respect the interviewer’s time.

5. Be friendly and engaged – Smile, shake hands, and maintain eye contact. Repeating the interviewer’s name as you are introduced will help you to remember them. Remember how you stand and sit, your facial expressions, and body language will speak volumes about your confidence level. When possible, mirror the body language of the interviewer (i.e. maintaining eye contact, nodding, smiling, and leaning forward).

6. Be observant & attentive – Take note of personal items in the interviewer’s office (i.e. family photos, memorabilia, artwork, etc.). You may notice something that will allow you to engage in small talk.

7. Be inquisitive – When afforded the opportunity, ask questions about the company and/or the interviewer (i.e. how they got started with the company, why they like working there, etc.). Prepare a few questions ahead of time so that you are well-prepared. Use the interviewer’s name and the name of the company a couple of times throughout the interview.

8. Be complimentary – Find a way to relate to the interviewer on a personal level, if possible (refer back to “Be observant.”). Pay the interviewer a natural-sounding compliment.

9. Be forward-thinking – If possible, summarize your key strengths for the job at the end of the interview. Thank the interviewer for his or her time, and let them know that you look forward to hearing back from them. Extend a genuine smile and handshake as you leave.

10. Be a friendly reminder – Remind the potential employer how much you appreciated your interviewer by sending a handwritten thank you card within three days of your interview, and follow up with a call one week after your interview.

Building good rapport during a job interview is critical to your job-hunting success. Plan ahead, have your interview tools and skills ready, and increase your odds of getting hired.

Tiffany L. Reynolds, Success Coach Following My Passion Inspirational Speaker “If you’re not passionate, you shouldn’t be doing it”

Authored the book, “Need a Job? Then, Do SOMETHING!” Breakthrough ‘Sum of All Parts’ Marketing Methods & Techniques

Buy the book today:
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Linked In: Tiffany Reynolds: Speaker | “If you’re not passionate, you shouldn’t be doing it”

Job Coach at the Economic Opportunity Planning Association of Greater Toledo, Inc.
505 Hamilton St. | Toledo, Ohio
www.eopa.org

Contrada Elected County Commission President, Leadership Change Reflects Board Collaboration

The Board of Lucas County Commissioners elected Carol Contrada as president for 2013 at its organizational meeting today. She succeeds Commissioner Pete Gerken, who nominated Contrada for the leadership position.

Gerken and Commissioner Tina Skeldon Wozniak were both re-elected to four-year terms last November. Gerken has served as Board president since 2009 and Skeldon Wozniak was president from 2005 to 2008.

“The willingness of the Commissioners to change leadership periodically strengthens the Board’s ability to serve our community. We will benefit from Carol’s experience and style as we continue to meet new challenges and opportunities,” said Tina Skeldon Wozniak, the senior member of the Board.

“It has been an honor to work with Tina and Carol and serve as president during the past four years,” Gerken said. “It is a mark of our collaborative approach that we recognize that each Commissioner has unique skills and background to lead the Board. The issues that we face at this juncture will benefit from Carol’s interest and expertise.”

“I would like to thank Commissioner Gerken and Commissioner Wozniak for their votes of support. It has been my honor to work with them these past two years. Pete and Tina did an outstanding job bringing Lucas County through the recession of 2008 and its five-year aftermath. Despite the downturn and a 58 percent cut in local government funds from the state, their combined leadership over the past eight years reduced general fund expenses by more than $25 million while maintaining a high level of service to our citizens,” Contrada said after the 3-0 vote. “During their time in office, they have spearheaded multiple major community initiatives and worked well with our workforce development, and enhancing regional partnerships. We need to take steps to ensure that the citizens of Lucas County live in safe and healthy communities, and that Lucas County emerges from the recession with a strong economy which benefits the people and our region. Along with continued regional economic planning and strong social services, the next few years will require us to shift more of our attention to the criminal justice system, which makes up the largest share of our mandated services budget. With my background as an attorney and my focus over the past two years on criminal justice, I look forward to working with the judges and our new sheriff to address these issues as well as continuing our regional planning initiatives,” Contrada said.
Inaugural Glass City Urban Biz Expo A Success!

