United MBC's 10th Pastoral Anniversary

Pastor Robert G. Bass and Minister Anita Bass

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Classes begin May 20 and June 3.

Owens is the answer.
When Ohio House Representative Matt Szollosi (D. Oregon) walks away from his position as the number two ranking Democrat, the political dominoes will begin to fall in a pattern not difficult to predict.

While the party is tight-lipped about possible replacements, Representative Teresa Fedor is likely to move over from the 47th District to replace Szollosi’s soon to be vacated 46th District seat. Lindsay Webb is then a likely candidate to fill Fedor’s old seat making Webb’s City Council District 6 seat available.

Who will replace Webb?

Mike Dearth, past Block Watch chairman and current head of the Alexis Road coalition is interested, as is Toledo School Board member Lisa Sobecki. The smart money is on Sobecki since Webb’s exodus would leave Council President Paula Hicks-Hudson as the only female councilperson among 12 in a city that is 52 percent female and 48 percent male.

Should, either Lucas County Auditor Anita Lopez, Councilman Joe McNamara or D. Michael Collins ultimately prevail over incumbent Mike Bell in this fall’s election, a whole other pattern of dominoes will also be set in motion.

A possibly similar chain reaction could happen inside Local 500 as well, should Phil Copeland not succeed in his quest for another three-year term as the union’s business manager.

What do these emerging patterns tell us about politics and government in Toledo? I believe these patterns illustrate:

The myth of election-centered politics in Toledo.

In order for the predicted activity in the Statehouse to take place, Szollosi first has to follow through and resign as he’s indicated he would. This will likely occur, but then Teresa Fedor must be willing and interested in making the transition after suffering the disappointment of seeing a similar plan implode in 2010.

Also, Representative Mike Ashford, powerfully positioned as third in command among Ohio Democrats and serving on committees of Finance and Appropriations, Financial Institutions, Housing and Urban Development, Insurance, Public Utilities, and the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood, must bless this legislative shuffle if it is actually to take place.

Finally, a state Democratic caucus, through its screening process, has the final authority to make the decision on both Fedor and Webb.

Still, all of this could be aborted should Ashford and Webb not be able to put aside the personal and ideological differences that have marred their legislative relationship in the past.

Closer to home, the executive committee of the Lucas County Democratic Party will screen and make a recommendation to City Council for Webb’s possible District 6 replacement once they can test the public sentiment on Sobecki, Dearth and others such as Lisa Canales, former long-time member of the Washington Local School Board.

Although many feel that Sobecki has “burned serious bridges in the past,” it bodes well for her that her current seat on the board of Toledo Public schools demonstrated her ability to win a city-wide election. She is considered to be the candidate with the best chance of holding onto the council seat in a subsequent election.

If this complex process illustrates anything, it is that politics in Toledo are not election centered. Therefore the understructure, which supports the surface politics, is the actual force that must be reckoned with. The reality is that the general populace is basically excluded from the process of choosing those who are to represent them.

A Call to Redevlop the Relationship between Local Politicians and the People They Serve:

With politics in Toledo taking place below the surface of formal office holding, the deeper issues that are important to the general populace remain unaddressed. The result is a loss of social cohesions and hopelessness, disillusionment, apathy and anger.

The challenge is for those who lead to remain connected to the people they are elected to represent.

It would behoove the candidates of the mayoral race, in particular, to take a “fresh appreciation of the role of the populace” by utilizing the insights and first-hand experiences of the frequently-excluded as a resource for solving some of Toledo’s problems.

These street-level sources, like others, want to see crime reduced and children educated in a manner that helps them make the successful transition to responsible adulthood. They, too, want violent offenders off the streets and into prison. These citizens also are eager to cooperate with a local government willing to open pathways of opportunity to youth in order to dissuade them from gangbanging.

The excluded want a prosperous local economy also. However they see their lives as capital and older and abandoned neighborhoods as assets that can increase the amount of real estate taxes collected and as a way to stop the city’s mass exodus of citizens.

Those politicians most likely to connect will be those who examine the frustrations that people experience on a daily basis to discover where the disconnections are, figure out how to fill the gaps and widen their narrow policy agenda to be more inclusive.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, D.Min. at drdperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org

Community Calendar

May 16
Teen Entrepreneurship Training: Hosted by ASSETS Toledo; 4 to 7 pm; Parkwood Seventh Day Adventist Church

May 18
Path to Life Annual LifeWalk: 9 am registration/check in; GM-UAW Park; To raise awareness and funding to support women facing a crisis pregnancy: 419-693-5433

May 19

Third Baptist Church Women’s Day: “In the Potter’s Hand;” 11 am; Speaker Pastor Marcie Dinkins of St. Paul

St. Stephen AME Annual Pew Rally: 3 pm: 419-244-0402

Braden United Methodist Church 89th Annual Women’s Day: “The Bride Has Made Herself Ready;” 10:30 am; Guest speaker State Sen Nina Turner: 419-386-2700

United MBC 30th Women’s Day: 11 am; Guest speaker Rev. Tracy Brown of Mt. Pilgrim Baptist: 419-242-1455

June 1
Change for Kids Ministries FREE Summer Music Lessons for Children: Beginning June 1: For more information, please call 419-704-6195

KidZone Summer Camp: Meeting for parents who need safe childcare during the summer; The Bethlehem Baptist Church New Life Center; 10:00am - 1:00 pm

June 2
New Prospect Baptist Church Installation Service: 6 pm; Rev. Nathan Madison

June 8
St. Stephens COGIC Father & Son Luncheon: Noon to 2 pm; Speaker Elder Pierre Taylor

Rainbow Tea: UAW Hall; 2 to 5 pm; Sponsored by the MSVMC Cultural Diversity and Civil Rights Committees: 419-350-3232

Gun Buy Back: 10 am to 4 pm; People’s Baptist Church; Working guns bought for $50; No questions asked

June 9
New Prospect Baptist Church 48th Anniversary: 4 pm; Guest speaker Rev. Stanley Clark of United Vision

June 15
3rd Annual Fatherhood Walk: Central Catholic High School; Guest Speaker Bill Harris: 419-377-1488

June 23
New Prospect Baptist Church 48th Anniversary: 4 pm; Guest speaker Rev. Taylor of Brethah Baptist
The Sojourner’s Truth

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Ending Prescription Drug Abuse, Saving Ohio Lives

By U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown

Guest column

Although it is shocking that the national death toll from prescription overdoses has doubled in recent years, what is even more alarming is that in our state, it has tripled. In fact, since 2007, more Ohioans have died from accidental prescription drug overdoses than auto accidents. This is unconscionable. Ohio families deserve help and they deserve answers.

