In This Issue...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perryman</th>
<th>Aspiring Youth</th>
<th>Kent Branch</th>
<th>Black History on WGTE</th>
<th>The Ford Gala</th>
<th>Page 8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Page 2</td>
<td>Page 5</td>
<td>Page 7</td>
<td>Page 6</td>
<td>AKAs</td>
<td>Page 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tolliver</td>
<td>Kent Branch</td>
<td>Black History</td>
<td>Black History on WGTE</td>
<td>True Vine</td>
<td>Page 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 3</td>
<td>Page 5</td>
<td>Page 7</td>
<td>Page 6</td>
<td>Pastoral Installation</td>
<td>Page 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rep. Ashford</td>
<td>Page 4</td>
<td>Kent Branch</td>
<td>Black History on WGTE</td>
<td>The Ford Gala</td>
<td>Page 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aspiring Youth</td>
<td>Page 5</td>
<td>Page 6</td>
<td>AKAs</td>
<td>Page 10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Consuela Martin, Darnise St. Andrew, Jennifer Lewis, Mary Huddleston, Loretta McClain, Gloria Lewis, Stacey Blanton, Lashonda Horton

Consuela Martin, Darnise St. Andrew, Jennifer Lewis, Mary Huddleston, Loretta McClain, Gloria Lewis, Stacey Blanton, Lashonda Horton

The Soulcial Scene
Winter Warnings Page 11-12
BlackMarketPlace Page 14
Book Review Page 13
Classifieds Page 15
I have a newfound admiration and respect for Al Stroucken, chairman & CEO of Owens-Illinois. Stroucken is also the newly elected chairman of the Board of Managers for Aspire, the community/business collaboration charged to support the success of every child in Lucas County from cradle to career by re-thinking how to best use limited resources to meet their needs.

Stroucken, last week speaking on behalf of the business community in particular and society in general, took responsibility for some of the social failures that plague our community. In an era where it is common to blame everyone outside of ourselves, not only was this the right thing to do, but Stroucken’s comments also revealed authentic leadership at its finest.

Although the Aspire initiative is a challenging endeavor with the optimistic goal to transform long-term systemic failure, Stroucken’s genius lies in recognizing the fact that it is impossible to legitimately talk about poverty or African-American social issues as if they are a one-dimensional phenomenon.

Indeed, the tendency to ignore the deeply embedded societal factors of race and inequality while simultaneously rationalizing bad public policy have helped to create a call for a new kind of authenticity to fill the leadership void in Toledo.

Who will do the right thing by dealing with the unresolved issues of the past and thereby set the tone for authentic leadership?

Stroucken, through the Aspire initiative and courageous honesty, has made an ambitious beginning to use collaborative action, the strategic use of data and evidence based decision-making along with a shared community vision to hopefully achieve real outcomes that better the lives of all children in Lucas County.

I will be monitoring Aspire’s processes and outcomes for inclusion and the ability to obtain meaningful results for our community.

The call to do the right thing and for authentic leadership also takes us to Lucas County government, which is without leadership at Lucas County Jobs and Family Services (JFS) due to the recent departure of former executive director, Deb Ortiz-Flores. The assistant director’s position at JFS is also open, as is the comp administrator position at Lucas County Child Support Enforcement (CSEA).

The CEO position for the Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities is vacant as well. In addition, the contract for Dean Sparks, executive director for Lucas County Children’s Services (CSB), is also up at a time when there is no current succession plan in place.

Will the Lucas County Commissioners show authentic leadership and do the “right thing” in the search to fill the vacant leadership positions?

The leadership void offers an opportunity for Lucas County to rethink the way it delivers and conducts its social services responsibility to the community. Since CSB, CSEA and JFS share 66 percent in crossover clientele, one thought has been to consolidate these agencies under an administrator-led team rather than have a separate CEO and board for each agency.

In addition, the three separate fiscal offices, human resources departments and other infrastructure such as three dissociated general legal counsels could save at least $500,000 per year. Further efficiencies could also be obtained by consolidating the multiple tax levy requests that continually show up year to year under one combined health and human services levy.

How can this consolidation benefit the community?

