

Volume 23, No. 18

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

March 13, 2013

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"We are focusing on the third grade and up and giving new and gently used books to boys to inspire them to become lifelong readers. We believe that by putting books in their hands, we can make a difference in their lives."

The Sojourner's Truth

The Right Stuff

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



We lose respect and influence when we 'evangelize the baptized' or merely attend to our internal networks. Instead, go out into the community. Find the pain in the community and serve it, heal it. - D. L. Perryman

I personally, do not remember a time when so many local, national or global organizations were simultaneously experiencing leadership transitions. There may be no strategic decision more critical for an organization than choosing who shall lead it. Certainly that choice will greatly impact or shape the organization's future, if not decide its survival.

Those organizations currently in the process of choosing leaders will also have to decide what leadership style or attributes are the best fit for its situational context and culture given the winds of change occurring or gathering in the larger external environment.

What makes a leader?

Good leaders come in all styles from the overtly technical and analytical to the highly charismatic; from the motivated risk taker to the cautious maintainers of the status quo; from the aggressive take-charge personality to the subdued negotiator and from creative marketing types to problem solvers.

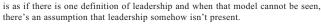
Although there is no one-size-fits-all formula for identifying quality leaders, certain elements are indispensable.

Princeton's Yolanda Pierce, PhD, provides The Truth's readers with her version of the "right stuff" or the sine qua non of 21st Century leadership.

"On at least three different occasions recently, I've heard people lament the loss

of 'strong leadership.' In various conversations, people have asked: 'where are our leaders' or 'where are our role models?' I've heard people bemoan the lack of strong leadership for our nation, our churches, even our local neighborhoods. For every problem presented, people have offered the need for strong leadership as an answer.

I am frustrated by this type of discourse on many levels. It



We grieve the lack of leadership in black neighborhoods, by which we mean 'race men.' These men, in their suits and ties, with strong voices and political connections, are the "leaders" needed to rescue us from moral and political morass, like a Dr. King

We grieve the lack of national and ecclesiastical leadership, by which we, once again, assume an educated, largely male and white, elite. In the dialogue around the need for a 'strong' Pope, we take for granted that a man will be called who will hear directly from God and can be a leader for over a billion people, despite not one woman being part of the process. A pastor, a president, a pope are certainly all leaders...but the conversation about leadership cannot begin and end with these models.

What about the grandmothers creating urban gardens in abandoned lots? What about the teenagers volunteering at the local after school program? What about the

The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's *Truthful* African-American Owned and Operated Newspaper

Fletcher Word – Publisher and Editor Becky McQueen – Business Manager

> Artisha Lawson – Reporter Candice Harrison – Reporter

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faithful choir member who spends hours cleaning the windows at church? What about the underpaid teacher who feeds hungry children lunch with money from her own pocket? Are they not leaders?

When we create narrow gendered and racial dynamics of leadership, we forget that the most important quality of a leader is his or her ability to serve. Instead of constantly lamenting the dearth of leadership, we can look all around and see examples of public service; those who serve because they love. And without service and love, there is no leadership.

I cannot create policies that deny people basic civil rights, if I truly love them and want to serve them. I cannot deny women fundamental control over their health and bodies, if I love them and want to serve them. I cannot create obstacles to people voting and participating in the democratic project of a nation, if I love them and want to serve them. I cannot imprison and incarcerate with no consideration of rehabilitation. if I love and want to serve people.

I pray that God will raise up servants instead of leaders; people who serve their country, neighbors, friends, and even their enemies because they want to love more than they want to lead."

© Yolanda Pierce

Rev. Yolanda Pierce, PhD is the Elmer G. Homrighausen Associate Professor of African American Religion and Literature at Princeton Theological Seminary, and Liaison with the Princeton University Center for African American Studies.

 $Contact\,Rev.\,Donald\,Perryman, D.Min, at\,drdlperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org$

Community Calendar

March 16-17

St. Paul MBC Men's Day Weekend: Saturday Kick-off breakfast at 9 am; Sunday – Sunday School at 9:25, morning service at 10:45 with Pastor James Willis, afternoon service at 4 pm with guests Rev. Robert Birt and the Glass City Church of God: 419-246-1886

March 2

Easter Family Resource Event: Connecting families with local programs and non-profits; Sponsored by the Ohio Assoc of Foodbanks; 1 to 4 pm; Believe Center: 419-917-3884

April 9

Support for Family Caregivers: 7 to 9 pm; Relationship building, staying safely at home, housing options and more; care4you2 facilities: 419-517-7300

Beginning Genealogy Workshop Pt 1: Main Branch Library; 6 to 8 pm; An overview of genealogy and U.S. Census records: 419-259-5233

April 10-12

Toledo District Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship International Intercessory Prayer Conference: City of Zion, Mt. Zion Church; 6:30 pm; Speakers – Bishop Duane Tisdale, Overseer Lanier Twyman, Bishop William Murphy: 419-246-1850

April 16

Support for Family Caregivers: 7 to 9 pm; Relationship building, staying safely at home, housing options and more; care4you2 facilities: 419-517-7300

Beginning Genealogy Workshop Pt. 2: Main Branch Library; 6 to 8 pm; An overview of using magazines, newspapers and the Internet for research: 419-259-5233

April 20

Toledo's Jazz Celebration Month Free Performance: Kent Branch Library; Noon to 5 pm; Jelise & Co, Chris Brown & Candice Coleman, The Gene Parker Quintet, Jim Gottron Quartet: 567-249-6229

April 23

Support for Family Caregivers: 7 to 9 pm; Relationship building, staying safely at home, housing options and more; care4you2 facilities: 419-517-7300

April 26-28

Calvary Baptist Church Women's Ministry 16th Spring Retreat: 419-531-9443 or 419-865-0019

May 4

National Train Day: Amtrak Station; 9:30 am to 4 pm; Tran cars, engines, food, music, art & history, rides: 419-241-9155 ex 134

April 23

Support for Family Caregivers: 7 to 9 pm; Relationship building, staying safely at home, housing options and more; care4you2 facilities: 419-517-7300

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Reducing Prescription Drug Costs for Consumers, Saving Money for the Government

By U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown Special to The Truth



Right now, everyone in Washington is focused on fiscal issues—getting our financial house in order. This is something families in Ohio have been dealing with for some time. We know how to do this. We can improve health outcomes and simultaneously save money for our consumers and for the federal government.

A couple of years ago, Deborah, a constituent from Columbus, lost her health insurance. In a letter to me she explained, "I have asthma. MyAdvair costs \$240 per month from an American pharmacy (without insurance) compared to \$56 from Canada. This is madness." Frankly, Deborah is right.

