

Preparing for The Cotillion - Debutante Ball



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The Violence of Silence I

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



.. Physical violence is not the only way in which we hurt one another. It is just the most conspicuous. - Renita Weems

"My God, my God, why ...?"

The brutal and senseless but commonplace violence perpetrated upon women and children of all races, ethnicities and socioeconomic groups is beyond comprehension.

I don't understand the brutal Steubenville, Ohio rape of a 16 year-old girl by two teenage members of the high school football team. The recurring deaths of intelligent, talented, attractive and ambitious women at the hands of sick ex-boyfriends or former spouses boggle my mind. The persistent physical and emotional battering in countless intimate partner relationships continues to stretches my capacity to connect reason with reality

I spoke with Rev. Marie Fortune, Ph.D, to explore the depths of this complex issue. Fortune is a pioneer in the field of religion and domestic violence and the Founder and Senior Analyst at the Seattle-based FaithTrust Institute. Perryman: There are

many people, particularly in churches, who come bearing wounds - some still fresh and others with scars - along with shame and guilt. It appears that persons are in search of healing. Have you followed the high profile rape case in Steubenville, Ohio? Fortune: Yes.

Perryman: There are a lot of dynamics in play child-on-child violence, children abusing children. power and gender, minors and alcohol and blame-thevictim rationalizations.

Fortune: The real tragedy is the failure of these young men. It astonishes me that these teens can, not only engage in sexual assault, but then broadcast it over social media. This says to me that they saw no moral fault and had no concern about legal risk. I wonder how could our young people be so out of touch with any sense of respect for another human being?

And then, of course, the community divided and taking sides with the assailants and the victim, is very disturbing but very typical. These men clearly were responsible for harming someone who was incapacitated. So it just continues to astonish me.

Perryman: How do you address those who condemn and chastise the young lady because she had been drinking?

Fortune: We would prefer that none of those young people be drinking but they do. The fact that none of her friends or the people she was with stepped in at any point to stop her. Also, where were her parents or other adults?

ated. Fortune: The church's silence on these issues is significant. I was just speaking in Nashville and a man came up to me who was a former pastor and now is a counselor work-

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That's the vulnerability that she presented to these people who decided to take advantage of her. But, like you said, it's classic blaming the victim and it's just not helpful to her or to the young men, because it relieves them of responsibility which is the worst thing we can do for them.

Perryman: Given a popular culture which, in an automobile ad, depicts scantily-clad women bound and gagged in the trunk of a government leader's car, how does the Steubenville incident speak to the current state of society, young people, or parenthood?

Fortune: Unfortunately, the incident makes a statement about the fact that we live in a rape culture that still shapes the consciousness and behaviors particularly among men. Certainly, these boys do not represent all young men. But my question is where did they go to church and what were they learning? Because I feel, as a church leader, that these are the issues we should be teaching and talking about in church. So I worry that this wasn't happening for them.

Perryman: I totally didn't see that response coming. You seem to suggest that the church itself has helped to shape public acceptance of how women and children are threatened, assaulted and humili-

ing with abusive men. He

said that 10 years ago when he was still preaching, that he preached on sexual violence and was amazed at the response.

Men and women were in tears, many older people came up to him afterwards and were so appreciative of his sermon and some young people reached out to him for situations they were dealing with.

It taught him that until he spoke about it he wasn't going to hear about it. But as soon as he spoke about it he was going to hear

about it. So, preaching is one place that we really can make a huge difference to create a space in which people can talk about their own experiences and those of people they care about.

When we look out at a congregation on Sunday, statistically, every third person knows something about these issues and has had very personal experiences themselves or in their family. The fact that they don't hear about sexual or domestic violence from the

pulpit is a very powerful message to them about the life experiences that they've had.

As you've said, they're carrying with them the wounds that are often not healed. So I just feel like it's one of those opportunities and responsibilities that we have that we can't let pass by.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, D.Min, at drdpensman@centerofhopebaptistarg

Community Calendar

March 28

ESOP's Great American Bank Fight: Frederick Douglass Community Association; 6 pm: 419-464-9885

March 29

Mt. Nebo Baptist Good Friday Service: Noon to 3 pm; Free transportation available: 419-246-8561

March 30

All Classes Libby HS Reunion Meeting: Hong Kong Chinese Buffet in WalMart Plaza; To plan Labor Day Weekend reunion: 419-450-7227

March 31

New Covenant Church "Cross Over to a New Life:" 11 am; Woodward HS

Indiana Avenue MBC 48th Pastoral Celebration: For Pastor John E. Roberts: 4 pm: Guests are Rev. John Williams and Eastern Star MBC: 419-246-3850

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 21

Phillips Temple CME Pre-Women's Day Event: Gospel Concert featuring Derrick Roberts and the Toledo Interfaith Mass Choir: 419-242-7906

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

Mav 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

May 19

Phillips Temple CME Women's Day service: Featuring Tersa Snorton, first woman bishop of CME: 419-242-7906

Two Troubling Thoughts....

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq Guest Column



(1) It appears that any ban on high capacity assault weapons is doomed for failure in the U.S. Senate. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid is taking the bill off of the floor for a vote because he contends that it will not pass and he wants to get some portion of the gun control law passed as opposed to nothing at all.

My thoughts on America and its eternal love affair with guns and more guns? Unless and until there is more bloodshed that makes American scream with moral outrage, the NRA will

win with its "they want to take away your guns" whiffle arguments.

Until the cup is overrunning with the new blood of more innocents. America will shy away from substantial and meaningful gun control

Specifically, until more Americans are mowed down with automatic weapon fire, America

will shield it eyes and hope for the best.

Until there are more gruesome murders of bushel baskets full of innocents. America

will deny it has an ongoing addiction with guns.

Only when the headlines repeatedly blare out about more mass killings of 10, 20, 50 and 100 innocents, will the cup of blood become so overflowing that America will change and come out of its stupor of loving blazing guns and red-hot fire power. Now regrettably, this

cup of blood of the innocents will have to be filled to the brim by white people and white kids caught in the cross fire of gun nuts and psychos because the value of life of non-minorities only registers about three-fifths of the value of innocently-shed white blood.