Special to The Truth

Last year on Saturday, December 22, inside the main ballroom at the Grand Plaza Hotel, 12 local vendors showcased tables decorated with products that ranged from custom holiday gift baskets to Mary Kay Cosmetics for the Inaugural Glass City Urban Business Expo.

Hosted by Young Urban Professionals of Toledo, patrons who attended were able to do some last minute shopping amongst a plethora of goods and services while enjoying live entertainment.

Highlights of the expo were Toledo native and Berklee School of Music student, Josi Smallwood, who harmonized skillfully with her background singers and band during her warmly received set.

The talented songstress belted out her own rendition of well-known hits including, “I Care 4 You” by dearly departed singer Aaliyah and “Thinking About You” by new-age crooner Frank Ocean.

International model, actress and entrepreneur, Runa Lucienne, who also originates from the Glass City, flew in from L.A. to be the featured speaker of the expo. Lucienne noted that modeling and acting isn’t all glitz and glam but a career which is a commonality she shared with all the business owners in attendance.

Prizes were given away throughout the five-hour event which included a $100 gift card to Fat Fish Blue Restaurant accompanied by passes to The Funny Bone Comedy Club in Perrysburg, free hair-cuts from Hair Trendz Barbershop and a gift certificate for a 3-hour limo ride from Childer’s Limousine.

DJ Big Trav, who made sure there were great sounds throughout the event, appropriately played “The Price Is Right” theme song each time a winner was announced, gaining a few laughs in the process. It was an enjoyable experience for those in attendance.

Young Urban Professionals (Toledo Chapter) would like to thank all the vendors & sponsors who participated in the Inaugural Glass City Urban Business Expo:

SPONSORS
Carl & Karen Ricketts Byrd
Childer’s Limousine
Fat Fish Blue/The Funny Bone Comedy Club (Perrysburg, OH)
Hair Trendz Barbershop
Pozativ ProMotions, LLC
Runa Lucienne, LLC
The Sojourner’s Truth Newspaper

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Antoinette Clinton of Refresh Center for Wellness
Oregano Gold by Linda Moyé
Black Shopping Channel
Lé Peach Couture
Author Donald Emmons
The Toledo Community Development Corporation “From Brown to Green”

The Toledo Community Development Corporation (TOLEDO CDC) announced last week that the Finance Fund has awarded Toledo CDC an economic development grant of $100,000 for the Fernwood Growing Center.

The Fernwood Growing Center is an urban agriculture social enterprise designed to provide access to fresh, healthy and affordable produce and also address the healthy food desert that is prevalent in most central city communities. Food deserts are where healthy, affordable food is difficult to obtain, which is prevalent in urban centers. There’s an abundance of local, convenient stores that sell high caloric, low nutrient and poor quality foods.

Toledo CDC’s mission is to foster a healthy, vibrant community through affordable housing, job creation, and economic development by utilizing green and sustainable practices. The vision is to create “a community of opportunity.”

One way Toledo CDC is meeting its mission is through the redevelopment of a two acre, vacant and abandoned brownfield site which is now a sustainable urban agriculture venture that will provide low income residents as well as local grocery stores and businesses access to fresh, affordable and healthy produce.

Other financial partners of the Fernwood Growing Center:
- City of Toledo, Department of Environmental Services - Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund- $200,000
- The Toledo- Lucas County Port Authority- Pre- Development Grant $35,000
- Finance Fund- Pre-Development Grant- $20,000

Total Project Cost: $700,000

Finance Fund is a statewide nonprofit financial intermediary working to enable progress and inspire change within Ohio’s low-income communities. By building bridges to economic development and community revitalization, Finance Fund aims to create opportunities that make a better quality of life possible. For more information, please visit www.financefund.org.