We know that easy access to prescription drugs has fueled the prescription drug epidemic that engulfs communities in all of Ohio’s 88 counties. But fortunately, this problem does not have to touch another family, or take another life. Prescription pain medications, such as OxyContin, morphine, and methadone – which are largely responsible for increasing overdoses and deaths – can be disposed of safely.

That’s why efforts, like National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day, which was held this year on the last Saturday in April, are so important. The Ohio Attorney General’s office estimated that Ohioans disposed of more than 16 tons of unused prescription drugs on Take Back Day, this year. Last year, Ohioans disposed of 13 tons, so it’s clear that we are making strides in bringing community awareness – both to the problem of prescription drug abuse and to the methods available to stop the epidemic. Although the national Take Back Day has come and gone, there are drug drop off locations throughout Ohio that operate all year. In order to find a site near you, please visit: http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.org/takeback.

But beyond prescription take-back programs, there’s even more work we can do to protect families and the integrity of health insurance programs – especially as some bad actors use the Medicaid system to fuel their addictions or obtain prescription drugs to sell. We can save taxpayer dollars – and lives – by stopping criminals and addicts from illegally using Medicaid cards to fill false prescriptions for addictive drugs.

That’s why I will reintroduce the Stop Trafficking of Pills Act, to create a “Medicaid Lock-In”. This legislation would require national adoption of Medicaid Lock-In programs that limit the number of doctors from which a high-risk patient can receive prescriptions. It does the same for pharmacies – cutting down on the “pharmacy hopping” and “doctor shopping” of high-risk patients who abuse or sell these powerful drugs. This is important because the Government Accountability Office (GAO) found some 65,000 cases in which Medicaid beneficiaries visited six or more doctors, and up to 46 different pharmacies to acquire prescription drugs. GAO also found that about 1,800 prescriptions written for dead patients and some 1,200 prescriptions were “written” by dead physicians. This is illegal, immoral and has cost the lives of far too many people. This must stop.

Since 2011, I’ve worked to stop this problem – by urging Attorney General Holder to work with state agencies to establish tactical diversion squads and calling on Governors to stop the “Ohio Express,” the prescription drug pipeline from states like Florida to Ohio.

We cannot afford to let improper disposal, pharmacy-shopping, and doctor-hopping threaten the safety of Ohio families. Together, we can move forward and create safer communities by addressing the concerns of Ohioans who are eager to end prescription drug abuse – and save lives.

Census Bureau Report Confirms that Blacks Voted at a Higher Rate than Whites in 2012 Election and Black Women Surpassed Everyone

Special to The Truth

Melanie L. Campbell, president and CEO of The National Coalition on Black Civic Participation (The National Coalition) and convener of Black Women’s Roundtable issued the following statement in response to a U. S. Census Bureau report released yesterday finding that about two in three eligible blacks (66.2 percent) voted in the 2012 presidential election, higher than the 64.1 percent of non-Hispanic whites who did so. This marks the first time that blacks have voted at a higher rate than whites since the Census Bureau started publishing statistics on voting.

Campbell said, “Let me first say it’s a great day in America for Black People – especially Black women. It is extremely gratifying to see Census data that reinforces what we already know: despite rigorous systematic efforts to suppress our vote, Blacks voted at higher rates than whites in 2012. Black women outdistanced every demographic in America and made a difference in the outcome of the election.

“Given the enormous challenges facing our community, The National Coalition’s Board of directors, members and affiliates are proud to have played an integral role in a historic turnout. Working in partnership with A. Philip Randolph Institute and other coalition members, our Black Women’s Roundtable united women in our communities to help us organize, educate, mobilize and protect the Black vote in 2012. Black women delivered in a powerful way.

“Fifty years after the historic March on Washington - when the Black vote was suppressed across the country - there is no better tribute to the leadership of A. Philip Randolph, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Dr. Dorothy J. Height and other civil rights leaders.

“So, today we celebrate the power of the sister vote as we continue to organize and mobilize to push our elected officials to act in our best interest.”

“We are experts in managing symptoms and pain as patients get closer to the end of life. It’s very important to call as soon as possible so we can help you with the disease process you are facing. We will support you at every turn so you know you’re not alone.”

– Dr. Vicki Bertka, Hospice of Northwest Ohio physician

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Twenty-five area teachers and teacher educators will receive full or half scholarships to learn about how to reach their students by experiencing the communities that are important to them. The workshop "From Kuchwanz to Kwanzaa Park: Everyday Humanities in Urban Neighborhoods as a Basis for Culturally Relevant Pedagogy" brings together teachers, neighborhood religious and cultural leaders, and humanities scholars to learn garden lore, religious traditions, food lore, verbal arts and music, as practiced in an urban neighborhood—and to use these as the basis for lessons throughout the curriculum.

“All urban neighborhoods are full of the ‘humanities of everyday life’ and teachers can use these cultural treasures to create culturally relevant curriculum and pedagogy for teaching all subjects to neighborhood children,” said Lynne Hamer, lead teacher for the workshop and a folklorist and associate professor in the University of Toledo Judith Herb College of Education.

Sally Castillo, who teaches fourth grade at Old Orchard and is an intern consultant for new teachers in Toledo Public Schools, is participating in the workshop along with several of the teachers she mentors. She explained, “I am finding a larger disconnect than ever before between myself and the young students in TPS. I appreciate the opportunity to learn more about the urban neighborhoods in Toledo. It is clear that though I was born and raised in Toledo, there are many places and things that I am unfamiliar with.”