It seems that the country is immune to black-on-black gun crime and killings.

Could you image the moral hue and cry if white folks and white kids were being murdered at the rate folks are in Detroit and Chicago but in such cities as Seattle or San Diego or White Plains (New York) or Tampa or Montgomerv?

If that were to happen, Congress would be falling over its feet in passing meaningful

gun laws including the banning of assault weapons and high-capacity ammo drums

Don't believe me? Look at the slaughter houses also known as Detroit and Chicago and other

urban cities. Folks in those cities have been systematically, so it seems, shooting down

black folks for years and it is to the point that new murders do not hardly register as a moral outrage on the national news. We are seemingly immune to blacks killing blacks

But, if you start getting more Newtowns (Connecticut) and Columbines (Colorado), white folks will become incensed and then, and only then, will that whitefueled rage intimidate the NRA and force the spineless members in the House and Senate to take real notice of the carnage, black and white.

Until that time comes, and I hope it never does, we will simply put Band-Aids on the gun problem and run for cover when the NRA bellows and rants and raves about guns being

our alter ego and that without assault weapons or with the infringement of universal background checks, we are ripe for a takeover by the ever evil Obama-led government.

(2) Here is a statistic that will leave you breathless and trembling for the future of the black family. According to The Guttmacher Institute

(Guttmacher.org), young black teenage girls are aborting babies twice as fast as their racial counterparts.

This study further indicates that blacks are doing the abortion scene at an alarming rate in that we make up 13 percent of the population but have 30 percent of the recorded abortions!

So, what does that portend for the black family? We are slowing erasing multitudes who would be members of a generation of black men and women.

We are throwing away future marriage partners for future generations of black men and women. We are diluting our population. We are treating life with contempt and do not honor

the life that is gestating within the womb.

For whatever reason or rationale, the carrier of the black family, the black woman (albeit too many unmarried teenagers are engaged in this behavior) is terminating life and is not giving life. Abortion is different from

birth control. With birth control, conception is not allowed. With abortion, conception has taken place and a life is being

prepared to enter the world but is cruelly cut short by a decision to end that precious life.

I know...I know...you may not want me preaching about the sanctity of life and

life starts in the womb and that, before you were born, God knew the exact number of days for your life and that He knitted together in the womb, the yet-to-be-born child. So... what does an

abortion mean besides a life lost? It means that we have said no to God's intent for that life to be

born and we have played "god."

So... between the hor-

rific incidents of the untimely deaths of blacks, male and female, by gun violence, we then add on the incalculable loss of black life created in the image of God and we

have a recipe for disaster for the successful future of the black family.

If you take the position that life begins in the womb, the issue of abortion being a private right is pure nonsense because no one is advocating as a "guardian" for the life that cannot yet speak up for his or her rights.

The argument has been couched under the terms of a woman having the sole right to take control of her body and that control includes aborting an unwanted fetus. But when a life starts in the womb, that sole "control" by the woman is a now a consideration that must include the best interests of the unborn

child As an aside, when you read the life of Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood, vou will find that she made statements that can be possibly seen as a belief in the elimination of black person and she spoke at KKK rallies. (See: The Career of Margaret Sanger by David Kennedy and see also: the website: The National Black Pro-Life Union and its story about the Negro Project which was a favorite project of Margaret Sanger).

This abortion issue within the black community is doing a ghastly job of partially thinning out future generations of black people and it appears to be no hue and cry from us!

Depending on which statistics you come across, since 1973, millions of black babies have been silenced by the means of abortion. I am too overwhelmed to crv about it.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@Juno.com

Rep. Ashford Announces State Funding for Elderly and Disabled Services \$16K approved to help connect residents of rental

housing with community assistance

Special to The Truth

State Representative Michael Ashford (D-Toledo) announced last week that the State Controlling Board has approved grant in the amount of \$16,000 for the Ohio Department of Aging's Resident Services Coordinator Program. The program is designed to help connect disabled and low-income residents with services and benefits in their community

"I am pleased to see that tenants of The Renaissance will be in a better position to access services and benefits to help maintain their independence," said Ashford. "It is so important that all people can feel safe and secure with necessities sucl as housing. Our local Area Office on Aging does great work."

Through the grant, the Area Office on Aging will be able to hire a part time service coordinator for residents at The Renaissance. Resident service coordinators can help tenants maintain apartments, comply with lease terms and increase access to integrated housing for people with disabilities

"I could never have done it on my own without Hospice of Northwest Ohio." MY MOM IS BATTLING CANCEL. "I mant't familiar with watching somebody you love pass among I felt a weight had been lifted off my shoulders when Hospice of Northwest Ohio-got involved because I had no idea what I was I need to work FULL TIME. doing, and they explained everything to me." - April, daughter of a Hospice of Northwest Ohio patient We are the area's largest and most experienced provider of hespice I WANT TO be there EVERY DAY. sam, a rengrofit organization solely delicated to providing the best possible and-of-life experience for our patents and their families. HOW CAN I do it all? Ask for us by name. The sconer you do: the more we can help. Arowers for Living the Last Months of Life HOSPICE Visit hospicenwo.am 419 481 4801 (Charl + 754 588 8801 (Michigan)



The Sojourner's Truth March 27, 2013

"Kwanzaa Park Neighbors" Is Organization's New Name

Special to The Truth

At its March meeting, members of Brighten Up Community Organizing voted unanimously to change their group's name to "Kwanzaa Park Neighbors.

"We wanted a name that would better tell people what we do and where we are located," said Oscar Shaheer, president of the organization and co-owner of "Your Community Market," located on Nebraska Avenue.

Kwanzaa Park Neighbors focuses on the neighborhood south of Dorr Street, bounded by Brown and Hawley Avenues, and originally named "Kuschwantz," meaning "cow's tail" in German. Shaheer explained that the name was given by neighboring Germans to the Polish neighborhood, and referred to its being at the "tail end" of the trolley line.