Linda Ewing Retiring: From the Desk of Robert LaClair, President/CEO Fifth Third (Northwestern Ohio)

As our community partner, we wanted to share some recent developments regarding our Fifth Third team in Northwestern Ohio. Linda Ewing has diligently served Fifth Third Bank for the past 28 years, most recently as our Community Affairs Director. Linda has announced her retirement effective January 18, 2013. Byna Elliott will assume the Community Affairs responsibilities for the Northwestern Ohio area. Byna is currently the Community Affairs Director for Fifth Third Bank in Southfield, Michigan.

Linda has been a mentor and leader in our community, delivering financial literacy education programs in the Greater Toledo area for many years. As the Fifth Third Community Affairs Director, Linda has assisted multiple organizations with financial empowerment needs, making a difference not only here in our community but in the lives of many.

Later this year, Linda will be recognized as a recipient of the prestigious YWCA Milestones Award in the Business category. This competitive award is bestowed upon women who have demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities and who through their efforts and accomplishments have opened the doors for other women to achieve their potential. We congratulate Linda on this much deserved honor.

In keeping with Linda’s wishes there will be no formal celebration, however, Fifth Third has made a contribution, in honor of Linda’s service, to the American Heart Association in the memory of Linda’s husband, Tillis Leroy Ewing II.

Linda has been an asset to this community and to Fifth Third and though we know she will continue to serve in many ways, her daily presence at the bank will be missed. Please join me in wishing her all the best in her retirement.

Robert W. LaClair
Key elements to Open door policy to keep parents Involved in their child(ren) education

Positive Change For The New Year

While any time of year can be the right time to assess your financial fitness, many find the new year an excellent time to take stock of their financial status, drop old habits and cultivate new ones.

The good news is that financial fitness is a goal that’s very attainable. If you’re serious about making your financial future more secure, here are some helpful tips:

Set Goals And Have A Plan
To make a life change, you need more than a decision. You need a plan. A plan is the guide to put your decision into action so that you can reach your goal. Learning how to set goals takes practice, but according to the 2011 Stick With It study by Northwestern Mutual, the No. 1 strategy that works is “setting small interim goals.”

Talk To A Professional
An experienced financial professional can help you build a comprehensive plan and help manage personal asset protection and growth.

Save For Retirement
Savings for retirement needs to become a priority instead of an afterthought. Contribute as much as you can to your employer’s 401(k) plan, individual retirement accounts and special retirement accounts—even if you are a long way from retirement age. Your older self will thank you.

Consider Your Longevity
Are you prepared to live into your 80s, 90s or beyond? Life and long-term care insurance can be considered to provide financial assistance when you or a loved one are suffering from a long-term illness or condition. Check out a Lifespan Calculator (lifespancalc.com) for a glimpse into your potential future.

Think About Your Risks
You’ve worked hard to build a solid financial footing for yourself and your family, so it needs to be protected. Accidents and disasters can (and do) happen, and if you aren’t adequately protected, it could leave you in financial ruin.

Financial success is not an accident. It begins with a well-conceived plan. You and your family can achieve more in 2013 with a disciplined plan of action.

By putting a plan in place and taking steps to attain specific goals, you can set yourself on a path for a more productive new year and a more secure financial future.
The situation had you flummoxed.

You looked at it from every angle, knowing there had to be a way to understand. You thought about it until your head hurt. It was all right in front of you, but nothing made sense until somebody else showed you what was what.

It just took a fresh pair of eyes.

Sometimes, the familiar looks sharper from a different perspective. And in the new book

*The King Years: Historic Moments in the Civil Rights Movement* by Taylor Branch, you’ll read a well-known story from a new point of view.

It was somewhat of a Perfect Storm: in 1954, the Supreme Court made a decision on Brown v. Board of Education at about the same time Rosa Parks refused to relinquish her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama bus. As if that wasn’t enough to make the time ripe for movement, Martin Luther King, Jr. had recently been drafted as president of a new protest committee. Just before giving a speech he’d been asked to present, he told a friend, “This could turn into something big.”