First of all, the tremendous savings... continued on page 7

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Community Calendar

**January 29-31**
City of Zion, Mt Zion Church: Prophet Walter Holmes of New York; 6 pm nightly: 419-246-1850 or cozmtzionchurch.com

**February 2-March 9**
City of Zion, the Mt Zion Church: Sundays at 9 am; Life Institute Courses: Living Better, Fight Like a Man

**February 5**
Forum Engaging Men: Breakfast and sign in – 8:30 am; Forum – 9 to 11:30 am; Educational Service Center; Guest speaker Rus Funk, founder and executive director of MensWork: Eliminating Violence Against Women, Inc – a Louisville, KY organization: 419-244-3053 ext 221 or Ohio Domestic Violence Network

**February 11**
Glass City Toastmasters: 5:30 to 6:45 pm; United Way Greater Toledo: http://glasscitytoastmastersclubs.org

**February 12**
Abundant Life Ministries: “Straight Talk;” From a woman’s perspective; 7 pm; candid conversation on various topics – communication, finances, healing and the triumph of relationships: 419-382-1300

**February 19**
Abundant Life Ministries: “Straight Talk;” From a man’s perspective; 7 pm; candid conversation on various topics – communication, finances, healing and the triumph of relationships: 419-382-1300

**February 25**
Glass City Toastmasters: 5:30 to 6:45 pm; United Way Greater Toledo: http://glasscitytoastmastersclubs.org

**March 7**
Toledo District of FGBCF International “Fire on Friday:” City of Zion Campus; 7 pm; Guest speaker Bishop Joseph Walker III of Nashville: 419-246-1850

**April 9-11**
Take a Number and Wait Your Turn!
By Lafe Tolliver, Esq
Guest Column

One way in which we might stem the recent rash of black-on-black crime is to have an inner-city lottery in which all black males between the ages of 13-27 randomly take a number.

Each day, a number will be called out over the local radio stations and TV outlets and if you have that number, you are to report to a pre-determined location and you will be handed a loaded revolver and be given five minutes to hide before you are hunted and shot down in the streets before live cameras.

If you can remain alive after the allotted five minutes, your number is retired and you are allowed to live for another year and only then your number is placed back in the lottery for another public calling.

Sounds crazy doesn’t it? But guess what? A study of 800 black males between the ages of 10-27 were placed in such situations in which the males were able to monitor and manipulate video action figures that were made in their likeness.

The study of the males showed that if they knew that their number was called, they began to act differently and avoided situations in which the “hunter” could find them and shoot them.

All of the participants in the study (note: the minors received permission from their parents) were hooked up to heart and eye monitors which registered visible fear and trepidation at the thought that they could be randomly killed by someone else simply because their lottery number was called out. Something as silly as a number!

An astonishing 82 percent of the participants in the study wanted to opt out of the “hunt” when it came their turn but only 12 percent opted out when it was their turn to “hunt” someone else.

According to Randall Fellisope, Ph.D, professor emeritus of sociology at the Davidson-Cardell College in Pittsburgh, who is the author of this highly controversial controlled group study, he discovered that the only way that urban communities can reduce the grim statistics of black-on-black crime is to have potential malefactors simulate being both the hunter and the hunted; and only then are they able to understand the value of life…their lives not being snuffed out by inconsequential events.

The consequential events that led to such black-on-black crime among youths were tallied by the study group as being: (1) arguments over girls; (2) disputes about money (including drug sales); (3) fights about family honor or one’s “manhood” being challenged and, surprisingly, (4) anger and inner turmoil about not being able to negate societal perceptions that they were of no value or of any importance to anyone.

Fellisope further indicated in the study that when society has labeled an ethnic group as “trouble,” that ethnic group began to act out that label in a type of warped self-fulfilling prophecy and committed acts that if they were not so labeled as “negative,” they would avoid.

When asked how the results of this study could be applied in the classroom or in media, Fellisope indicated that society will have to reverse the purposeful negative imaging that is still being fashioned of black males as being aggressors and brutes who lack impulse controls.

But also, media and merchandisers, including those whose job it is to “sell” images to the public, must cease to glorify violence as a means of conflict resolution and in its place promulgate values that do not give “points” to aggression, violence, mockery and ridicule as acceptable means of relating to each other.

The author of the study was quick to point out that the institutions that are best designed and fit to change images and “re-set” a child’s perception of him or herself are the family unit and the local church.

If the family cannot rein in negative behavior amongst its members and if the church compromises on its core function of an undiluted gospel message of hope and redemption, the individual is left to his own devices and in that vacuum, negative behavior takes over the void.

The controlled study took into consideration such factors as single parenting, poverty, lack of education and the lack of outlets for young men to engage in constructive dialogue with their peer group and found that the above scenarios did not force or contribute to untoward delinquency.

Being in poverty and/or poorly educated or raised by a single parent did not automatically give rise to criminal behavior.