In 2010, Brighten Up Community Organizing sponsored a contest to "name the neighborhood" and "Kwanzaa Park' won. Kwanzaa is a celebration based on the African communitarian philosophy of Kawaida. Brighten Up, now Kwanzaa Park Neighbors, is working with Toledo City Council to get signage installed.

Brighten Up Community Organizing was formed in 2008 as a result of a successful effort on the part of neighborhood residents working with UT students and the City of Toledo to improve neighborhood street lighting. "Brighten Up" referred not only to the lights, but also to an attitude. Two of the original Brighten Up members, Brenda Witcher and Phyllis Toney, were both supportive of the organization's new name.

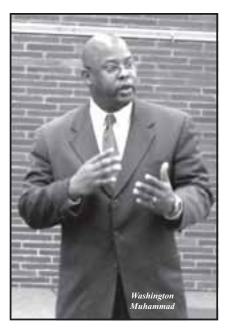
Member Jacqueline LaBiche said she liked the name Kwanzaa Park Neighbors because it "sounds friendly," which is what the organization is all about. Sr. Virginia Welsh, also a member and director of the Padua Center, noted that for those of a religious bent, the name "neighbors" resonates with Jesus's teachings on the importance of everyone acting like everyone's neighbor.

Washington Muhammad, who is a board member of the group and program coordinator for Self Expression Teen Theater, liked emphasizing that the group consists of "neighbors." "Some people work in the neighborhood, some own businesses, some worship, and some live here," he explained. "We are all neighbors."

"Some people work in the neighborhood, some own businesses, some worship, and some live here. We are all neighbors."

Lynne Hamer, who lives near the neighborhood and teaches at University of Toledo, liked it because even though the group focuses on its own neighborhood, it also reaches out to the larger Toledo community. For example, this summer the group is hosting a teachers' workshop, "From Kuschwantz to Kwanzaa Park," sponsored by the Ohio Humanities Council and taught through UT. "Kwanzaa Park Neighbors is inviting teachers from throughout Ohio in to learn from the neighborhood," she stated.

Along with the new neighborhood name and new organization name, Kwanzaa Park Neighbors is working on a new logo. "This will appear on letterhead and on signs around the neighborhood," Shaheer explained. As with the neighborhood's name, its logo will be chosen through a contest. Four entries have been received. Anyone with an interest in the neighborhood is invited to vote by stopping by the Padua Center at 1416 Nebraska, between 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Any neighbors, from inside or outside the neighborhood itself, are invited to come the Kwanzaa Park Neighbors monthly meetings, held the first Thursday of every month from 6-7 p.m. at the Padua Center, 1416 Nebraska Avenue, with parking accessed from Junction Avenue. Call the Padua Center at 419-241-6465 for details



March 27, 2013

The Sojourner's Truth

Justice Judith Ann Lanzinger Addresses Law and Leadership Institute Graduates

Special to The Truth



The first class to enter the Law and Leadership Institute (LLI) at The University of Toledo College of Law graduated from the program on March 16. Justice Judith Ann Lanzinger '77 of the Supreme Court of Ohio was the keynote speaker.

The 18 graduates, all seniors at local high schools, participated in a mock trial competition against LLI students from the University of Akron School of Law in the Cubbon Courtroom at the Law Center. The commencement ceremony followed in the Law Center's McQuade Law Auditorium.

Supported by the Ohio State Bar Foundation, the Supreme Court of Ohio, Ohio's nine law schools, and others, LLI is a statewide initiative to help prepare students from underserved communities for post-secondary success through a four-year aca-

demic program in law, leadership, analytical thinking, and writing skills. Toledo Law's LLI program began in 2009 with a single ninth grade class; a new class has joined the program each following year.

"We are very proud of the students we have worked with in the Law and Leadership Institute, especially those we have seen grow during the past four years. We are grateful to all of the sponsors for supporting this effort to diversify the legal profession," said Daniel J. Steinbock, dean of the College of Law.

The LLI program was piloted in Columbus and Cleveland in 2008, and has since grown to more than 400 high school students on eight law school campuses across the state. LLI students begin the program during the summer before their freshman year. It's a five-week long program

that runs from Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. LLI students hear from local attorneys and judges, go on weekly field trips, and end the program with a mock trial. The program continues into the school year on select Saturday afternoons.

The program is a free program open to incoming ninth graders in the Toledo area. Lunch is provided and help with transportation through the bus system can be arranged. In addition, students are awarded with a stipend for successfully completing the summer program.

How to apply: Go to

www.lawandleadership.org and click on "LLI Cities." Go to the Toledo site. Click on "Apply" and click on the application. You can type right on the applica-



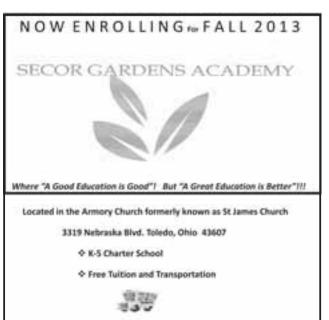
tion from the site and then print it off. Once completed, mail the application to:

Marilyn Preston University of Toledo, College of Law 2801 W. Bancroft, MS 507 Toledo, OH 43606

2013 summer dates: June 24 to July 26

Student interested in the program, should let their teacher or counselor know so they can get information to LLI. Completed application should be submitted before the April 15 deadline.

Any further questions, feel free to contact Site Coordinator Michelle Tussing at 419-450-2220 or at <u>michelle.tussing@gmail.com</u>.



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Hancock at 419-250-3154, 419-536-2408 or e-mail: hha101@aol.com.

African American Legacy Project's Easter Egg Tree

By Folasade Oladokun Sojourner's Truth Reporter

On Wednesday, March 20, 2013 The African American Legacy Project unveiled its Easter Egg Tree to the media and community. The tree signifies new beginnings and also serves as a reminder of the Easter Egg Hunt the AALP will host on Easter Sunday March 31, 2013 at their new home located at 1326 Collingwood.