“He was twenty-six,” says Branch, “and had not quite twelve years and four months to live.”

Students, wishing to do something for the growing movement, spontaneously (at first) began sit-ins. Few of them made any impact initially but one at a Woolworth’s in Greensboro, North Carolina, changed everything. As this activity cascaded, volunteers offered to relieve sitters while others organized to have sit-ins elsewhere, mostly in cities with Negro colleges. Non-violent protest was key to the sit-ins’ success, and workshops were quickly formed to teach the students how to deal with everything crowds could (sometimes literally) throw at them. Arrests were made, and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) was founded.

By 1963, King had a court. Hollywood backed him. The SCLC was behind him. The White House “leaned toward proposing a civil rights bill,” but there was still a ways to go. The FBI was secretly keeping records on him. State officials rationalized violence through archaic local laws. Civil Rights workers put themselves in danger for the movement.

Some faced certain beating. Others faced certain death.

There’s more, of course, to this story and much of it has become abundantly familiar in the past 50 years. What makes *The King Years* so different, though, is in the way the story’s told.

Author Taylor Branch spent 24 years writing a three-book history on America during the Civil Rights Movement and he says in his preface that he prefers to tell “stories of impact” in “narrative detail.” This means that, instead of getting a dry dates-and-events history book, readers are gifted with glimpses of life and “historically significant” events, presented almost in the form of a novel. That makes this book very accessible for veterans of the Movement, youngsters who weren’t born yet, and for students of this subject. So if you’re looking this week for fresh reflection on a tumultuous period of time, find this. For you, *The King Years* looks good at any angle.
The Sojourner’s Truth

January 16, 2013

Django Unchained

Movie Review & More

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

Django Unchained, a film by Quentin Tarantino, has been lauded by some and criticized by others. The controversy surrounding the film is due in part to its depiction of slavery and its portrayal of enslaved people. The film has been criticized for its violence and for its use of the N-word.

During season two of “The Boondocks,” two episodes were banned from airing in the United States. These two episodes were included in the DVD collection of that season but not on every run. Both episodes are now nearly impossible to find in any media outlet in any media format anywhere on Earth.

Both episodes feature a portrayal of a real-life person: Reginald Hudlin. The show’s creators spare no one when it comes to framing the IIs destroying black America but how would they know them well enough to make suggest that he could be guilty of such a charge?

Reginald Hudlin is listed as an executive producer of “The Boondocks.” He left the show before season one aired, more so just his tenure as a top-ranking executive at BET.

And that was the focus of both those banned episodes. BET has gotten so bad that it’s arguably being used to intentionally dumb down black America on purpose.

Reginald Hudlin’s exchanges to the network when he took over is when it all started to get as bad as it has gotten.

“I06 & Park” was quality programming when it first aired.

Free and A.J. were the exact type of competent, intelligent characters that black people could relate to and the show was an outstanding success. Reginald Hudlin personally ended that.

If you are reading these words right now all you have to do is think back to the moment you were watching B.E.T. and you said to yourself: “What the hell am I watching? This sucks?” I know you had that moment, we all did.

The programming and decisions of Reginald Hudlin were largely responsible for creating that sentiment. What he felt was entertainment was what made the rest of us feel we were being exploited and portrayed at our very worst.

This one man’s creative choices is the reason why most black people you and I both know barely watch Black Entertainment Television except maybe on special occasions here and there.

After Reginald Hudlin got his hands on the network, BET co-founder Shelia Johnson said in interview “I’m ashamed of what it has become. I don’t watch it and I suggest to my kids that they don’t watch it… You watch it just because you don’t know what’s on.”

So why is all of this important?

Well… We can’t talk about Django Unchained without talking about the fine line between entertainment and exploitation. We can’t talk about Django Unchained and that fine line without talking about BET and Quentin Tarantino.

And since Reginald Hudlin served as a producer on Django Unchained, here we are talking about all of these elements at once.