It is madness to deny Americans the right to affordably secure the medications they need to lead healthier lives. But all too often, many Ohioans, like Deborah, know the toll high prescription costs can take on families. Whether it's a senior who falls into the socalled 'donut hole' coverage gap- a gap when private Medicare Part D insurance no longer covers prescription drugs, or a retiree whose name brand medication is twice the cost of the generic version, we need to ensure that Ohioans have accessible and affordable medication.

Fortunately, thanks to the health law, Ohio families are already saving money on prescription drug costs. Reforms from the health law saved nearly 180,000 Ohio seniors a combined \$138.5 million on their prescription drug costs in 2012 alone. That means the average Ohio beneficiary saved \$774 in 2012. Since 2010, Ohio seniors have saved more than \$278 million.

When seniors are able to afford their medications, they are more likely to adhere to doctor's orders. That keeps them healthier and keeps costs down for themselves and Medicare. Prior to the law, far too many seniors were skipping doses or cutting pills in half because rent, heat, and drug costs add up quickly on a retiree's income.

But while the new health law has made strides, there's

more we can do to reduce prescription drug costs and help American citizens—and the government—save money.

First, we need to let the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) negotiate discounts on prescription drugs for Medicare-just like the VA can do for veterans. If HHS had negotiating power, then we could save taxpayers an estimated \$240 billion over the next 10 years. Those funds would replace about two and a half years of sequestration's painful cuts. Allowing HHS to have parity with the VA could help us avert painful- and unsustainable-cuts to education, medical research, and Medicaid.

Next, we need to allow for the safe re-importation of prescription drugs. Now is the time to have an adult conversation in Washington about the cost and health benefits of drug re-importation, of importing American-made medicines from other countries. We must recognize that affordability and accessibility can mean the difference between patients taking a medication for the prescribed length of time and splitting pills in half to make them last longer.

Finally, we need to reduce the amount of time that brand name drug makers can sell biologic drugs without competition from generic drug makers. Biologics - the vital drugs that treat Multiple Sclerosis, arthritis, breast cancer, and other illnessesare essential to countless Ohioans. Last week, I talked to a mother from Ravenna whose nine year-old son has hemophilia and requires biologic drugs. Thanks to the new health law, her son can maintain his coverage. Unfortunately, however, the coinsurance still places an incredible burden on her family.

Ensuring faster access to low-cost generic biologics isn't just the right thing to do for patients; it's also the right choice for our economy. If we were to move from a 12-year monopoly period to a seven year exclusivity period for brand name biologics, then we could see some \$3.5 billion in Medicare and Medicaid savings over a decade.

The steps are simple. If we give HHS negotiating power, allow the safe re-importation of drugs, and reduce the monopoly period brand name biologic drug makers enjoy, we can save an estimated nearly \$262 billion over ten years.

And even more importantly, we can help save lives.

March Is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

By Michelle McCaster Special to The Truth

March is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. With that in mind, have you had your colorectal screening? According to recent studies, African Americans are at a higher risk for the disease than other populations. And contrary to popular belief, African Americans should begin their screenings at age 45.

Colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer among African-American men and women. Factors such as diet and tobacco use may increase African Americans' risk of developing colon cancer. Genetic factors and personal and family medical histories may also increase a person's risk for colorectal cancer. That is why it is vital to speak with your primary health care provider about your family's medical history and share information regarding if relatives-parents, brothers, sisters or children-have had colorectal cancer or colorectal polyps.

The Northwest Ohio Gastroenterology Associates located at 4841Monroe St. is a highly respected private practice gastroenterology group in the Toledo area. NWOGA consists of four board certi-

fied physicians and three certified nurse practitioners complemented by a highly trained clinical support staff.

The center is the only freestanding endoscopy clinic in the Toledo area that utilizes anesthesia professionals while providing a comfortable, safe, state-of-the-art environment for the completion of most endoscopic procedures

In celebration of

Colorectal Cancer Month join us for March Madness in an effort to help slam dunk colorectal can-

Don't let fear play a factor and avoid getting screened. Speak with your physician about colorectal screening and encourage your family and friends to do the same. You could very well save the life of someone close to you.





Delta/AKA Fitness Challenge

Special to The Truth

In honor of Heart Health Month, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, Toledo Alumnae Chapter and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter are engaging in a fitness challenge to see which organization can lose the highest percentage of weight.

The challenge weigh in took place at each sorority's February chapter meetings and at Mercy St. Anne's Hospital on Thursday, February 28 during which both organizations came together for an evening of fun, health education, healthy

snacks and to gear up for the competition between TEAM DELTA and TEAM AKA. The challenge officially started on March 1, 2013 and will last for eight weeks.

Mercy has agreed to sponsor the challenge, provide health screenings and will track each organization's weight. Kristal Barham, program coordinator for Chronic Disease Management for Mercy, has been instrumental in assisting and planning the event.

Mercy President & CEO and Alpha Kappa Alpha Soror-





ity, Incorporated, Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter member, Andrea R. Price, FACHE, will serve as the guest speaker at a dinner scheduled for April at which she will commend the ladies and discuss the importance of leading healthier lifestyles.

Mercy is a faith-based healthcare system with a long-standing mission to improve the health of our communities, with an emphasis on the underserved. Mercy's Community Outreach Department aims to improve the health of the community through programs that include health screenings and health education.

The Chronic Disease Management program, known as Mercy M.A.R.C., is one such program; if focuses on promoting awareness of chronic disease management in the African-American community. Statistics show that chronic disease has an excessive impact on the minority population.

Mercy M.A.R.C. was designed to address this important health issue as part of Mercy's commitment to the health of the community. African-American women have the highest rates of being overweight and obese. In Lucas County, about

(Continued on Page 5)



Delta/AKA Fitness Challenge

(Continued from Page 4)

four out of five African American women are overweight or obese (Ohio Department of Health, 2008). For this reason Mercy M.A.R.C. teamed up with members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority to focus on addressing this health disparity.

Michelle McCaster, Mental and Physical Health Committee chairman for Delta
Sigma Theta Sorority came
up with the idea to initiate the
challenge. Her vision for her
chapter is to become more
health conscience and states
"I wanted to encourage my
chapter to lead healthier
lifestyles and I thought it
would also be a great idea to
include the AKAst os od oa
well. Our national president
Cynthia M.A. Butler-

are not very healthy. This in turn affects our families, thus affecting their health as well."