This will be the first event hosted by the Legacy Project since their move in October. Positioned right at the cusp of the community, the new location is believed to have the ability to serve as a "Beacon of Hope" for the entire community.

Bernadette Graham, AALP program coordinator, said the Easter Egg Hunt will be a safe, fun, and positive event for the community. "We want to establish a relationship with children in the community with our emerging leaders as much as possible, our up-and-coming leaders in the community are very positive role models for the children, " she said.

Activities for children age toddler through grade six will be conducted by the 2012 Emerging Leaders. The Easter Bunny will be on hand to greet the children. The Glass City Brothers United will be present to provide fire safety information. The event will take place from 2-4 pm.



Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union's Annual Tax Assistance

The Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union sponsored its first free income tax assistance program in January 2002. The tradition continues this year at the credit union's location on Dorr Street.

"We are happy to bring this free service to the people of our community," CEO Suzette Cowell said years ago. It's a sentiment that holds true today.

For more information on the tax assistance program, call 419-255-8876.

The tax assiatnce program is sponsored bt The Toledo Journal, Fifth Third Bank, Seagate Office Products, RC Olmstead Inc, and The Sojourner's Truth Newspaper.





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March 27, 2013 **The Sojourner's Truth**

Toledo's Soulcial Scene • Toledo's Soulcial

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Toledo Club of the National Association of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. presented the annual etiquette seminar for this year's debutantes and debs-in-waiting. The young ladies gathered at Indiana Avenue Baptist Church, Saturday March 16, 2013 for a two-hour informative session entitled "Between Us Girls". Denise Cardwell, instructor and Toledo Club member, taught

this class. About 60 young ladies were taught how to greet someone with a handshake and a smile and were (Continued on Page 8)







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The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's Soulcial Scene • YWCA's 18th Annual Milestones: A Tribute to Women

Rhonda Sewell, LC Auditor Anita Lopez, Jacqueline

Rivers, Candace Harrison

On March 14, 2013, the YWCA of Northwest Ohio recognized, for the 18th year, extraordinary women in the community who have demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities and have demonstrated efforts contributing to the





Center

The honorees were: Arts - Carolyn Putney, chief curator, director of collections and curator of Asian

art, Toledo Museum of artBusiness - Linda Ewing, senior vice president fifth third Bank (Northwestern Ohio)Education - Janet

The Cotillion

(Continued from Page 7)

given tips on how to interview, look the part and how to have to right attitude in various settings. The art of introduction was demonstrated as they attempted to get to know each other. Throughout the workshop the young ladies were encouraged to sit properly, walk correctly and what not to wear that included hair and make-up. A working lunch was provided and debutantes and deb's in waiting got a chance to interact with each other and share ideas. After the seminar, lunch was served which offered the young women an opportunity to become better acquainted with each other.

Wilma Brown, Cotillion chairman, spoke of the scholarships provided through The University of Toledo and provided other helpful hints and information. This is the 49th Annual Cotillion and Brown has been instrumental in its success. This year's Cotillion - Debutante Ball will be held in The Great Hall at the Stranahan on Saturday, May 25 at 7 pm.



president Lourdes University Government - Teresa Fedor, state representativeSciences - Dr. Anne Ruch, OB/GYN, director of SewHope, founder of Kids Against Hunger Social Services - Wanda Butts, founder of the Josh ProjectVolunteerism Patricia Appold, president of Library Legacy Foundation and Oliver House Development

The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's Soulcial Scene • Toledo's Soulcial

Banding Together for a Cause

By Carla Yvette



Toledo's Soulcial Scene • Toledo's Soulcial Scene • Toledo's Soulcial Scene • Toledo's Soulcial Scene • Toledo's Soulcial Scene •

F.A.M.E. Fashion Show . . . WOW!

(Continued from Page 16)



• Toledo's Soulcial Scene •

Behind The Laughs with Luenell

By Monique Ward Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Monique Ward: Not sure if many people know this but you started out in theater. Can you tell us about that?

Luenell: I don't necessarily promote it but people who are aware or in tune, can tell that I do a little more with my voice and facial expressions than other comics would do.

MW: Did you ever picture yourself when you were younger having a thriving career in comedy? *Luenell*: No because when I started in theater, there was no real future in comedy. The only comedians I knew were Bill Cosby, Redd Fox, Lawanda Page, so on and so forth. There was no Comic

View, Comedy Central, Def Comedy Jam or anything like that when I started. That wasn't even my goal to be in comedy but my goal was to be in entertainment in some form or fashion.

 $M\!W\!$: When your mom passed away, may she rest in peace, you became pregnant with your first and only child. How did that affect your thinking and career?

Luenell: My mind was not clear several months after that. I didn't even really acknowledge my pregnancy until the fifth month so it's a miracle that my child is as healthy, talented and beautiful as she is today.

MW: When you started doing comedy, you were getting accolades for your work from well-known comics from the beginning. How did that make you feel? Luenell: Even to this day, getting pats on the back and words of encouragement from

my peers or the ones that have gone before me is all wonderful.

MW: With all your accomplishments, including touring with Katt Williams and movies under your belt, if you can have any gig you wanted, what would that be?

Luenell: Of course we don't know the opportunities that are to come upon us but if I was to have my wishes granted...I would want my own sitcom and a primetime network show. Also a non-political late night talk show would be nice and a counseling show for young children.

MW: What major events, movies or shows do you have coming up?

Luenell: I have a show at the Theater at Madison Square Garden on April Fool's Day (April 1) which I'm very excited about. It's sponsored by Hot 97 & Tracy Morgan will be hosting it. I have a movie coming out in the summer called *School Dance* written and directed by Nick Cannon starring Kevin Hart, George Lopez, Katt Williams, Mike Epps and myself. I also have a television show that I starred in called, "Who Gets The Last Laugh?" by Ashton Kutcher , where comedians compete by doing the best prank to win \$10,000 to give to their favorite charity. I already know who won but you will have to watch it yourself to find out.