Be clear, it was not just innocent coincidence that BET aired the entire “Roots” mini-series in three days topped off with a half-hour Django promotional special.

Somebody wanted us all hyped up for slavery just in time for a box office debut.

No one wants to be too “pro-black” these days especially black people.

So when a film like this comes out there’s instant backlash against the backlash. A more peaceful than normal Spike Lee calmly admitted he had a hard time trusting Tarantino to frame slavery in its proper context. Quentin Tarantino is an avid, die-hard fan of ’70s era blaxploitation flicks, he even attempted one of his own.

But as soon as the debate began, Django Unchained had already won the hearts and minds of many black people just because they didn’t want to echo Spike Lee’s sentiments. Now there’s some Willie Lynchism at work. Sight unseen, we willingly trust the white man’s product over the black man’s product and the white man’s concern about the product. But digress.

Concern is actually the best word I would use to express what I felt going into this. I like Quentin Tarantino. I’m a fan.

Hill, Reginald Hudlin served as producer on one of my favorite films of all time before he took over creative control of BET. But these men have a history for not handling us right and that concerned me. The atrocities of slavery have been watered down and basically over-looked, so to have a dormant issue suddenly serve as the backdrop for a $100 million dollar Hollywood shoot-em-up Western threw back…that concerned me.

But, I went to see it anyway.

Django Unchained is a great film.

It’s uncomfortable at times, but that’s what real art feels like when it’s leaving its impression on you. I’ve always thought Leonardo DiCaprio was over-rated and one-dimensional… but his portrayal of a nearly psychotic slave owner named Calvin Candie, is one of the most convincing roles of his career.

My favorite character by far was Dr. Shultz, Django’s friend played by an actor with an extensive international resume, Christoph Waltz (already a Golden globe winner). Samuel L. Jackson’s portrayal of a house nigga named Stephen, is something you just have to see for yourself. I have no words.

As a film, Django Unchained is Quentin Tarantino’s wet-dream Western. Probably the movie he always wanted to make, for a myriad of reasons. It definitely has his signature all over it.

Intense camera angles, stirring character monologues, and the whole “epic of the bad-ass” thing he loves to do… it’s a Tarantino flick through and through.

Jamie Foxx and Kerry Washington step far outside their usual box for this one. You’ve never seen him so serious and you’ve never seen her so subdued.

Kerry’s Broomhilda is entirely central to the plot but it’s not because she does anything special. Her mere existence is all it takes to make her matter to Django and to you as you watch. It’s sort of an homage to the simple reverence we have for the object of our affection and black women in particular.

When it comes to Jamie as Django, I’d like everyone to walk with me for a minute because I think a story he told on his most recent Oprah interview sums it all up perfectly.

Jamie tells Oprah this story from when he was 16 years old still living in Texas.

He was hired by a white family to play piano at a Christmas party they were having at their home.

When Jamie arrived with his friend who had driven him, the owner of the house told him “I can’t have two niggers in my house at the same time” and made him have his friend leave. Next she asked Jamie where his suit coat was and since Jamie didn’t have one the man gave him a Brooks Brothers sport coat from his own closet.

Once Jamie was seated at the piano enduring racial jokes and insults from the host family and their guests, Jamie remembered the word “furniture.”

His grandmother had been a servant in white households and she passed down the cautionary wisdom to him that when “White people start insisting you just remember you’re furniture, you don’t respond.”

At the end of the night, the man liked Jamie’s entertainment so much that he paid him far more than he initially said he would.

But when Jamie tried to give the man his sport coat back, he said “No, you keep it… I can’t wear that anymore.”

I liked Django Unchained. It really is a great film and worth your money to go and see it.

But good entertainment is never an excuse for us to downplay what happened to us.

Never forget that there are tens of millions of people in this country who want nothing better than to remind us that the White House currently occupied by a black family was actually built with slave labor.

There are people who want us to know our place, even still. Don’t be surprised if you look up two years from now and we’ve got a handful of slavery-friendly major motion pictures. All I’m saying is… it’s okay to be entertained.