Castillo’s situation as a teacher is the new normal. “Most teachers don’t teach in their own communities like they did prior to World War II,” Hamer said. “It is well-researched that teachers’ lack of familiarity with families and community leaders is detrimental to students’ success in school—especially in urban schools. It’s not the teachers’ fault; it’s just the historic situation we are in. We need to help teachers learn to get familiar.”

The workshop, which meets in the Padua Center in the Kwanzaa Park neighborhood of Toledo, includes daily fieldtrips to different sites within the neighborhood. There, teachers will interact with community leaders and parents, before returning to the Center to create ways to teach all subjects, including science and math, based in the cultural content they experience.

The community organization Kwanzaa Park Neighborhood is hosting the workshop. Oscar Shaheer, president of Kwanzaa Park Neighborhood, stated, “Today we can have a better understanding of each other, and we have to understand each other’s cultures and religious beliefs.” The workshop is intended to provide opportunity to increase that understanding.

Joe Martin, longtime member of Paradise Baptist Church and lifelong artist, will be participating in the workshop. “I think teachers are always a positive influence on any project, especially projects that involve children and the community. I learned a long time ago that children get one-third of their influence from teachers. The parents and others in the community give another third. The last third is from outsiders—peer pressure. It’s very important that teachers and parents know each other and work together, and that parents let the teachers run the classroom instead of the children.” Ohio Humanities Council Senior Program Officer Jack Shortridge noted that the Toledo workshop was highly ranked by the state panel charged with selecting the six workshops to receive funding. The six, to be held throughout the state, are featured on the OHC website at http://www. ohiohumanities.org/grants1/teachers-institutes.html. Teachers from as far away as Zanesville have already registered to attend the Kwanzaa Park workshop.

One OHC reviewer noted, “[The] program as a whole is ambitious, creative, and relevant with a well-articulated theme that relates to OHC requirements and is carried through even into the lunch sessions.” Lunches will include an Urban Chicken Fest barbecue, Collard Green and Cornbread Cookoff, Navy Bean Buffet, and traditional church BBQ dinner.

Thomas Barden, Ph.D., English professor and former dean of the Honors College at UT is one of three UT humanities scholars on the workshop faculty. Barden said, “When Dr. Hamer and I taught together in UT Humanities Institute summer classes in the 1990s, we had wonderful sessions with area teachers exploring how everyday life is full of art, and stories, and history, and wisdom. And I’m excited about getting back to those stimulating gatherings.”

Scholarships for teachers are available due to support of the Ohio Humanities Council and the University of Toledo College of Graduate Studies. There are still a few scholarships available for the workshop, which will be July 22-26 from 8:30-4:30. Interested teachers should contact Hamer at 419-283-8288 or lynne.hamer@utoledo.edu.
Hair Cuts, Books and Inspiration Partnership to Expand
Special To The Truth

On Monday May 6 at 3:00pm at Poor Clark’s Barber Shop, a community haircut and books partnership expanded. Read for Literacy, Inc., joined Mott Branch Library, Mt Nebo Baptist Church and the barbers at Poor Clark’s to promote reading with a bonus of a FREE haircut!

Boys in kindergarten through 12th grade can bring a book with them to the shop at 1723 North Detroit Ave. and get a free haircut. In order to participate, boys need to check out a book, take the book with them to Poor Clark’s during the shop’s regular hours and receive a free haircut on Tuesdays. The haircuts are provided through private donations from the community.

Starting in May, Read for Literacy will also provide free books at the barber shop that the children can take home and keep-a push for families to have books in their homes.

“We want to encourage reading! So kids will go to the library or select a book from the book shelves here at the barber shop and read. We believe that books and reading change a child’s life. When the children and families read, they open the door to success,” said the Rev. Cedric Brock, pastor of Mt. Nebo, who got his hair cut at Clark’s as a boy. Brock said some of the boys never had their hair cut professionally before and had not used the library on a regular basis. Now both are possible.

Judy Jones, manager of the Mott Branch on Dorr Street, said when they started the program, parents asked, “what’s the catch?” However, there really is no catch other than getting young boys to read. “What we’re trying to do is encourage reading,” she said. “You want people to feel better about themselves - on the inside and the outside.”

According to Jeannette Hrovatch, director of Read for Literacy placing free books at the barber shop was a great way for the children to own books and to create their own library at home. “We were pleased to be invited to support this very worthwhile cause. We love the library and felt that helping children have a book for keeps, was a great addition to the at home. “We were pleased to be invited to support this very worthwhile cause. We love the library and felt that helping children have a book for keeps, was a great addition to the at home.

Mitchell received her gift for tutoring her freshman year when she was recommended by one of her teachers to be part of the NDA Peer Tutoring Program. She enjoyed tutoring and took it to the next level becoming involved in Kids Unlimited (KU), an after-school and summer program, created to “empower kids to succeed and reach their fullest potential, regardless of economic, social and cultural barriers.” Her work with KU brought out her natural passion for tutoring and helping others. She took her passion and started FHL Tutoring LLC, so she could do it on her own and in her own way.

She is an active volunteer in her church Friendship Baptist Church as part of the Word Up Drama Ministry Team, Children and Youth Ministry, Change Ministry Youth Choir and Choir Team. She has also served meals at Sparrows Nest and Martin Luther King Soup Kitchen.

She will attend Howard University next fall where she earned the National Achievement Scholarship (value $2,500) and Howard University Laureate Scholarship (value $140,100 over four years). She is a 2013 National Achievement Scholarship Finalist, an honor student and an Advanced Placement (AP) Scholar with Honor. She has taken AP Chemistry, AP Spanish, AP US History, AP Psychology, AP English and AP Government. She received the George Eastman Youth Leaders Award from the University of Rochester in recognition of outstanding academic achievement and leadership.

A member and one of the captains of the Eagle varsity basketball team, she was instrumental in helping the team become District and Regional Champs and reach the State Final Four, two years in a row. She earned the JV Basketball Coaches Award and was JV team captain. She competed in track her freshman year.

A tap dancer, she has performed in NDA musical productions HAIRSPRAY and SEUSSICAL THE MUSICAL. She was on the speech team, Pastoral Core Team, the Gospel Choir, African American Club and, of course, a peer tutor. She was a Debutant in Waiting for the Cotillion.