Luenell will be headlining, with Rodney Perry, Red Grant and Micheal Blackson, the Mother's Day Show at The Stranahan Theater on May 12 in Toledo, Ohio. Tickets are available for sale now.



Lavell Crawford at Fat Fish/Funny Bone

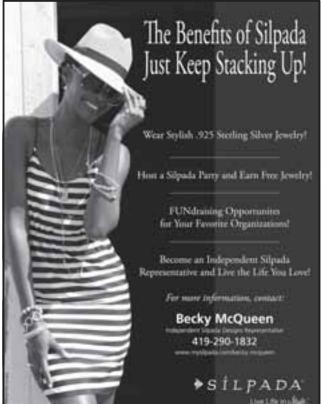
By Monique Ward Sojourner's Truth Reporter



Funnyman Lavell Crawford is quickly climbing the comedic ranks and becoming one rising comedy star to watch. From his numerous television appearances and on stage performances, audiences are becoming increasingly familiar with Lavell's giant-sized talent.

Lavell has appeared on Comedy Central's Premium Blend and also was a Finalist in the Comedy Central Laugh Riots standup competition. Lavell has headlined at Laffapalooza, America's longest-running annual urban comedy festival, appeared on "Jamie Foxx Presents: Laffapalooza" a series of half-hour laugh-out-loud comedy specials that aired on Showtime and Comedy Central and subsequently headlined at the Montreal Just for Laughs Festival and appeared at The HBO USCAF in Aspen, Co. and The Comedy Festival in Las Vegas. His "Comedy Central Presents" half-hour special premiered on Comedy Central in 2009.

Lavelle Crawford will be at Fat Fish Blue/Funny Bone Comedy Club in Perrysburg from Thursday, March 28 to Saturday March 30. Tickets are \$25 & can be purchased by calling the Funny Bone box office at 419.931.3474 or going to funnybonecentral.com online.



Owens Community College to Host Regional Job Fair, April 5

Special to The Truth

Area college and university graduates and students are invited to learn about and explore various employment opportunities available throughout the surrounding region as Owens Community College serves as host to the Collegiate Employ-Net Regional Job Fair on Friday, April 5.

Presented by Collegiate Employ-Net, a consortium of 19 colleges and universities in Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan, the regional job fair will occur from 10 a.m. -2 p.m. in the College's Student Health and Activities Center on the Toledo-area Campus. Owens is located on Oregon Road in Perrysburg Township. Job seekers holding a certificate or degree are invited to attend this free event. Professional attire and a resume are required.

Throughout the event, individuals can meet with over 70 business and industry representatives about employment opportunities. In addition, attendees will be able to fill out applications for various employment opportunities. Individuals are also encouraged to bring several copies of their resume in preparation for any impromptu interviews.

Area employers in attendance will include Advance Staffing Solutions, African Safari Wildlife Park, Cummins Bridgeway LLC, Epilepsy Center of Northwest Ohio, Fastenal, HCR ManorCare/Heartland, Kingston Care Center of Sylvania, Motor Carrier Service Inc., New York Life, Piping Industry Training Center, ProMedica, Recreation Unlimited, Smart Bioscience Inc., Toledo Correctional Institution, Toledo Zoo, Total Quality Logistics and Verizon Wireless, among many others.

For more information. call (567) 661-7715 or 1-800-GO-OWENS. Ext. 7715.



The Ohio Benefit Bank is **Changing Lives in Our** Community

Join the movement as a national service member in Lucas County

Special to The Truth



Toledo Northwestern Food Bank provides food and other resources to people in need to low-income families, children, and the elderly in Lucas and surrounding counties. But you may not know about The Ohio Benefit Bank, a program that is making an impact on the low-and moderate-income households The Toledo Northwestern Food Bank serves.

The Ohio Benefit Bank (OBB) is a program operated statewide by the Ohio Association of Foodbanks. Local organizations, like The Toledo Northwestern Food Bank, are recruited and trained to use the pro-

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You may know that The gram to help individuals and families in their community access important work support programs and tax credits. Since 2006 the OBB network has served more than 6,937 households in Lucas County, potentially returning over \$38,518,401 in work supports and tax credits to the local economy. The Toledo Northwestern Food Bank is now recruiting for 2 passionate individuals to join the movement as national service members working on enhancing and strengthening the OBB.

> "The most remarkable part of serving through AmeriCorps VISTA is the personal and professional

> > 419.690.6099

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The national service members at The Toledo Northwestern Food Bank will serve through AmeriCorps VISTA, a national initiative to fight poverty in America that is funded and operated by the Corporation for National and Community Service. AmeriCorps VISTA members receive a modest living stipend set at the federal poverty level and an end-of-vear education award in return for their year of full-time service to local communities. If you or someone you know is interested in serving through AmeriCorps VISTA, visit www.americorps.gov to view and apply for open positions. You are also welcome to visit www.ohiofoodbanks.org to view current openings for OBB community organizers.

Justin Timberlake The 20/20 Experience

By Michael Hayes Minister of Culture



Industry Rule: Keep your songs under four minutes if you want to cater to radio airplay. Not ONE of the 12 songs on Justin Timberlake's third solo album is under four and a half minutes long. Right out the gate, he's continuing his decade long streak of turning American pop music norms inside out. We are now looking at a body of work that has be-

come synonymous with flawless vocal might, leading edge musical creativity and the kind of sales numbers that icons envy. We see the black and white Sinatra motif and although we can't remember if Robin Thicke borrowed it from Justin or vice versa... the image works.

We long for those days when Prince and Michael battled to be number one on the charts and in our living rooms. We long for those days when the guilty pleasures of sensuality and harmless romantic indulgence could take form in song without appealing to low morality.

Well this 20/20 Experience from the homie JT is like hindsight for the ears. It's soulful. It's futuristic.

It's experimental. It's everything every black family's living room played on Saturday mornings in the 80s... just with a sound that's beyond now.

Ever since "Sexyback", Timberlake and Timberland have proven that their collaborative efforts don't have time to aim at the current airwaves. Once again, they have created the lane for all else to follow and "Suit & Tie" is just the tip of the iceberg.