McCaster went even so far as to have her committee sponsor their chapter meal. They employed the assistance of Chef Stan Griffin to share his culinary skills and expertise. Chef Stan who suffered several strokes and was basically forced to change his lifestyles and eating habits served the ladies and addressed questions about healthy eating tips and meal preparation .

Erin Baker, Health Initiatives Committee chairman for Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, says:" the Weight Loss Challenge is a great opportunity for the membership to get pink, green and lean in 2013 through better personal fitness and healthy lifestyle education materials are distributed and group exercises are led by local fitness instructors from Extreme Results, Super Fitness and Beach Body.

The chapter was recently featured for their "Pink Goes Red for the Day" program which strives to bring awareness to prevention and treatment options of heart disease which disproportionately affects women and minorities.

Overthe next eight weeks, the AKA Health Initiatives committee will be hosting "Ladies Night Out" at various locations to introduce women to the many ways to get healthy from an exercise class to the dance floor. In addition, they will be holding the "Move MORE: Pretty Girls Sweat Workshop" at the Boys and Girls Club



healthier lifestyles for young girls."

Each organization has its own strategy which it will employ in order to motivate and encourage its members to lose weight. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority's members are extremely excited about the challenge. McCaster says that "We are fired up and ready to go!" She says she plans to send out weekly inspirational messages, simple quick meals and exercise tips in an effort to encourage her chapter members.

Delta Sigma Theta has employed the assistance of fitness guru Erika White and encourages members to also utilize the YWCA's Heart Plus program. The program offers an economical weight loss alternative, a health screening and diet tips.

White also plans to put on Zumba and yoga classes in which the general public will be invited in an effort to encourage other women maintain healthier lifestyles. McCaster emphasizes the fact that "Although this is a challenge, the main focus is to encourage women to get fit and maintain healthier eating habits. I do plan to push my chapter hard. We are celebrating our 100th Anniver-

sary is this year and I want our chapter to be fit and fabulous for our convention in July."

These two organizations are to be commended on their efforts to get fit at a time when most people tend to lose momentum from the New Year's Resolution they made. Stay tuned over the next eight weeks to see TEAM DELTA or TEAM AKA walk away with the win!!!

Ed. Note: Michelle McCaster, Erin Baker and Kristal Barham all contributed to this report



McIntyre encourages fostering partnerships and this is an awesome way for the two organizations to come together and impact the community. This event would engage us in a friendly competition, foster relationships amongst the organizations and encourage our members to become more health conscience. As professional women, we tend to sometimes cut corners and eat fast food or prepare meals that

choices." This is highly promoted through the organization's national initiative which supports treatment, awareness and advocacy campaigns to reduce health disparities, save lives and impact health related legislation.

For the past three years, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority has co-sponsored the Move MORE Health and Wellness Fair. The event annually hosts 100 attendees where health where group exercises will be led by local fitness instructors from Extreme Results and the focus will be the healthy empowerment of young girls.

Baker says that she "looks forward to the challenge promoting sisterhood under the unifying topic of our health. This is an opportunity for sorority members, mothers, sisters, aunts to come together in order to serve as role models of





Author Jamaica Kincaid to kick off Spring 2013 Authors! Authors!

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

Three powerful authors a Caribbean novelist and double PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction nominee. an American historian specializing in United States presidents and Pulitzer Prize finalist, and the final appearance, a Pulitzer Prize-winning author and former New York Times columnist, are all scheduled for the 2013 Spring Authors! Authors! series presented by The Blade and arranged by the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library. This series is now in its 19th year as an exciting community event.

The 2013 Spring series is scheduled to kick-off on Thursday, March 28 in the McMaster Center of Main Library, 325 Michigan St., with Jamaica Kincaid, a Caribbean novelist born in St. John's in Antigua. The award-winning novelist, receiver of the Lannan Literary Award for Fiction, the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Award and others, has

written works that are known to be loosely autobiographical. Her 1984 work At the Bottom of the River and her 1995 work The Autobiography of My Mother were both nominated for the prestigious PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction.

Kincaid's distinct voice explores various subjects from colonialism to mother-daughter relationships. In 1973, the author –born Elaine Cynthia Potter Richardson - changed her name to Jamaica Kincaid in order to write anonymously. That year Kincaid's first published piece, an interview with Gloria Steinem, led to a series of articles titled "When I was Seventeen."

For three years, Kincaid worked as a freelance writer until William Shawn, the editor of the *New Yorker*, hired her as a staff writer. In time she took over the "Talk of the Town" column. Encouraged by her editor, Kincaid

began to write fiction, which was often published as installments in the New Yorker.

Kincaid's first collection of short stories, At the Bottom of the River (1983), won the Morton Dauwen Zabel Award of the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters. The predominately autobiographical Annie John (1985) was critically acclaimed for its universal appeal as a coming-of-age story and for its treatment of indigenous Caribbean culture.

Following Kincaid's appearance is the next Authors! Authors! date scheduled Thursday, April 18 – also in the McMaster Center at Main – with an American historian who specializes in United States presidents, Richard Norton Smith.

Smith's first major book, Thomas E. Dewey and His Times, was a finalist for the 1983 Pulitzer Prize. He has also written An Uncommon Man: The Triumph of



Herbert Hoover, The Harvard Century: The Making of a University to a Nation and Patriarch: George Washington and the New American Nation.

In June 1997, Houghton Mifflin published Smith's *The Colonel: The Life and Legend of Robert R. McCormick*, which receive the prestigious Goldsmith Prize awarded by Harvard's John F. Kennedy School.

On Wednesday, May 8 in the Stranahan Theater, 4645 Heatherdowns Blvd., Pulitzer Prize-winning author Anna Quindlen, is

scheduled. She is the author of five bestselling novels, including One True Thing, Rise and Shine, and Black and Blue, and seven nonfiction books, including Living Out Loud, and How Reading Changed My Life. Her New York Times column "Public and Private" won the Pulitzer Prize in 1992. From 2000-2009, she wrote the "Last Word" column for Newsweek. Quindlen will be unable to sign books after her talk.

All three authors will appear at 7 p.m. on their respective dates/locations.

Tickets for these appearances are \$10 per person, \$8 for students. Tickets are available for purchase at all Toledo-Lucas County Public Library locations and are limited in quantity.

"Year after year, the Blade and the Library bring you the best in contemporary authors and writers,"said Library Director Clyde Scoles. "We are proud to welcome these three powerful, accomplished authors to Toledo and look forward to seeing everyone for another great season."