The cost of a haircut is $10.00 per child and donations are accepted from the public. Those who wish to participate in this community effort can stop by Poor Clark’s Barber shop. Receipts will be provided and the donations are tax deductible.

On Monday May 6 at 3:00 children will be at the Poor Clark’s Barber shop with key leaders from the partnership showcasing the program; children will be available for photos and media interviews.
The men of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. focus on developing leaders, promoting brotherhood and academic excellence, while providing service and advocacy for their communities since it was founded in 1906. The local chapter, Alpha Xi Lambda, has provided for the Toledo-area community since 1928. The chapter’s scholarship committee awarded $3,500 in scholarships to Toledo-area residents since it was founded in 1906.

“Today we are celebrating scholarship. Since 1928 we have been very active in the Toledo-area, and also award scholarships to high school students who are pursuing higher education. It’s a part of our aims, and we will continue to do this through our two programs the scholarship brunch and golf tournament,” said Jose Rosales, chapter director of Educational Affairs.

DeMarkus Darrington, a graduate of Woodward High School, will attend The Ohio State University and major in mechanical engineering. While attending Woodward, he was a member of Student African American Brotherhood, honor society, track and basketball.

Brandon Jackson, a graduate of Rogers High School, will also attend OSU to major in accounting. While attending Rogers he participated in golf, Student African American Brotherhood, bowling team, an honor roll student and ranked sixth in his graduating class. Atmore King VI, a graduate of Ottawa Hills High School, will attend OSU to major in bio-medical. While attending Ottawa Hills he participated in golf, track, football, basketball, drama and choir.

Charles Pruitt IV, a graduate of Rogers High School, will attend Eastern Michigan to become a veterinarian. While attending Rogers he participated in several service projects including: clean your streams, Cherry Street Mission, and Toledo Zoo.

Jaishawn Walker, a graduate of Central Catholic High School will attend Kent State University and major in electronic media. While attending Central Catholic he was a member of the gospel choir, Upward Bound and volunteered for Boys and Girls Club.

“This is a scholarship reception, but it’s really a celebration of our young men. Everyday there are negative images and messages that are projected out there about our young men. Everyday there are messages saying no ‘you can’t,’ and here you are saying ‘yes we can.’ And for that I want to commend you. I also want to thank your parents and your families for raising such strong and powerful men who are going to become someone in this world,” said Dr. Michael Stubblefield, DDS, chapter president.

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., Alpha Xi Lambda Chapter accepts applications for this annual scholarship beginning each January. Applications are available at high school guidance counselor offices of Toledo-area schools, and the chapter website www.axl1906.org. Applicants must meet minimum requirements: graduating high school senior, 2.75 G.P.A., and a male student.
South African Consul General to Visit Toledo: Can Her Visit Get Me A Job?

By Rubin Patterson, Ph.D.
The Truth Contributor

Here is a principle you will probably agree with: If you want to grab and hold Americans’ attention these days in light of the evolving inequitable and scary economy, link the topic to jobs, jobs, jobs.

Given that principle, the last topic you want to discuss is Africa, right? Wrong! There is a global rebalancing taking place today as wealth and power are shifting to former “Third World” regions—indeed, including Africa. Many Americans in the future will have employment because of their employers’ sale of goods and services to Africa’s rapidly expanding middle class, or because of their employers’ partnering with African businesses.

Africans have a new attitude that is reflecting their country’s dramatically improving economic circumstances. According to new polling data reported by The Economist, Africans are now more than twice as confident in their future than Europeans. Wow! When was the last time that was the case?

Being home to the fastest growing economic region of the world, with projections of the fastest growth continuing deep into the 2020s, can obviously breed confidence and excitement among the citizens experiencing such positive circumstances in their lives. Americans are probably now only on the cusp of changing its broad view of Africa, that is a change from viewing Africa as a continent of economic hopelessness to viewing it as a continent of emerging economic opportunity. While Americans are only now awakening to this opportunity and transformation, China has grown deeply engaged with Africa, increasing its trade from $11 billion to $166 billion in a decade.

As many already know, South Africa has the largest and most sophisticated economy on the continent. South Africa has long been a gateway to the rest of Africa. That is, companies have had a history of establishing their administrative, production, and distribution operations in South Africa so as to efficiently coordinate the movement of goods and services into, around and out of Africa.

While that gateway status has proven to be beneficial to the overall South African economy, it has thus far proven ineffective at providing sufficient employment opportunities for all of its citizens. Like the United States, employment opportunities in South Africa track closely with levels of educational attainment.

In the United States, unemployment among those with a four-year college degree is half that of those without such a degree. Comparably, South African graduates from one of its excellent universities have unemployment levels substantially lower than those who are not university graduates. Oddly, each time I travel to South Africa, I learn a little bit more about the United States.

Citizens of Toledo are fortunate to have an opportunity this week to learn a lot about South Africa from its Chicago-based Consul General, Vuyiswa Tulelo. Tulelo, who represents the South African government in 14 Midwestern states, will visit Toledo and inform local citizens about South Africa’s continued consolidation of democracy, the challenges that lie ahead and the opportunities it provides for Americans.

Consul General Tulelo will meet with students for nearly an hour before meeting with Dr. Jacobs, MD, president of the University of Toledo. She will also meet with Mayor Mike Bell before giving a speech in the City Council Chambers on May 16 at One Government Center between 5:30 pm - 6:45 pm.

Her talk is free and open to the public. Items slated to be discussed during her meetings include various types of institutional relationships, including a Sister City relationship between Toledo and Port Elizabeth, South Africa. These two cities are similar and complementary in a way that can potentially yield mutual economic gains.

Consul General Tulelo shares a history similar to Nelson Mandela’s in that they both studied at South Africa’s elite University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg and served as a top official for years in the African National Congress (ANC) Youth League. Mandela was a founding member and has continued to be an inspiration to youths. Tulelo, like Mr. Mandela, clearly has a passion for reaching young adults and preparing them to prepare themselves to seize the future.