"Strawberry Bubblegum" is only the fourth track, but that's when it dawns on you that you are about to hear some of the best music you've heard in years. A lush, open soundscape punctuated by guitars, strings and atmospheric synths provides the backdrop for Justin to kick playfully flirty lyrics to the object of his desire. This is also the track where you find out exactly why most of the

songs are closer to an average of eight minutes in length. As a music producer, I can tell you... the vamp/

change-up is a rare opportunity to end a song with a song *inside of* a song. Timberlake and Timbaland have now mastered this lost art in a way that begs listeners to absorb the album in its entirety. Repeatedly.

This project was not created for you to pop in, play your favorite joint, then move on.

The 20/20 Experience will remind music lovers that albums were the original playlists.

If Jay Z had been on "Tunnel Vision," I probably would've lost my mind.

See, I made the mistake of listening to this album in headphones while lying in the bed one night last week. Halfway through I was up damn near ready to clean the house. It hits, it swings, it dives

and it beats. It pushes, pulsates, soars and drives.

Sounds you've never heard, cadences and arrangements even sharp minds would not have conceived and vocals that surpass 90 percent of the male singer/ songwriters in recent memory. The songs aren't even over when they're over, not that you'll be complaining though. Once you hear "Spaceship Coupe" you will know your mind has been blown. An epiphany is reached...not only do you love this album, but it loves you back.

The only missing piece is the clarity offered when Justin occasionally speaks on topics beyond love. "Blue Occan Floor" is a little too dreamy and the two bonus tracks force you to settle back into Earth's orbit, as dope as they are the rest of the album is just so much better they stick out like a sore thumb.

Overall, The 20/20 Experience sets the bar so high that Timberlake and Timberland themselves are probably the only ones capable of surpassing it. Every song manages to possess club banger thump, soul music artistry and futuristic freshness that feels familiar. It's a true feat of excellence. Buy two copies!

The Incredible Burt Wonderstone Steve Carrell / Jim Carey

By Michael Hayes Minister of Culture



I expected more. Not even just from the movie itself, but even the promotion.

I damn near found out about this by accident. One misplaced swipe on my phone while on Facebook and I was brought to a page with a wideshot of Michael Scott from "The Office" dressed like a cheesy 80s glam rock star. So like any modern day movie goer, I googled and IMDB'd my way into a base grasp of the premise.

Steve Carrell is Burt Wonderstone... a Vegas magician who seems to have quirky reactions to self-generated awkward situations, sort of like, well ... Michael Scott, his character from "The Office." I guess winning multiple Emmys has a way of boxing a guy in. But Jim Carrey made me feel like, "okay, I need to see this." I'll say it again, I ex-

pected more. The name "Burt Wonderstone" as a magician just screams Judd Apatow.

He's the man who brought you "Ron Burgundy," "Ricky Bobby," Drillbit Taylor" and other movies where the lead character's name serves as thesis and running gag in comedies so hilarious you get laugh-pains in your skull!

Well, the silly name is here...but the Judd Apatow and the laugh pains are absent.

Wonderstone becomes a magician after a childhood of being teased and picked on.

His Las Vegas act with his best friend as co-star has grown dry and boring. He stubbornly remains fixed in his own delusions of grandeur despite multiple scenarios signaling his fall from fame and fortune is eminent.

He has the typical slowmoving change of heart, partly inspired by his childhood hero, and aims to put his life back together.

Wow, and people call Tyler Perry movies formulaic.

In the middle of the humdrum however, is Jim Carrey's portrayal of Steve Gray.

One of the writers must have a serious vendetta against Criss Angel (I miss his show).

The entire Steve Gray character is an unflattering parody so thematically based on Criss Angel's MindFreak that he should probably collect a few percentage points on this film. Jim Carrey's wacky stunts and often-sidetracked role as Burt Wonderstone's nemesis happen to be the most consistently entertaining comedic bits in the entire film. There's a forgettable.

barely believable love interest played by an otherwise outstanding Olivia Wilde. I laughed here and there, and the plot develops quickly. It's not awful, it's just not at all as it could have been. Overall, it was a mediocre film that completely mis-used the truly gifted comedic genius at its disposal.

Maybe rent it one day down the line with lots of backup comedies in tow.

The true grade for *The Incredible* Burt *Wonderstone* is D.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Lucas County Children Services (LCCS) is issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Independent Living Group Services

The Goal is for youth to successfully emancipate from the agency's custody with sufficient skills, knowledge and support to live independently.

LCCS is seeking proposals from non-profit and for-profit agencies or entities that have unique information, knowledge, and experience working with adolescents to prepare them for successful emancipation. Credentials required are LISW or licensed PhD Psychologist.

RFP materials will be available Monday, April 1, 2013, 9:00 a.m., at 705 Adams St., Toledo, Ohio 43604. The RFP is also available via the LCCS website, www. lucaskids.net To make arrangements to pick up an RFP packet, call 419-213-3658.

An applicant information meeting regarding the RFP will be held on Tuesday, April 9, 2013, at 9:00 a.m., Room 913, 705 Adams St.

The deadline for submitting completed proposals (NO FAX) is Friday, April 26, 4:00 p.m. No proposal will be accepted after that deadline.

PROGRAM ASSISTANT (Bilingual)

OSU Extension, Lucas County is hiring for a Program Assistant position with the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP). The Program Assistant, EFNEP will work 30 hours per week. This position will work in the Lucas County communities teaching nutrition education to diverse adult audiences. This person should be indigenous to the community and must be fluent in English and Spanish.

For complete position description and online application instructions, please go to www.jobsatosu.com and search by requisition number 374473. To assure consideration you must apply by March 31, 2013. To build a diverse workforce, Ohio State encourages applications from individuals with disabilities, minorities, veterans, and women. EEO/AA employer.