Each program features an hour-long speech and a question-and-answer session presented by the featured author. Authors! Authors! welcomes bestselling authors to Toledo as they discuss their books and careers, answer questions, and sign books. (NOTE: For the 2013 Spring series, Anna Quindlen will be unable to sign books after her talk). Books provided by Barnes& Noble will be available for purchase at each program. Past Authors! Authors! presenters have included Mary Higgins Clark, Robert Kennedy, Jr., Terry McMillan, David Gergen, and John Updike.

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

Help Your Child Learn To Love Reading

When children realize that reading is an adventure, a whole universe of possibilities blossoms for them. These ideas may help you inspire your children to develop a lifelong friendship with books.

- Read the news. Children need to know there's more to the news than a 30-second sound bite. Newspapers, magazines and online articles can give kids in-depth details to satisfy their curiosity. Read an article together and help your children with difficult words or abstract concepts.
- Read aloud with your children. In young children, it nurtures an interest in language, words and communication. For older kids, reading together can be a fun way to develop reading skills and create a basis for discussions.
- Collect books and digital news. Encourage your children to create their own treasure trove of books and online resources. Look for books at yard sales, in the book section at bargain stores, at the grocery store—wherever you can find them. Create a list of websites and online resources that spark your child's imagination.
- Turn vocabulary from a grind to a giggle by creating word games. Compile a word list or ask your children's teacher for one and make daily or weekly vocabulary games.
- Encourage children to write original stories and illustrate them with their own drawings.
- Visit the free interactive, reading motivational program online at www.BookAdventure.com. Students choose their own books from more than 8,500 titles, take short quizzes and redeem points for prizes. The site was created by Sylvan Learning, the leading provider of tutoring to students of all ages, grades and skill levels.

A good time to make the commitment to read every day is March 1, 2013, the National Education Association's official Read Across America day—but any day is a good one to read.



Laneta Goings: Jefferson Award Winner Gets Things Done

By Fletcher Word Sojourner's Truth Editorials

Want to get something done in the City of Toledo? Get a hold of Laneta Goings, a go-to person if ever there was one.

Goings doesn't just sign up for civic activities and organizations. When she signs up for community service, she's all in. A force of nature.

And when she's leading the effort, serving as the chairman, for example, that event is going to be successful. Count on it.

Goings, for example, was president of the YWCA board of directors when that organization's Milestones: A Tribute To Women Awards Luncheon began 18 years ago.

She served as centennial chairman for the Toledo Zoological Society in 2000, during that very important time.

She has served as the chaiman of banquet committees for the Greater Toledo Urban League and as a member of more committees than we can list here.

She was a founding member of the Northwest Ohio Black Media Association and currently serves on the board of directors for the Toledo African American Chamber of Commerce which was recently re-organized.

For her community efforts, Goings has been named a 2013 Jefferson Award winner, an event sponsored by The Blade, Buckeye CableSystem, WGTV 13abc, Leadership Toledo and Waterford Bank.

Sometimes called the "Noble Prize" for community service, the Jefferson Awards honor and recognize volunteerism and public service. Goings is one of four local winners, one of whom will be selected by a national committee to represent the region in the national competition later this year.

The other regional finalists were Tony Siebeneck, executive director of Feed Lucas County Children, Inc; Dean Ludwig, founder of The University of Toledo's Center for Family Business and Joan Durgin, founder of the Polly Fox Academy for pregnant teenagers.

Goings was specifically noted for her latest achievement, launching, with her grandson L. Toure McCord, Books 4 Buddies, a group that collects new and gently used books to be distributed to youngsters in the area.

There were 61 individuals nominated for this area's



Jefferson Awards, the four winners were selected from 14 finalists.

"I'm honored and humbled," says Goings noting that Clyde Scoles, director of the Toledo-Lucas County Poublic Library and one of the individuals who has assisted in the formation of Books 4 Buddies, nominated her for the award.

The notion for Books 4 Buddies started when Toure was in the third grade – he's 15 now and a resident of Cincinnati. In a discussion with his grandmother, Toure spoke of how he could help other kids when he got older.

That early discussion came to fruition in early 2012 when Books 4 Buddies came to life.

"Boys are not reading," says Goings. "They become distracted. So we are focusing on the third grade and up and giving new and gently used books to boys to inspire them to become life-long readers. We believe that by putting books in their hands, we can make a difference in their lives."

In order to keep the organization humming, Goings and Toure formed a team of ambassadors, local studdents who volunteer their time to get the books collected and distributed.

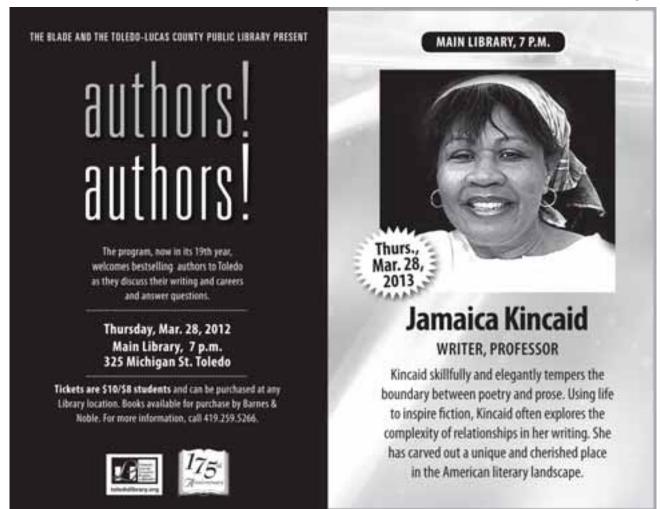
Help came from The Library, The Blade, Cedar Creek Church and Taylor Auto, says Goings, and in the first year, 30,000 books were donated from these and other sources, far exceeding Goings' expectations.

"What's special are 12 amazing young men who have gone above and beyond the call of duty," she says of those ambassadors.

Adults such as Scoles, Sheriff John Tharp, Baldemar Velasquez (founder and president of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee), Richard Jackson (retired Toledo Public Schools administrator), Jim Funk (former director of Reads for Literacy) – to name a few – have also been instumental in making Books 4 Buddis a success..

Tharp, for example, has placed the books in his deputies' cars for distribution as they are on their shifts.

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Sorority Hosts Symposium to Empower and Engage Toledo Youth

By Artisha Lawson Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Youth of Toledo participated in the annual symposium sponsored by the local chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. Iota Theta Sigma chapter which focused on the national theme "H³ It's All About Me: Healthy Choices, Healthy Living, and Healthy Generations."