Bringing the discussion back to jobs, jobs, jobs so that I can close and be certain to have readers’ attention, consider the following significant development. Because Africa’s middle class is growing quickly and broadly, many name-brand U.S.-based companies such as Ford, Procter & Gamble, General Electric, Boeing, Marriott and Walmart, have recently invested and are now continually investing in Africa to reach consumers with growing disposable income.

Actually, according to a recent report, over 600 American firms have invested in South Africa alone. Yes, Africa still has some challenges to overcome, but, according to the McKinsey Global Institute, an American institution with global ambitions that is without a meaningful Africa strategy is not serving its constituencies well.

I would bet that only a very tiny fraction of The University of Toledo’s graduating class of last week has given a second thought about some of the ways that Africa can and will influence their careers in the years and decades to come. With addresses by distinguished guests such as Toledo and institutional connections by the University of Toledo and the City of Toledo with their counterparts in Southern Africa, many more members of UT’s future graduating classes will be curious about and clued into career opportunities as a result of rapidly transforming Africa.

Rubin Patterson, Ph.D. is chairman of the Department of Sociology & Anthropology, and Director of Africana Studies at the University of Toledo

African Art Has Arrived!!

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

See more art online at www.theruthtoledo.com

The Truth Gallery is open Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 4 PM
How to Find Your Mr. or Mrs. Right Job
Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life – Confucius

By Tiffany Reynolds, Job Coach
The Truth Contributor

Are you a recent college grad seeking to enter the professional work force for the first time? Or are you a young executive who just got laid off from your last job and trying to find a new one?

Finding a job is not similar to how Cinderella found Prince Charming through a missing glass slipper. Finding the right job is a lot similar to dating, although not quite similar to fairy tales you have seen. Much of the advice you have heard mention the same old information like, “Make sure your resume fits on one page.”

We often disregard the fact that hiring managers are “people” and not machines. The moment they scan your resume, they must see in less than five seconds that you are the right person for the job.

So how do you find your Mr. or Mrs. Right Job? The first thing you need to do doesn’t involve typing the resume. Meeting Mr. or Mrs. Right Job doesn’t depend on the job availability either. Having the perfect job will start on your own definition of it being “perfect.”

Start by getting to know what kind of personality you have. Personalities are a funny thing—every personality is different, yet they’re similar. Cheery, happy, talkative and not shy, these are the characteristics of a person with a sanguine personality.

You are called choleric if you have this ambitious and leader style quality. Melancholic are fundamentally introverted and thoughtful people. They love solitary works.

Lastly, phlegmatic individuals are relaxed and quiet people, they are usually calm and observant.

However, personalities may blend with each other that make it unique for every individual.

It will make it easier for you to answer questions such as:
Why should a potential employer hire you?
What is your greatest weakness?
How do you handle and manage conflict?

Understanding your own personality will make yourself shine and help you find Mr. or Mrs. Right Job. This may be not all that you need. You still have to define the perfect employment match:

select your employment type
seek jobs that match your skill sets; and

know what type of employer you attract

Knowing the type of personality you have will help you to make an intelligent choice about which position is best for you.

Social Security Honors All Who Serve
By Pat Walton
Social Security Manager in Toledo, OH

Every day of the year, Americans across the nation remember friends and family members who have served and sacrificed for their country. Memorial Day is a day when we all come together to honor those who have given their lives in the defense of freedom and the principles we hold dear in this country. May is also National Military Appreciation Month. As we observe Memorial Day and Military Appreciation Month, we would like to let members of our military know how much we value what they do for our nation.

At Social Security, we offer a wide range of services for our service members. Families of fallen military heroes may be eligible for Social Security survivors benefits. Learn more about Social Security survivors benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/pgm/survivors.htm.

For service members who return home with injuries, Social Security is here to help. Visit our Wounded Warriors website. You can find it at www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors. We use an expedited process for military service members who become disabled while on active military service, regardless of where the disability occurs.

The Wounded Warriors website answers a number of commonly asked questions, and shares other useful information about disability benefits, including how veterans can receive expedited processing of disability claims. It is important to note that benefits available through Social Security are different than those from the Department of Veterans Affairs and require a separate application.

Even active duty military who continue to receive pay while in a hospital or on medical leave should consider applying for disability benefits if they are unable to work due to a disabling condition. Active duty status and receipt of military pay does not necessarily prevent payment of Social Security disability benefits. Receipt of military payments should never stop someone from applying for disability benefits from Social Security.

If you’ve served in the Armed Forces and you’re planning your retirement, you’ll want to read our publication, “Military Service and Social Security” at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10017.pdf. You also may want to visit the Military Service page of our Retirement Planner, available at www.socialsecurity.gov/retire2/veterans.htm. At Social Security, we honor all those who served in the military and we remember those who died for their country.

TARTA Introduces Guaranteed Ride Home

TARTA Guaranteed Ride Home is a new program created for alternative transportation mode users employed within the TARTA service area to take a timely, nonscheduled return taxi trip from their workplace in the event of a personal or family emergency, illness, or unexpected employment-related delay, such as unscheduled overtime.

TARTA Guaranteed Ride Home program participants can be reimbursed for up to 80 percent of their taxi fare. Eligible applicants include employees living and working within the TARTA service area who use alternative commuter modes such as public transportation and/or bicycling.

TARTA Guaranteed Ride Home is part a federally-funded program implemented throughout the nation and will reimburse members up to four times per calendar year or once every three consecutive months up to a maximum of $100 per year. The maximum reimbursement for a single taxi ride is $45. Only trips from work to home, a hospital/urgent care facility, daycare, school, or any TARTA Park-N-Ride location are covered.

Applying is free and easy to do. Simply complete the online application or call 419-245-5216 for more information.

Members of the program can be reimbursed by filing out the TARTA Guaranteed Ride Home Request for Reimbursement Form (104KB) then mailing to: TARTA Guaranteed Ride Home, PO Box 792, Toledo, OH 43697. Please include the receipt for your taxi fare with the completed form.

TARTA can be contacted by calling 419-243-RIDE (7433) or visiting their Web site, TARTA.com.
Turner Construction Company’s Ohio region led the company nationally in 2012 in partnering with Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprises (MWBEs).