> For Rent 3 Bedroom House 1010 Woodland Ave. 550 + Deposit. No section 8. 419-205-4434

For Rent

2 bedroom extra clean. One Level. Living room, dining room, kitchen. 1 bath. \$400 month. 1130 Vance 419-902-2168

PROGRAM ASSISTANT

OSU Extension, Lucas County is hiring for a Program Assistant position with the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP). The Program Assistant, EFNEP will work 40 hours per week. This position will work in the Lucas County communities teaching nutrition education to diverse adult audiences. This person should be indigenous to the community.

For complete position description and online application instructions, please go to www.jobsatosu.com and search by requisition number 374474. To assure consideration you must apply by March 31, 2013. To build a diverse workforce, Ohio State encourages applications from individuals with disabilities, minorities, veterans, and women EEO/AA employer.

Invitation for Bids **Cabinets and Related Supplies** IFB #13-B003

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) will receive bids for Cabinets and Related Supplies. Received in accordance with law until Monday, April 8, 2013, 3PM ET. For Documents: www.lucasmha.org, 435 Nebraska Ave., Toledo, OH 43604 or 419-259-9446 (TRS: Dial 711).

\$16,000 Down Payment Assistance

May include other incentives if you purchase now! Unique two-story brick home located Olde South End. Totally remodeled! Over 1,500 sq. ft. home furnished with appliances. "If foor LADP room, large bedroom. Large closets. Extra loft for entertainment. Must see!

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Call Kimberly Brown - 419.810.7097

Email: propertymanagement@whittgrouprealty.com

OR call 419.536.7377

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SECTION 8 WELCOME!!

Website: www.whittgrouprealty.com

Click on Featured Listings and Navigate

Bidders required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order#11246.







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Hillandale - \$87,000/REDUCED Ottawa Hills condo. 1440 sq. ft., 2 full baths. Location, location, location. Bright home, new carpet, newly painted. Spacious one floor. Lots of storage, private garage. One great unit. Seaway Asset Management Call Kimberly Brown - 419.810.7097

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DEBT RELIEF? CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY



\$650.00 plus court costs FREE ADVICE ATTY. LAFE TOLLIVER

419-249-2703 a debt relief agency per the bky code YOU'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR THIS!

Planist Wanted Church looking for a dedicated, responsible and dependable Gospel Pianist to play for Sunday morning services.

MVP Property Management 419-244-8566.

Show Removal Services L.L.C. Commerical/Residential Free Estimates Senior Citizen Discount Insured and Bonded Landscaping Phone: 419.917.6440 * Fax: 419.754.3953 www.bettercarelawnservice.com

Woodley Court - \$259,000 6 bedroom, 2 1/2 baths, 3488 sq. ft.-Custom-built home. Mus see to believe. Located in the quiet Trail Acres subdivision. Built for entertaining or large family. Easy to show and ready for buye Seaway Asset Management Call Kimberly Brown - 419.810.709



Wanted to Buy:Diabetes Supplies

expire after August 2012. Leave labels on boxes.We

remove and shred.Call 419-740-7162 and leave

message

Earn up to \$12 per box of 100 test stripsMust

Page 15

BUS TRIP

Bus trip to Sweetie Pie's Soul Food Restaurant and Hollywood Casino St Louis. The Cost is \$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-<u>1194</u>

Sell Jewelry That Sells Itself

Not a salesperson? No problem! Make extra income as a Silpada Representative selling Sterling Silver Jewelry so beautiful it sells itself. You'll earn free jewelry bonuses and trips, not to mention 30% commission on your sales. Become a Silpada Representative today! Call 419-290-1832.

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1715 Freeman downstairs unit 2 bedroom, full living room, dining room and kitchen. \$500.00 + Deposit 419-779-5978

For Rent Nice 1 bedroom apartments. All electric. 3120 North Ontario Call (419)708-2340 Dee

Special Notice

CLASSIFIEDS

RE: Examinations for Journeyman Wireman Applications for the Journeyman Inside Wireman test will be accepted April 8-12, 2013 at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 8, 807 Lime City Road, Rossford, Ohio between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. The qualifications to be eligible for this examination are:

 Must be 18 years of age or over.
Must live in the jurisdiction of Local 8 for one year prior to application.

3. Must have proof of 4 years employment in the commercial/industrial electrical construction industrv

Health Home Nurse

Coordinates and consults medical care with all providers. Community work required. Must be licensed in Ohio as a RN with both medical and behavioral health experience.

Send resume or apply to:

Human Resources - HHP Unison Behavioral Health Group, Inc. 1425 Starr Ave. Toledo, OH 43605 Fax: 419-936-7574 Email: hr@unisonbhg.org

EOE

PUBLIC NOTICE **CITY OF TOLEDO ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN**

PROGRAM ASSISTANT

March 27, 2013

OSU Extension, Lucas County is hiring for a Program Assistant position with the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP). The Program Assistant, EFNEP will work 40 hours per week. This position will work in the Lucas County communities teaching nutrition education to diverse adult audiences. This person should be indigenous to the community.

For complete position description and online application instructions, please go to www.jobsatosu.com and search by requisition number 374474. To assure consideration you must apply by March 31, 2013. To build a diverse workforce, Ohio State encourages applications from individuals with disabilities, minorities, veterans, and women. EEO/AA employer.

For Rent

Duplex, 3020 N. Detroit Spacious 2 bedroom 1 bath upper unit with balcony, washer/dryer hook ups, large eat-in kitchen area, ADT sec, totally remodeled last 3 years.

Must See! Rent \$435 mon, tenant pays, elec/ gas, \$835 moves you in!! Available Now!!! Visit urgrentme.com or call 419-410-1119 for more info.

CALL TO PLACE YOUR AD 419.243.0007

To all interested agencies, groups, and persons:

The City of Toledo (COT) is seeking comments on its July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014 One-Year Action Plan to be submitted to the Housing & Urban Development Department (HUD) on or before May 15, 2013 for the 39th Program Year (PY). The One-Year Action Plan is based on the HUD approved Five-Year (2010-2015) Consolidated Plan submitted by the COT for housing, community, and economic development.