Toledo area organizations and facilitators were present to discuss and present different topics that impact youth. Wanda Butts and The Josh Project shared information about swim safety and myths related to African Americans ability to swim and water fears. Toledo Technology Academy students talked about engineering and sciences through a senior project presentation.

Promedica's Teen PEP engaged youth and their parents about teen dating violence, bullying, and conflict resolution through skits and dialogue. "I've had friends experience teen dating violence. I joined Teen PEP to get the word out about what's healthy and not, so they can get out. There are many signs of an unhealthy relationship, like controlling, yelling or hitting items, it is also a sign of abuse,"

shared Tyshalla Lawrence, a Teen PEP member.

Teen PEP currently operates in 14 Lucas County schools and is sponsored by Toledo Children's Hospital and grant funding. The school teams meet weekly, discuss current issues and then create skits that address those issues. Eight Teen PEP members led different scenario skits explaining healthy and non-healthy actions and reactions.

"The bullying skit is important because most people who are bullying feel like they have no one to talk to. Someone always care about a victim's safety, but more people should care because it would lessen teen sui-

cides. Teen PEP would be there for them, teachers, adults, parents, counselors, will help them," explained Dawasha Wainewright, a Teen PEP member.

The symposium continued with Glass City Hustlers, who taught attendees two routines, and the program announced the sorority's 2013 scholarship recipient Brijette Smith, Smith plans to attend Kent State University this fall to focus on dentistry and business management, she wasn't present to accept the award but her father thanked the sorority.

"I want to thank the ladies of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. Iota Theta



Sigma Chapter. It's a blessing, Brijette texted me when she won and said 'dad I won a scholarship' I was so excited for her. She plans to become a dentist and also open franchise," said Smith's father.

Shawn Mahone of Young Men and Women for Change facilitated with a program graduate the H³ pledge, a promise recited by all attendees to inspire their generation, become more aware, continue learning, and positively influence their community.

National Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. has sponsored the symposium for 16 years, locally Toledo chapter held the symposium at the Frederick Douglass Community Association building on March 9.

"This was a great event, and great turn out. The numbers have increase steadily over the years, which show more community involvement and organization partnerships. I want to thank

Frederick Douglass Community Association for allowing us the use of the facility, and Sleepy Hollow," said Jan Scotlan, State Farm

Toledo Technology

Scotland encouraged his athletes to attend today's symposium.

"I thank Promedica, Toledo Technology Academy, and The Josh Project for partnering with us again as presenters. This symposium is about the youth, it was youth led and all I did was facilitate. The youth who attended pledged to lead healthier lives, they were engaged and empowered. I am so proud of the Toledo community for supporting our 16th year," said Kimberly Davis-Grable, symposium chairman.







Laneta Going: Jefferson Award Winner Gets Things Done

(Continued from Page 7)



gratifying, she says.

don't care if books are new or gently used; they can't believe that they are getting them free," she says.

One of the next steps for the group to take is to revisit those sites and try to assess the impact of the donations, to uncover, says Goings, "what have they done with the books."

In the meantime, Books 4 Buddies needs more ambassadors and they are starting a search for tutors.

Anyone who knows Goings can hardly be surprised by the success of this latest project. By dint of what she acknowledges is a Type A personality, she gets things

Goings became involved with the African American Legacy Project over the past few years and, by leading the group's annual fundraising banquet event, helped increase attendance from a few hundred attendees to over 600 in recent years.

Goings earned an undergraduate degree from UT and was with The Blade for many years, retiring in 2001. She had served there also as the vice president of The Blade Foundation.

Goings and her husband, Bill Goings, own and operate Apex Micrographics, and she is also a licensed realtor with Wells Bowen.

They have two daughters, Robin, a flight attendant who lives in Los Angeles, and Andrea, a medical doctor in Cincinnati.



oure McCord and





Owens Community College Toledo-area Campus Hosted

Northwest Ohio's Largest College Preview Night

Special to The Truth

More than 100 public and private colleges and universities from Ohio and the multi-state area visited the Toledo area as Owens Community College served as host to northwest Ohio's largest College Preview Night on Wednesday, March 6.

Established in 1987, the event occurred from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and was sponsored by the counseling staffs of 20 local high schools and Owens. College tables were be set up in Owens' Student Health and Activities Center and presentations were held in the Center for Fine and Performing Arts.

While most of the colleges represented at the event were from Ohio, representatives were also present from institutions as far away as New York, New Jersey and Colorado.

"College Preview Night is a great chance for high school students and their parents, as well as adult students, to visit with admissions representatives and learn about the various educational opportunities available at colleges and universities

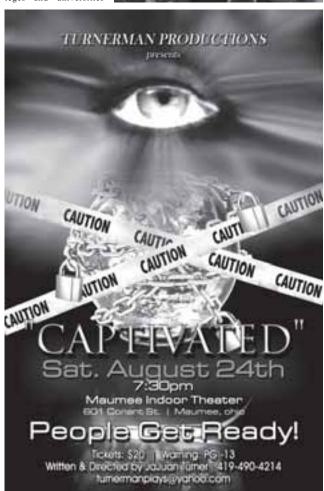
throughout the surrounding region," said Kari Morgan, Owens Admissions Representative. "Owens Community College is proud to once again work with area high schools in sponsoring an event that will aid students in choosing their career path."

The event provided thousands of prospective students the opportunity to visit with various college and university representatives and pick up important information about admission requirements. Individuals also learned about financial aid, student activities, academic program offerings, athletic eligibility and accommodations for students with special needs.

Informational sessions occurred throughout the evening. Attendees could hear presentations on financial aid, online financial aid resources, preparing for the ACT test, preparing to transfer from one academic institution to another, college athletics and admission to military academies and the ROTC.

In addition, representatives from local financial institutions were present to pro-







vide information on student loans and high school counselors were available during the event to answer general college questions. Representatives of the various military branches were also on hand to discuss admission to military academies, the ROTC and other scholarship-related programs.

Owens Community College to Assist Local Residents With Children's Clothing Swap Outreach Event, March 19

Special to The Truth

Owens Community College students are reaching out to those individuals in the surrounding communities with a limited clothing budget by hosting a children's clothing swap event titled "Swap-It-Up" on Tuesday, March 19.

The clothing swap is being presented by the College's Student Activities Office and will take place from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. in the Audio/



Visual Classroom Center Rooms 125-128 on the Toledo-area Campus. Owens is located on Oregon Road in Perrysburg Township. The daylong event is free and open to the public.

"Owens Community College is proud to once again serve as host to an event benefiting individuals in our communities who have a limited clothing budget," said Nicole Buccalo, Owens Student Activities Assistant. "I encourage individuals to donate their unnecessary clothes, while at the same time look for those hard-to-find items."