A total of $206 million in contracts were awarded to MWBE firms in 2012 in Ohio, which equates to 25 percent of its volume of work. The work was spread over roughly 440 total contracts to subcontractors such as Lymco Fire Protection Inc. and Bryson/Tucker Electric LLC., both based in Toledo.

Turner owns The Lathrop Company, based in Maumee. Locally, a Lathrop project with the largest inclusion percentage was the University of Toledo Biosphere Restoration Research and Wolfe Hall Renovation project with 29 percent of all subcontract contracts going to MWBEs.

“We actively partner with our local minority- and women-owned firms at the very beginning stages of our projects, and these numbers reflect that,” said Tom Manahan, general manager for the Ohio Region. “Making sure all local firms have equal opportunities to participate is a big part of supporting the communities in which we live, work and raise our families.”

Community outreach meetings for contractors wanting to learn more about specific projects, such as the GE Aviation renovation/expansion project in Belville, Michigan prior to bidding is one of many ways Turner and Lathrop actively engage with MWBEs.

Another is Turner’s School of Construction Management (TSCM), which provides MWBE business owners with free training on aspects of the construction industry. Formal courses on topics such as developing a business plan, financial planning, estimating, green construction, construction law, bonding and insurance are offered annually. The TSCM had 104 Ohio graduates in 2012.

“We are proud to offer a variety of outreach programs like this to support our MWBE partners and ultimately, the diversity of the construction industry,” said Steve Klepper, Lathrop vice president and general manager.

About The Lathrop Company

The Lathrop Company, Turner Construction Company’s Toledo office, has served the healthcare, education, commercial and industrial construction markets for nearly 120 years, offering construction management, design-build, general contractor and related services on projects of all sizes. With a local staff of over 100, The Lathrop Company, acquired by Turner in 1986, proudly supports its local community. The Toledo office manages on average approximately $150 million in construction volume annually. Consistently ranked the leading sustainable builder in the nation, Turner was founded in 1902 in New York, NY and operates through a network of offices in the U.S., including four offices in Ohio. For more information, please visit http://www.turnerconstruction.com/turner.

Turner Ohio Awarded $206 Million to Minority and Women-Owned Firms in 2012

Ohio Region Leads Company Nationally in Inclusion

Special to The Truth

Franchise A Shipping Shop

You can provide an important benefit to the neighborhood—and make money at the same time. How? By running your own franchised package-ship store. You don’t have to have a lot of retail or entrepreneurial experience to run a thriving, competitive and highly successful business that can flourish even in uncertain economic times.

More than just a pack-and-ship store, your shop can be a local service center with a basket of needed services for the community.

Postal Connections of America franchise stores make life easier for people on the go, as well as small businesses, by offering shipping alternatives; packaging; freight; printing and copies; mail receiving; ink-jet, toner and laser cartridges; notary; fax; and a unique variety of online buying and selling services. For example, there’s Media Trader, a unique and proprietary software that lets customers sell old CDs, DVDs, video games and textbooks for cash. The store resells the items through Amazon.com.

Learn more at www.postalconnections.com, info@postalconnections.com and (800) 767-8257.

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The Sojourner’s Truth

May 15, 2013

The Economy...Tackling Tough Times • The Economy...Tackling Tough Times • The Economy...Tackling Tough Times • The Economy...Tackling Tough Times • The Economy...
Credit Education: An Important Ingredient for Homeownership

Special to The Truth

There’s a good reason why many people dream of owning a home. Homeownership offers benefits such as stable monthly payments and the opportunity to establish a sense of community. It can also be a way to build equity over time.

But don’t dive into the process unprepared. Experts say it’s crucial to become financially literate first.

“Educated borrowers are better prepared for successful, long-term homeownership and overall financial stability,” says Christina Dike-Malone, vice president of Housing and Community Outreach at Freddie Mac.

In fact, a recent study found that financial counseling before purchasing a home can reduce the likelihood of going into default. For first-time homebuyers, counseling reduces the likelihood by an average of 29 percent.

Luckily, free credit education resources and information are becoming more widely available.

For example, Freddie Mac’s CreditSmart program, a comprehensive, multilingual curriculum used by lenders, churches, schools and non-profit organizations, has helped more than three million consumers across the country make more informed financial decisions. Today it’s available in two ways:

CreditSmart’s new, self-paced web version features 12 education modules. You can take the free online course at www.FreddieMac.com/creditsmart.

Or, consider attending a class led by a housing counselor certified by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

A credit education course can prepare you for homeownership by covering the following topics:

**Budgets**

A spending plan is necessary for anyone with financial goals. Financial education can help you differentiate your spending needs vs. wants, and set up a realistic budget accordingly, as well as provide guidance for how to stick with the plan.

**Credit**

Generally speaking, the better your credit, the lower your interest rates and fees will be when obtaining a loan. If you don’t have credit or you don’t have good credit, it’s essential to establish good credit before trying to get a loan.

**Savings**

To buy a home, you’ll need upfront money for a down payment, which is usually between five and 20 percent of the home price, and money for closing costs, moving expenses, and any immediate repairs or renovation costs.

Credit education can teach you how to save and how to invest your money wisely.

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Plan to attend

**Saturday, MAY 18, 2013 @ 11:00 a.m**

***1235 OAK ST. in East Toledo***

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**NHS (Neighborhood Housing Services) — Teresa Martinez**

**3/5 Bank — Julia Bryant**

**Huntington Bank — Melissa Grabitz**

**Nueva Esperanza Credit Union — Sue Cuevas**

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Racial Wealth Divide Is Three Times Wider Than Income Gap, Threatening Economic Opportunity

Special to The Truth

Why have middle-income blacks and Hispanics seen little, if any, improvement in their economic status relative to whites? New research from the Urban Institute’s Opportunity and Ownership Project points to an ever-widening wealth chasm.

In 2010, white families averaged six times the wealth of black and Hispanic households ($632,000 versus $98,000 and $110,000, respectively), up from a 5-to-1 ratio in 1983. Wealth is total assets, such as bank and retirement accounts and home value, minus debts, including mortgages, student loans, and credit-card balances.