The One-Year Action Plan includes a description of the federal funds anticipated to be received as well as other resources expected to be available within the City of Toledo during the 39th PY. The Action Plan provides a description of the activities to be undertaken when using these resources and the expected results of those activities. Also the Action Plan depicts a geographic distribution of assistance, special needs activities, general and public housing actions, and activities specific to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), and the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP). In addition, the Plan will contain HUD-required certifications as well as community input received at the Public Hearings regarding the Action Plan.

5) Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority

1946 N. 13th Street, Suite 437

8) Dept. of Neighborhoods website:

http://toledo.oh.gov/neighborhoods

6) Toledo Lucas County Homelessness Board

7) All local branches of the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library

(Refer to local telephone directory or toledolibrary.org for locations)

435 Nebraska Avenue

Toledo, Ohio 43604

Toledo, Ohio 43604

The One-Year Action Plan (DRAFT) is available for review beginning April 8, 2013 at the following locations:

1) Department of Neighborhoods One Government Center, 18th Floor Downtown Toledo, Jackson & Erie Streets

2) Office of the Mayor One Government Center, 22nd Floor Downtown Toledo, Jackson & Erie Streets

3) Clerk of Council One Government Center, 21st Floor Downtown Toledo, Jackson & Erie Streets

4) The Fair Housing Center 432 N. Superior Street

Toledo, Ohio 43604

Public hearings on the DRAFT One-Year Action Plan are scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, April 11, 2013, 6:00 p.m. Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church (740 North Superior Street, Toledo, OH 43604)

Thursday, April 18, 2013, 6:00 p.m. University of Toledo - Scott Park Campus (Nebraska Avenue and Parkside Boulevard, Toledo, OH 43607)

To watch the live stream of these meetings, please visit: http://toledo.oh.gov/neighborhoods The City of Toledo will also receive comments from the public in writing at the following address: CITY OF TOLEDO DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOODS **ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN** ONE GOVERNMENT CENTER, SUITE 1800 TOLEDO, OHIO 43604

* Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request by contacting the Department of Neighborhoods in advance at: 419-245-1400



We Can Help Ourselves by Helping Each Other

By Carla Yvette Soulcial Scene Editor

As someone who has advocated strongly for the understanding and celebration of diversity and as someone who has led initiatives to help celebrate diversity and cross cultural understanding. I believe that understanding and learning about different cultures and racial backgrounds can only serve to enlighten and enhance us as individuals and as a society.

I believe that understanding other cultures and ethnic groups is a necessary and integral part of progress. Furthermore, I believe we as a people would not be where we are today if not for the contributions and sacrifices made by people of other races who fought and died right alongside our ancestors for some of the liberties we experience today.

But, while I respect and understand the importance of cross-cultural unity. I don't believe it should be at the expense of embracing our own racial identity, or be a reason to abdicate our need to work and advocate for the betterment of our community. If we don't value ourselves and each other enough to work toward changing our communities, how can we expect others to?

Immigrants who come to America succeed because they help each other out. There's often a strong network of support waiting for them when they arrive, ready to provide them with temporary housing, help them find jobs and will even pool their money together to provide no interest loans to help them start their businesses. This is the type of support

that attributed to the success

of The Black Wall Street before it was subsequently destroyed. Greenwood, Oklahoma, also known as The Black Wall Street was a place where affluent African Americans lived and owned churches, restaurants, grocery stores and movie theaters, hospitals, banks, post offices, libraries, schools, law offices, a half-dozen private airplanes and a bus system. A place where the dollar circulated 36 to 100 times before leaving the community.

It all ended June 1, 1921

during the Tulsa race riots. What happened to this community has been described by some as "A Black Holocaust in America." A prosperous community destroyed because of jealousy, envy and racial hate.

The point to ponder, however, is not how and why it happened, but more importantly how a community during the height of racism, thrived and prospered to the point of owning over 600 businesses. They thrived and prospered because of their unity and dependency upon each other.

I can't imagine living in such a diverse world and not taking advantage of the many different opportunities that come along with that because I believe each culture provides its own special contribution to the other. However, communities thrive when they work together and support one another and therefore the contributions of others, can't be greater than our own.

F.A.M.E. Fashion Show . . . WOW!

By Carla Yvette



Fashion. Art, Models and Elegance made up the F.A.M.E Fashion Show presented with high intensity March 23 at the Garden Lake Hall on Dorr Street.

Young, old and every "Diva" and "Don" in between showed up to watch the models and dancers "show out" as they rocked the runway in clothes designed by local designers.

Theo Pritchett, one of the event organizers and founder of "Mature Night Life" said, "This was an opportunity to promote local designers and shine a positive light on the urban community by bringing everybody together in a positive nature."

His goal, along with event partners, Cuntry, founder of



"Famous Endorsement" and Shawanda Johnson, a.k.a Spyda of F.A.M.E.D. Studios, was to show that Toledo does have talented, fashionable people. Mission accomplished! The trio produced an event that will be talked about for weeks to come. The show highlighted fashion from designers: Demange, John Dough, Ayne K Design, Ms. Nette's Couture. Original Suspects, Priceless Designs, Tierre Leone, Dapper Designs, Bittersweet and DeeVaz N Diamonds. This sold out event was

hosted by Comedian Demeco (Continued on Page 10)



Come on Toledo, Columbus and Surrounding Areas! LET'S Go! Join us on a Trip of a lifetime to Orlando, Florida and a 4-day Cruise to Freeport and Nassau Bahamas.

We will visit The Holy Land Experience and the Only \$999.00 (\$100.00 down) non-refundable

Leaving Thursday, May 16, 2013 on a chartered bus and arriving in Orlando, FL, on Friday, May 17, Staying on Disney World Property for 3-days and 2 nights. Leaving on the 19th for Freeport and Nassau, Bahamas and returning on May 23, 2013 Sight-seeing

> Sponsored by: Legendaire Travel Trends P.O. Box 3093 Toledo, OH 43607

"The deadline is March **31**, 2013. Please contact Cassandra Moore at 419-450-7227 for more information. No passport needed. The cruise is based on double occupancy."