Attendees are encouraged to bring gently used, folded clothing of all sizes for children to the community outreach event. Items being accepted as part of the "Swap-It-Up" initiative are pants, dresses, shoes, skirts, jackets, shorts, short sleeve shirts, long sleeve shirts, ites and onesies, among other items.

All donated items must be freshly laundered and the clothing swap is not accepting clothing with visible stains, holes, broken zippers and missing buttons. Individuals will be given a ticket voucher for each item donated to the "Swap-It-Up" event. The ticket voucher will enable attendees to choose from the already donated clothing selection.

Any items not claimed during the clothing swap event will be donated to Cherry Street Mission Ministries.

For more information about the clothing swap event, call (567) 661-2994 or 1-800-GO-OWENS, Ext. 2994.

University of Toledo Graduate Certificate in Elder Law

Special to The Truth



The average 65 yearold American today can expect to live to about 85. As a result, one would be hard pressed to find a job in the service sector which would not involve dealing at least in part with the elderly and for which one would not be better quali-

fied with at least some level of education in elder law.

In response to this demand, the Legal Specialties Program in the College of Human Service Professions at the University of Toledo, in cooperation with UT's Center for Successful Aging in the College of Medicine is proud to offer the Online Graduate Certificate in Elder Law.

Recognizing that individuals are continually attempting to balance personal and professional responsibilities, the entire program, as the name indicates, is offered online and consists of five classes, all of which can be completed in just two semesters. Courses are accessible 24/7 through distance education methods over the Internet.

Three legal classes, Legal Issues for the Elderly, Elder Health Law and Ethical Issues and a Guided Study in Elder Law Topics are offered in the summer session. Legal Issues for the Elderly covers wills, trusts, estate administration, powers of attorney, guardianships, advance directives (health care powers of attorney, etc.), Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, grandparent's rights and legal issues involved in late-in-life marriages.

Elder Health Care Law focuses on the ethical issues involved in legal practice with elderly clients, age discrimination in employment, health care and long term care for the elderly, income maintenance, and elder abuse.

The Guided Study in Elder Law is a vehicle for exploration of elder law topics chosen by the students, with the approval of the faculty, which may not have been covered in significant depth in the other courses. Examples have included a comparison of the laws of various states on such issues as end-of-life decision making and elder abuse. Students are given the opportunity to create a project that explores their interests and suits their particular needs and/or reasons for enrolling in the Elder Law Certificate Program.

\The other two classes, Health and Aging and Issues in Contemporary Gerontological Practice are offered each fall semester. Health and Aging is designed to investigate health related issues in older adults, including the psychosocial aspects of disability and disease. Practical application of the material is emphasized. Issues in Contemporary Gerontological Practice explore introductory issues in older adults. Biological, psychological and sociological perspectives of aging are addressed.

To see a short video regarding this new program, go to: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PWf0VX6kWe4 or for more information contact Assoc. Prof. Michael J. Spiros, Esq. at mspiros@utoledo.edu or Debra O'Connell an DebraOConnell@utoledo.edu or call 419-530-5421.





All I Did Was Shoot My Man by Walter Mosley

c.2012, New American Library \$15.00 / \$16.00 Canada

By Terri Schlichenmeyer The Truth Contributor

The dirty glasses haven't quite made it to the kitchen yet.

They're still communing with last weeks' newspaper in the living room, while dust bunnies dance with cookie crumbs strewn on the carpet. Forgotten toys lie everywhere and your sweatshirt is right where you left it, balled up as a pillow on the sofa.

So you made a mess. It's called "living," you're not ashamed, and you'll deal with it later. But in the novel All I Did Was Shoot My Man by Walter Mosley, another mess needs cleaning up soon or somebody dies.

Zella Grisham always said that she was innocent.

Yes, it was her storage unit that had held some of the \$58 million stolen from a capital holding firm nine years ago. Yes, she'd shot her boyfriend three times for cheating on her with from prison. her best friend, but the heist? No, Zella always claimed she didn't have anything to do with that.

Leonard T. McGill believed her. He believed her because it was he who set her up to take the fall for grand larceny.

It was a scam that McGill had pulled before without problem but this time, it looked like there was trouble. With Zella out of prison, there were people who wanted to talk with her, a lot of people who figured that she knew where the rest of the cash was. They figured McGill did, too, because he was suddenly involved with Zella and he was not known for being squeakyclean.

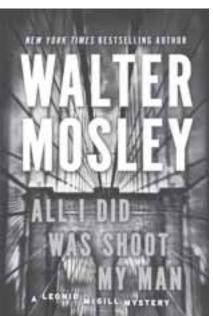
What they didn't know and neither did Zella was that McGill was also the one who sprung her

But in the midst of sorting out the mess, and while trying to keep Zella protected from thugs, McGill's biggest nemesis warned him that he wasn't safe. Three other men suspected of planning the heist were all dead, and it appeared that someone wanted McGill to join them. That notion was underscored when two professional gunmen broke into his house in the middle of the night with assassination on their minds.

Through the years, Leonid McGill had annoved a lot of people in New York City. Sure, he had enemies. But this time, he wasn't sure who the enemy was.

There's something about a Leonid McGill mystery that I truly do love.

Maybe it's that author Walter Mosley strongly reminds his readers of trench



coats, black-and-white movies, rainy streets, and Maltese falcons, even though this book is set in modern-day New York. Or maybe it's that his main character is smart, wise, and cooler than a polar bear's nose. Then again, I might love this series because, each time, Mosley gives his readers a little more about McGill and his (under)world, which only makes us want to visit it again and again.

Now out in paperback, All I Did Was Shoot My Man is the latest in the McGill series but it can be read as a standalone novel. If you're a fan of noir, you'll want it... because missing this book would be a dirty shame.

Ohio Legislative Black Caucus Cautiously Optimistic after Governor Restores **Minority Business Enterprise Division**

Governor yields to OLBC demands on MBE

The Ohio Legislative Black Caucus (OLBC) concluded the first of what it hopes will be quarterly meetings with Governor John R. Kasich and his administration, with mixed results. The meeting was held in response to OLBC's Day of Action press conference, in which members of the caucus laid out an action plan with policies on education, health care, iobs, voting rights, and challenged the Administration's initial decisions on minority business.

"I appreciate the dialogue with the Governor on the OLBC Action Plan and was happy to walk into the meeting with a mutual understanding on Medicaid expansion," said OLBC President, Rep. Alicia Reece (D-Cincinnati). "We had further agreement around the importance of early childhood education. but disagreed on how to deliver it. Finally, on workforce development, OLBC agrees with the Governor that jobs are the top priority, but we are concerned about budgetary discrepancies in program funding.