But with our history in this savage place, our pain is some one else’s entertainment.

And that is reason enough to always be concerned. Peace.

True grade for Django Unchained is A.

Email: mercury3peac@gmail.com (youtube: Jaye Fox - Life Changing Lessons – Oprahs Next Chapter)
Two Asiatic Moor events

Special to The Truth

Asiatic Moors in North America are very elated to be participating in two significant, historical, and educational events in the year 2013. The first event will be an annual celebration of their Prophet’s (Noble Drew Ali) birthday.

Their Prophet was first known as Timothy Drew and he was born January 8, 1886, in the state of North Carolina. He was a child of ex-slaves and grew up among the Cherokee Nation. Drew was of Moorish and Cherokee descent.

According to some, in his teenage years, Timothy Drew worked various jobs such as a sea merchant, a magician in a circus, and a railway express man. Later he traveled to the East. In Egypt he met a priest of high spiritual elevation. The Holy Koran of the Moorish Science Temple of America also referred to as The Circle Seven. While in the East he also traveled to Mecca. There he was given the mandate to teach nationality in America, by Sultan Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, who was ruler of the city and later the whole country.

After completing his studies with the priest and Sultan of the East, Noble Drew Ali returned to the US and founded the Moorish Science Temple of America in 1913 A.D. Soon after, other Moorish Science Temples were established in major cities throughout the US. The purpose for establishing the Moorish Science Temple of America was for the uplifting of fallen humanity. This was also especially done with the advent of slavery, the Moors had lost their true national identity.

Noble Drew Ali was the first individual to come to teach the Asiatic Moors of North America their nationality and divine creed. He instructed them that they are not Negroes, Colored folks, Black people, or Ethiopians because those names were given to slaves by slave holders in 1776 and lasted until 1865 during the time of slavery.

He emphasized greatly that this is a new era of time and all men now must proclaim their free national name in order to be recognized by the government in which they live and the nations of the earth. He also made the Moors aware that their ancient forefathers had a set of principles and standards by which Moors should work.

The second event in the year 2013 will mark the 100th year anniversary of the founding of the first Moorish Science Temple of America in Newark, New Jersey. This great historical event is very important to the Moors of North America. Throughout the year, Moors will be holding educational classes, seminars, and festive celebrations in different states throughout the US in acknowledgement of this special occasion.

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Request for Proposals Mixed-Finance Legal Services RFP #13-R003
Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) will receive proposals for Mixed-Finance Legal Svs. Received in accordance with law until Thurs., Jan. 31, 2013, 3PM ET. For Documents: www.lucasmha.org. 419-259-9446 (TTY 419-259-9529) or 435 Nebraska Ave., Toledo, OH 43604. Proposers required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. Section 3 Compliance Applicable.

Request for Proposals Consulting and Financial Services RFP #13-R002
Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) will receive proposals for Consulting and Financial Svs. Received in accordance with law until Thurs., Jan. 31, 2013, 3PM ET. Pre-Proposal conference, Jan. 17, 2013, 10:30AM- (800)977-8002, Code 4624767#. For Documents: 435 Nebraska Ave., Toledo, OH 43604. 419-259-9446 (TTY 419-259-9529) or www.lucasmha.org. Proposers required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. Section 3 Compliance Applicable.

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EOE

Pastor Wanted
The New Prospect Missionary Baptist Church is prayerfully seeking a Pastor who has the capacity to meet the spiritual standards for pastoral leadership as recorded in 1st Timothy 3: 1-7. Interested candidates should submit resume to
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Fax: 419-936-7574
Email: hr@unisonbhg.org
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Send All Resumes to jhomas-harris@ymcatoledo.org

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Lead Teacher
Seeking Lead Teacher for school age program degreed in education, recreation or early childhood to work in afterschool program supervising children in a licensed program located at the Wayman Palmer YMCA. At least 6 months – 1 year experience.