The income gap, by comparison, is much smaller. In 2010, the average household income for whites was $89,000, compared with $98,000 and $110,000, respectively, for blacks and whites. By 2010, average net worth of black and Hispanic families had skidded 11 percent.

“Wealth isn’t just money in the bank, it’s insurance against tough times, tuition to get a better education and a better job, savings to retire on, and a springboard into the middle class. In short, wealth translates into opportunity,” Signe-Mary McKernan, Caroline Ratcliffe, Eugene Steuerle, and Sisi Zhang wrote in “Less than Equal: Racial Disparities in Wealth Accumulation.”

Because Hispanics and blacks are disproportionately low income, the researchers said, their wealth prospects are strongly affected by safety net policies aimed at low-income families. These policies emphasize consumption, such as having enough food to eat, and often discourage saving by making families ineligible if they have a few thousand dollars socked away. At the same time, most wealth-building policies are of limited benefit to families of color, who are less likely to tap into tax subsidies for home mortgages and retirement accounts.

“Reforming policies like the mortgage interest tax deduction so it benefits all families, and helping families enroll in automatic savings vehicles, will help improve wealth inequality and promote saving opportunities for all Americans,” the researchers concluded.

The Urban Institute is a nonprofit, nonpartisan policy research and educational organization that examines the social, economic, and governance challenges facing the nation. It provides information, analyses, and perspectives to public and private decisionmakers to help them address these problems and strives to deepen citizens’ understanding of the issues and trade-offs that policymakers face.

The Baptist Ministers Conference of Toledo, Ohio & Vicinity

REVIVAL!
Tuesday, May 28 - Friday, May 31, 2013

“Repent ye: For the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand”
- Matthew 3:2-

Guest Evangelist:
Dr. Sedric D. Veal Sr.
Temple Baptist Church
East Cleveland, Ohio

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Host Pastor: Dr. John W. Williams
Your customers have been good to you.

First and foremost, throughout the past few years, they’ve stuck with you and that means a lot. You’ve survived the bad times together, and that’s allowed you to become friends; you share triumphs, you ask about family, you offer support when it’s needed. You might even get together socially.

The people you do business with have given you much and now it’s time to give back. In Good Morning, Beautiful Business by Judy Wicks, you’ll read about one woman who found a way to do just that.

Judy Wicks started her first business at age six when her family moved to a quiet lane in Ingomar, Pennsylvania. Wicks was looking for community, so she dragged her child-sized table and chairs and a record player down the end of the driveway and thus opened her first “restaurant.”

As a bit of a tomboy, Wicks loved to build things in the woods behind her house, using reclaimed and recycled materials lying around her neighborhood. She played baseball and loved sports (both things that little girls in the early ‘60s were discouraged to do), and she hated when anybody said she couldn’t do something. Those things gave her a foundation for later endeavors.

Right out of college, Wicks was married in her beloved woods, joined VISTA with her husband, and taught school in an Eskimo village in Alaska. When their service was up, they decided to open a store that would cater to anyone “under 30,” so they set up shop near the University of Pennsylvania campus. A few years later, the store successful, Wicks left her husband and was hired, literally within moments, to be a waitress at a local restaurant.

There, she began “twelve years of on-the-job training for opening my own restaurant just down the street.” Her tenure also taught her that business “is about relationships. Money is simply a tool.” And that led her to activism for her community and suppliers, and to “ultimately work collaboratively to build a compassionate and caring economy.”

There’s a lot of good inside Good Morning, Beautiful Business. And there’s a lot that made me say, “Meh.” It’s always interesting to see how someone takes a grain of an idea and turns it into a living, and author Judy Wicks does that well. Her memoir of entrepreneurship and eventual activism is gentle and thoughtful, and she obviously relishes sharing the joys that come with strong ties to the community in which a business lies.

But there were two things that lost me: an alphabet soup of acronyms, and relentless names of dozens of people that most readers won’t know. The former knot is common and is generally forgivable because it can be untied easily enough; the latter issue may make this book hard to stick with.

Overall, I think it may demand a special kind of reader: one who can remain heavily focused on business sustainability, locality, and community. If that’s you, then you’ll find Good Morning, Beautiful Business to be good to you.
Movie Review - The Great Gatsby
By Michael Hayes

Thank God I always had outstanding English teachers while I was at Scott High School. One of them (either Ms. Lowenstein, Mrs. Clark or Ms. Ramsey) had us read The Great Gatsby and it was a class assignment I’ll always remember.

This book has been used in English classes as required reading all over this country for decades. Just like …Of Mice and Men, The Good Earth and others.

The so-called “Great American Novel” makes its way from a writer’s mind to non-fiction shelves and bestseller’s lists then eventually trickles down to our collective psyche because the story means more than just publishing success.

In this case, the human condition is on full display. Excess and obsession. Secrets and settling.

What motivates our deepest ambitions and how hollow life can become, it’s all there.

F. Scott Fitzgerald gave us his opus in The Great Gatsby. Soaring literary works often find their wings have been clipped once adapted to film, but this tale has been begging for a big screen treatment only modern day Hollywood can give. We can re-create “The Roaring 20s” with technical detail never before imagined.

We can achieve a scale and depth that achieves “suspension of disbelief” much easier than in years past. Since the main attraction is the story itself, this film doesn’t even need big star power.

But, hey, there’s always a few highly-paid actors lying around so why not employ them to help tell the tale?

If you’ve been reading my column long enough, you may already know that I am not a fan of Leonardo DiCaprio’s body of work. I have always found him dry and unconvincing. Someone who just shleps through role with this book would have accepted as its titular front man.

Leonardo DiCaprio captures the layers of Jay Gatsby to brilliance. He’s very easy to accept as a seemingly self-indulgent millionaire binging on all things grandiose only to reveal that he’s desperately lonely and longing. Tobey Maguire as Nick Carraway, the narrator and default focal point of the film, was a more than adequate portrayal.

There may be 10 other actors who could have done that role just as well, but I will say very few people master aloof observer the way Maguire does.