Though the Governor was generous with his time and restoring the MBE division, OLBC's concerns regarding universal early childhood education, Republican recalcitrance on the Medicaid expansion and workforce development in African American communities remain top priorities with challenges that cannot be resolved in a single meeting.

"Though I am disturbed by the fact that the Governor was unaware of the elimination of an entire division. I am pleased that the MBE division and budget appropriation shall be restored," said Rep. Tracy Maxwell Heard (D-Columbus). "Acknowledging that, there still remain many administrative and procedural disputes following existing code and compliance metrics."

"I remain hopeful that OLBC will have opportunity to engage the Administration in productive ways that will yield legitimate outcomes. There yet remains much work to be done," Rep. Reece





What The Hell Happened?? Toledo's Music Scene In Decline

By Michael Hayes Minister of Culture



From 2009 to 2011, Toledo's urban music scene thrived with possibility and promise.

The foundation was laid in the 80s by people like Lyte N Rod, Keith Success, The United Soul Brothers and Tommy Kaye. WJUC and later on WJZE gave our entertainment scene a constant presence on radio and helped create a standard. Through the mid 2000s you could see things starting to take shape. A growing number of artists, producers, promoters, club owners, radio DJ's, club DJ's, vocal coaches, studio owners, engineers, etc.

But the artists weren't polished, and a lot of the music sucked.

You had break out talents like Ray Stone, Swagga Boyz, Sir Verse and many others throughout those years who really showed it was possible to gain momentum but the music scene itself just didn't find its bloom season.

We had all the makings of a viable music scene, but during much of the mid 2000's there was basically no way to move up the ranks and be a part of it if you weren't already a part of it.

But in 2009, it all started to come together.

In 2009 something clicked.

That's the year we started to figure out what Atlanta, Detroit and St. Louis have known for years:

From 2009 to 2011 this city's entertainment scene blossomed and expanded at a hectic pace.

Don't think of me as a reporter or journalist because that's not my title and not how I wound up writing these articles. I know this city's entertainment scene because I'm part of it, beyond being a columnist for The Truth. Having my own label and artists is what has put me shoulder to shoulder with Toledo's music scene for years. I've seen the various ups and downs from the front lines

I can tell you first hand, that there was so much activity and hustle and bustle here that even major labels were starting to notice.

But what happened?

How did the scene go from rapid expansion to damn near complete stagnation?

Since 2011 things have gone downhill. The places to perform have dried up, the access to tastemakers has been sealed off and the climate of various crews all offering their own brand of local flavor has cooled off considerably.

Throughout it all, my partner Adonis Lavale and I have been able to forge a few alliances with other people grinding to realize their goals in the music industry.

Two of the people I've always respected most are Yung Prof and Tracy.

I've featured them both numerous times in The Truth. In fact Tracy has appeared more in this paper than any other artist in this city.

But I respect Tracy for his honesty, commitment to his craft and approach to the music game

Also Prof is one of the hardest working, most approachable artists I've ever met in my life.

While thinking on this topic of the recent surge then decline of Toledo's music scene, I wondered whom I could include to offer some feedback.

The fact these guys were both mainstays on the scene at the time (and since), I felt they were great people to get some insight from.

I asked them each three questions, keep reading to check out their answers.

OUESTIONS:

#1. From 2009 to 2011 there were multiple places for local acts to perform. There were a lot of places that offered quality local acts a chance to earn a fan base... what happened?

#2. Also from 2009 to 2011, the Toledo urban music scene had a lot of crews/labels. Some were actual business entities, others were informal collectives. What happened?

#3. What changes do you see in the local entertainment scene in the last three years?

Here are their answers. TRACY

(singer/songwriter – google: Tracy The Rarebreed for music and info)

#1. Main St., Cloud 9, Bijou, Mug Shots was cool. A lot of places like The Peacock, Erie St. Market, J's Palace and you can perform anywhere you want if you know the promoter or just rent the spot and get the door. It's all about what you want.

#2. Yes the crew thing kinda played out now. It doesn't work when you got 100000 artist with no manager, real promoteam or none

of that in place. It kinda turns into the blind leading the blind and I think a lot of people figured that out and went there own ways. Hustle Hand is fam, we're beyond music. I got my own manager and I respect how my people hustle so I don't expect them to do things for me. If they do or I do for them it's because they asre my brothers/sisters.

#3 Yeah I see change in a positive and negative light. I feel the music is better. People are caring more about what they drop and the quality and videos are dope but complaining is at an all-time high! We got cats who don't step out and support crying and talking about "Toledo don't support." I've seen many artists support and many not support, so the complaining about "not enough" shows irritates me too. People have forgotten about networking and building relationships.

YUNG PROF

(rap artist – google: Yung Prof for music and info)

#1. I think the few people in Toledo that did attend local shows got burned out after a while so they stopped going to shows so the venues stopped supporting local acts.

#2. When I had a crew we disbanded because there was

too much disloyalty, not sure if that's taken place with any other crew around. It also seems like people got burned out on music because it wasn't going anywhere so they broke off into other things.

#3. What Tracy said sums it up. Also people are getting burned out because like he said there's no management in place and no one has there business in order. Most artists don't know about publishing, ISRCs, PROs, or copyrights so people have just been trying to skate uphill with broken wheels and it got real old.

As for me and our company, I remember vividly how the city buzzing with so much opportunity impacted us.

On more than a few occasions, we would be performing at two venues on the same night!

Rushing off stage at one place and racing across town to get on stage somewhere else.

Even just as fans, you could hear some R&B at a networking event and later that night hit up Club Rocks and see the more urban, hood crowd. You could attend one of the many spoken word venues and see Toledo's neosoul movement on full display on a Saturday night, then

wake up Sunday and attend a workshop at one of the local hotels where industry professionals had been invited to give local artists feedback and advice.

I'm not talking about some long, long ago far away time period. I'm talking just three or four damn years ago!

We now have a growing number of photographers, choreographers, models and graphic designers to add to the already suffocating amount of artists, producers and promoters.

That gives us a lot of the ingredients we need for a viable local entertainment scene but the sheer number of people with no central way establish a standard dilutes the talent.

Trust me...not all DJ's can say they are the top DJ's in any city.

There is an art to playing certain songs at certain times and controlling the energy of the crowd as well as the vibe of an event.