Teacher’s Aide
Currently seeking caring, outgoing people to work with early education and school-aged children in a licensed child care program located at the Wayman Palmer YMCA. Must be a High School graduate, and previous childcare experience is preferred.

Maintenance
Looking for a dependable part-time staff person to clean daily at the Wayman Palmer YMCA location.

Bus Driver
Bus Drivers are needed to transport childcare field, conduct preventive maintenance checks of the vehicles, ensure vehicle cleanliness, and attend and participate in all staff trainings and events. Requirements: All Applicants must be at least 21 years of age with a high school diploma.

Member Service Associate
Looking for a member service staff with high school diploma or equivalent with customer service experience preferred. Must have friendly disposition, customer service skills, and good communication and be able to multi-task. The ability to work well and effectively communicate with a diverse population in a wide variety of situations is required. Confidentiality and excellent organization skills are strongly emphasized.

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EOE
Library announces additional increased hours beginning Feb. 4 – Promises Made, Promises Kept!

Special to The Truth

Last week, the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library kicked off its restored Sunday hours at four Library locations, and continued Sunday hours at Sanger Branch; and now the Library is happy to report Phase 2 of our Promises Made, Promises Kept campaign with a new announcement: beginning Monday, February 4, more Library locations will have restored weekly and Saturday hours!

The affected branch locations include Birmingham, Lagrange, Locke, South, Toledo Heights, Kent, Maumee and Waterville. (See restored hours list below). Even more locations are scheduled to add hours in March in a Phase 3 roll-out that will include Main Library and remaining branch locations.

“We were excited to announce our restored Sunday hours last week, and as we continue to keep the promises we made during the levy, we are more thrilled to announce these additional weekly and Saturday hours for our customers,” said Library Director Clyde Scoles. “Because of the support of Lucas County residents, our system will remain a valuable, educational resource for children, job seekers and those wanting to preserve our local memory.”

The Library’s administrative team and the Board of Trustees have worked to restore weekly, Saturday and Sunday hours. “We will not recover all lost hours but will offer more access to the highest levels of library services,” said Scoles.

Restored Weekly and Saturday Hours scheduled to begin February 4:

A. Monday and Tuesday: 9 a.m. – 8:30 p.m./Wednesday-Friday: 9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Birmingham, 203 Paine Ave.
- Lagrange, 3422 Lagrange St.
- Locke, 703 Miami St.
- South, 1736 Broadway St.
- Toledo Heights, 423 Shasta Dr.

B. Monday and Tuesday: 9 a.m. – 8:30 p.m./Wednesday-Saturday: 9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Kent, 3101 Collingwood Blvd.

C. Monday-Wednesday: 9 a.m. – 8:30 p.m./Thursday-Saturday: 9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Maumee, 501 River Rd.
- Waterville, 800 Michigan Ave.

Looking back at 2009, the reduction in state library funding, coupled with a drop in property tax valuations, caused a drastic $7.4 million shortfall. These state and local funding cuts had a dramatic effect on the Library system, which welcomed 2.7 million visitors in 2011. Library hours were slashed 27 percent. Night and weekend hours were dramatically decreased and only one branch (Sanger) remained open on Sundays – a time families seek out library services. Library programs for children were down almost 37 percent, and the number of registered borrowers went down almost 10 percent because we were not open when many needed us.

“The state and local funding cuts left our hands tied and deeply impacted our Library system,” added Scoles. “It was crucial that we passed the levy and we did. However, state funding, which is about half of our budget, remains uncertain.”

In Loving Memory of
My Queen
Marjorie Welch

Two years ago today God took you from us. There isn’t a day goes by that I don’t think of you, talk to you and call out your name. Yes, I still keep my shoes shined, my suits and ties cleaned when needed and visit my barber often. The Thanksgiving tradition for the family is still held in Detroit and Christmas is “always at Granny’s house.” We have lost several family members since you left. I know our Granddaughter Sydney is up there showing everyone around God’s house. We miss you Margie and will always love and cherish your memory.

Your husband
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Debra and Charles B.
and Grandkids.

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