Carrey Mulligan as Daisy Buchanan is a miss that you can live with.

She’s adorable and all but you can’t help thinking there must have been at least 20 actresses they could have found who would have pushed the role further.

I’ll give her points for being a Brit who not only can affect an American accent, but a 1920’s American accent/dialect at that.

Random question: Why is it that actors/actresses born in England can always come here and pull off very convincing American accents (Thandie Newton, Idris Elba, etc.), but when American actors/actresses attempt a British accent it sounds utterly ridiculous (Renee Zellweger, et. al).

But I digress.

One other completely unnecessary element to this entire film is Jay Z.

I’m fine with the heavy use of modern day music to push the envelope. Other films have done it.

Although it can be jarring at first you accept that modern dance and hip hop music may be the only fitting tool to convey the point of just how hard those times rocked, because we as viewers would NOT rock out if the film solely employed the instruments of that time period.

You’re watching a film set in the 1920’s and the production value is so convincing you almost think some form of time travel has occurred but then some dub-step joint comes blasting out of the speakers… I get why it has to be done, I’m not mad.

But to market The Great Gatsby with Jay Z’s involvement as a selling point then play about four of his songs from 2011 at random points in the film was somewhat of a buzz kill.

This, from someone who has devoted over a decade of ink to extolling the Jiggaman’s virtues.

But like I said, this film can withstand a few blemishes.

The story makes it a must see.

The execution and attention to detail makes it a successful adaptation.

A living descendant of the author approached the director to tell him that F. Scott Fitzgerald would be very proud if he were alive to see this and I can’t help but agree.

The true grade for The Great Gatsby is B+. 
Manager of Support Services

The Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Lucas County is accepting applications to fill the position of Manager of Support Services. Applications will be accepted through May 3, 2013. Additional information is available on the Lucas County web site (www.co.lucas.oh.us). Click on “Apply for a Job” and then select “Manager of Support Services” from the list to read more. Apply on-line or send a resume and cover letter to: Lucas County Human Resources, One Government Center, Suite 450, Toledo, OH 43604, attn: Birdena Martin

DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR

Full-time position available for experienced individual to maintain data in an electronic health record. This includes creating customizations to the electronic record, creating underlying data base objects to support those customizations and creating custom reports to maintain this data. Position will also provide end user support.

Desired candidate must be proficient in computer operations, have a thorough knowledge of SQL database administration, Crystal Report Writing, Microsoft Office applications and experience with hardware/software support. Previous experience in programming and database design required. Previous experience with billing software and electronic health record is preferred.

Send resume with salary requirements or apply to:

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Office: 419.350.7514
It’s been 10 years since Pastor Robert G. Bass and Minister Anita Bass arrived at United Missionary Baptist Church to “keep the word of God alive and help [the congregation] not forget the message of [the] Father,” wrote Jenifer Wilson and Pamela Wilson, the chairmen of United’s 10th Pastoral Anniversary committee.

The congregation gathered on May 4-5 to celebrate the anniversary – first with a banquet on Saturday afternoon and a message of the Gospel by Rev. Alphonso Guice, Jr. D.Min, pastor of New Fellowship Baptist Church, also in Columbus.

Rev. Bass is a native of Detroit, Michigan. He moved with his mother to Columbus, OH in 1975 and was educated by the Columbus Public School system, where he graduated from Eastmoor High School in 1988. He received his bachelor’s of science degree in Communication from Franklin University in Columbus, Ohio.

Rev. Bass was baptized, licensed, and ordained by Rev. Booth. From June 1999 until March 2003 he worked as Youth Minister of the Refuge Baptist Church in Columbus, Ohio where Dr. Kaiser W. Jones, Jr. is the pastor. While working at Refuge, Rev. Bass helped to build the youth ministry from approximately 30 active youth in 1999 to 85 active youth in 2003 through such programs (Continued on Page 12)

**Clarence Smith Community Chorus Spring Concert 2013 – “Expressions of the Soul”**

**Special to The Truth**

The Clarence Smith Community Chorus will present its annual Spring Concert entitled “Expressions of the Soul” – an evening of song and poetry – Saturday, May 18, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at The Toledo Mennonite Church located at 5501 Nebraska Avenue.

The evening promises to be one of the city’s most exciting, entertaining, culturally diverse and educational event of the season. The chorus will highlight the evening with various classical and spiritual selections. The concert will feature special guest artists – soprano Rebecca Eaddy and The Creative Impulse, Michael L. Hayes, director.

Mark your calendar! The evening’s program will keep you caught up in its “Expressions of the Soul” from start to finish. This is a concert you will not want to miss! Program begins at 6:00 p.m. Don’t miss a minute of this awe-inspiring musical treat.

Ticket information will be available from any chorus member or by calling 419-534-2299 or 419-243-1958. Tickets may also be purchased in advance - $10.00 Adults / $8.00 Students & Seniors. Tickets may be purchased at the door.

The Clarence Smith Community Chorus

In its 36th season, the CSCC maintains a liberal helping of standard classical music in its repertoire. However, it specializes in the performance of Negro spirituals and is dedicated to its preservation as well as the performance of works by African-American composers. Its members come from all walks of life, unified by their mutual love of great music. This award-winning ensemble has performed numerous times on radio and television and has appeared with the Toledo Symphony Orchestra, the Toledo Jazz Orchestra, and on programs presented by the Toledo Museum of Art, the Lourdes College Music Series, as well as on the University of Michigan’s “Music of Black Americans Symposium.”

The Chorus has embraced its civic role with participation in countless building and bridge dedications, community festivals, church programs and city events, including the Toledo’s Annual M.L. King Celebration at the University of Toledo. The CSCC is a past recipient of the “Community Impact Award” and the prestigious “Community Achievement in the Arts Award” from the Arts Commission of Greater Toledo. In 2007, the CLARENCE SMITH COMMUNITY CHORUS was presented with the “Longevity Award” at the Glass City Gospel Music Awards ceremony.

For booking and interviews, please contact Clarence Smith, (419) 534-2299.

Engagements@cscchorus.com

Or check out the website @ www.cscchorus.com