In the same way just playing music doesn't make someone a DJ, just rapping or singing doesn't make someone an artist, just take someone a model/photographer and just making flyers doesn't

(Continued on Page 14)







Toledo's Music Scene In Decline

(Continued from Page 13)



graphic artist.

It's about quality. It's about giving a shot to those who are ready and giving a gut check to those who are not.

make someone a The worst part about criticism usually won't Toledo's music scene losing its momentum is now every one is their own island and much deserved praise as well as much needed

reach people on their own ish.

No matter what happens though, I'll always hold those few years as some of most

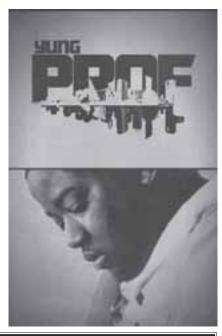
fond memories. We didn't all get along all the time, but there were numerous crews/collectives each with their own unique offering to the city's vibe.

There was a hierarchy being established (trust me, you need a hierarchy).

There was a pantheon of bright and rising stars and enough space for all to shine.

It wasn't perfect by any stretch of the imagination, but... it was cool while it lasted.

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CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY \$650.00 plus court costs

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DEBT RELIEF?

CLASSIFIEDS

Page 15

March 13, 2013

BUS TRIP

Bus trip to Sweetie Pie's Soul Food Restaurant and Hollywood Casino St Louis. The Costis \$150.00 per person this includes transportation, your meal at Sweetie Pies, also pays for Breakfast Sunday Morning, and Drinks and Snacks during the trip. All pricing is based on double hotel occupancy. Deadline April 20. Contact Chris for more information. 419-322-1194

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Urban Farm Manager

Toledo CDC is looking for an Urban Farm Manager. Please see website for detailed job description. Anyone interested in position, go to www.toledocdc.org, select the "contact us" button and complete the contact form. Be sure to put in the message box that you are interested in Urban Farm Managing and briefly list your experience.

DEADLINE February 28, 2013. RESUMES ARE WELCOME. NO PHONE CALLS OR WALK-INS! NO EXCEPTIONS

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Send resume with salary requirements or apply to:
Human Resources - DA
Unison Behavioral Health Group, Inc.
1425 Starr Ave.
Toledo, OH 43605
Fax: 419-936-7574
Email: hr@unisonbhg.org

FOF

Safe-T-City Teachers

The Toledo Police Department is accepting resumes for the position of "Teacher" for the 2013 summer Safe-T-City Program. Interested applicants shall send their resume, home address, contact information, copies of any/all teaching certificates and experience coordinating or instructing child safety programs, and three (3) references (include name, address, and telephone number of each reference.) All information shall be submitted to Toledo Police Department, Personnel and Public Affairs Bureau, 525 N. Erie Street, 43604 by no later than March 30th, 2013. EOE.



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sidized independent housing facility for those 62 or older. We are located in a beautiful, quiet residential setting in Perrysburg. Abundant Life offers one bedroom garden apartments with private patios, indoor mailboxes, reserved parking and busing to local grocery stores. Abundant Life is a smoke free facility

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URBan Radio Broadcasting Toledo Ohio has an immediate opening for a Weekend talent for WIMX-FM (Mix 95.7) The Best Variety of Hits and Oldies. This position requires an experience person who can entertain our adult audience. You must be very organized, extremely motivated, driven and have a burning desire to win. Working knowledge of digital production equipment is a must. This position is now available and we will start an immediate interview process. Please get us all the details about you and your abilities for a on air shift immediately including an air check. Send to:

Brandi Brown
Program Director
URBan Radio Broadcasting
720 Water St 4th Floor
Toledo OH 4th 5614
or email your presentation along with your air
check to
Brandibrown@urbanradio.fm

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Washington Local Schools. Must have minimum of 5 years combined payroll training/work experience. Must apply online only at www.wls4kids.org (employment link) by 4/7/2013.

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Beginning Genealogy A Two-part Workshop on April 9 & 16

Special to The Truth

The Toledo-Lucas County Public Library's Local History & Genealogy department is pleased to present a two-part workshop titled Beginning Genealogy scheduled from 6-8 p.m. on Tuesdays, April 9 and April 16 at Main Library, 325 Michigan St.

This two-part FREE and open to the public workshop is on the basics of genealogy and is perfect for any family's keeper of history and genealogy. Local History & Genealogy librarians Donna Christian and Irene Miller will serve as instructors for the two-part workshop.

- The first session on Tuesday, April 9 will present an overview of genealogy and United States Census records.
- · The second session on Tuesday, April 16 will present an overview of using magazines and newspapers and using the Internet for family genealogical research.

Parking is free for all workshop participants. Registration is required.

NOTE: For additional information visit toledolibrary.org, or call the Local History & Genealogy department to register at 419.259.5233

Library announces the 2013 Ruth Blank Venner and Mary Jane Blank McCormick Essay Contest

2013 Theme: Reading: Your Future!

County Public Library is proud to announce the 2013 Ruth Blank Venner and Mary Jane say Contest. This year's contest, imagine how (and what) you might read in the future. How will young people learn to read and what will they use to read? When you go to the Library

The Toledo-Lucas what will you see? What will the perfect Library look like?

This year's essay contest is open to grades K Blank McCormick Es- through 12 and is a 500 word maximum. Grade theme is Reading: Your level essay categories are Future! From cave as follows: K-second paintings to computers, grade, third -fifth, sixth the ways we read have eighth, and ninth -12th. changed. For this essay Prizes will be awarded to winning essay entrants: 1st place \$200, 2nd place \$100, 3rd place \$50 and 6 honorable mentions will be awarded \$25 each in each category. Prizes are provided by the Ruth



Jane Blank McCormick Memorial Project of the Friends of the Library.

Contest essay forms

branch locations, at Main Library, on the Library's official

on the Library's Bookmo-sister's memory and to bile and cybermobile promote (Outreach Services). Essays must be turned in by lished the Ruth Blank March 30, 2013. No entries will be accepted af- Project of the Friends ter March 30, 2013.

Venner was a past presi- Mr. Blank added the dent of the Friends of the memory of his other Library (FOL) and an ac- sister Mary Jane tive member. Mrs. Venner, who died in 1996, the essay contest and was married 44 years to Blank Venner and Mary are available at all Library the well-known television Mary Jane Blank news anchor Frank McCormick died in Venner. Mrs. Venner's 2009. website brother Leon W. Blank, (toledolibrary.org) and as a way to honor his

reading among youth, estab-Venner Memorial of the Library begin-The late Ruth Blank ning in 1996. In 2010, Blank McCormick to FOL Memorial Project.