But, it was found that when the individual, given choices, was repeatedly taught to discern between good and evil and thus could opt out or avoid negative and dangerous interpersonal relationships that could result in violence and in particular gun violence…they did so 95 percent of the time.

One of the core messages of the study was that when the family and the church are in synch with each other’s core mission statements and assist each other, kids can successfully grow up in spite of “mean” streets since involved parents or “shadow” parenting persons or groups and cooperating churches will lessen the impact and influence of those streets.

The physical “streets” are harmless in themselves, it what takes place on the streets that causes the problems.

Note: Of the 800 participants in the yearlong study, only 11 ended up in felony court accused of a serious crime.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com

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– Anita, wife of a Hospice of Northwest Ohio patient

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Rep. Ashford: Job Numbers Continue to Reflect Tale of Two Ohios

Middle-class Ohioans still waiting on Kasich’s ‘Ohio miracle’

Last week’s state job numbers showed that 31,000 more Ohioans are out of work than at this time last year. House Democratic Whip Michael Ashford (D-Toledo) released the following statement in response to the update on Ohio’s stalled economic recovery:

“While Gov. Kasich claims that ‘Ohio is going in the right direction,’ the jobs numbers continue to illustrate the negative consequences of his misguided economic policies. Hundreds of thousands of unemployed Ohioans are not experiencing the ‘Ohio miracle’ that Gov. Kasich touts as he continues to cut taxes for the wealthy. It seems that Gov. Kasich and the GOP leadership are living in a different Ohio than the middle-class Ohioans that continue to wait for the economic recovery to come to our state.”

Rep. Ashford Announces Over $2M for Local Public & Private Projects

State Rep. Michael Ashford (D-Toledo) announced this week that the state has released over $2 million to The University of Toledo and Let’s Play School Family Child Care, LLC, a minority-owned local business.

The University of Toledo’s Campus Energy Cost Reduction project received an award of $1.9 million. The project, which involves numerous buildings across all three campuses, will replace outdated energy systems with up-to-date, efficient lighting and temperature control measures. Current building energy systems were installed between 1970 and 1990 and are outdated by current standards.

“Frigid temperatures like we’ve had this winter are a reminder of how important it is to invest in energy-efficient projects,” said Ashford. “Not only will these improvements drastically reduce UT’s energy consumption, but they will lower the university’s overall utility costs, making the most of taxpayers’ and students’ money.”

Additionally, a $70,000 Minority Business Direct Loan was awarded to Let’s Play School Family Child Care, LLC in Toledo. Let’s Play School intends to purchase a former church building and transition from a home daycare to a full-service child care center. As a result of the project, Let’s Play School will create four new full-time jobs with average hourly wages of $9.

“Studies show that minority business leaders are less likely to receive small business loans from banks, so public support of certified minority-owned businesses, like Let’s Play School, ensure that economic development opportunities are available to entrepreneurs from all backgrounds,” said Ashford.
Aspiring Minority Youth Conference Speaker Empowers Audience

By Artisha Lawson
Sojourner’s Truth Reporter

The Aspiring Minority Youth Conference has connected audiences comprised of parents, group leaders and local youth, with professional speakers who focus on the elements necessary to inspire minority youth of Toledo.

On January 25, 2014 the 30th annual conference, utilized the theme, “Social Justice: Understanding Its Past, Living Its Present, Creating Its Future” and was held at The University of Toledo Student Union. Over 300 individuals attended, in spite of serious weather conditions.

Office of Excellence and Multicultural Student Success Director David Young explained the theme’s importance that was outlined in the conference booklet, “Our theme this year … focuses on how critical it is that young people begin to understand they are not the future, but our present and must expect the mantle of leadership in the area of social justice that elders pass to them.”

Alexis Means of 13 ABC Action News served as mistress of ceremony. The conference opened with the National Anthem, a moment of silence to honor Nelson Mandela, official greetings from elected officials and community leaders, a musical selection Freedom Song that was performed by UT Gospel Choir and a keynote address by featured speaker Diane Nash.

Nash, a renowned civil rights and peace activist, outlined the path to create social change, and presented a definition of demonstrations and non-violent resistance. “Demonstrations focus on community problems. Resistance, a more hardcore method, takes on an unjust system,” said Nash. Resistance examples: non-payment of taxes, and work stoppage.

“Protests say I don’t like or we don’t like an action or activity. Non-violent protest means you start where you are and work through a process until you reach the objective. Realizing that action strategy could also be included to reach the objective,” shared Nash.

Immediately following the featured speaker, Young opened the floor for audience questions and then presented Nash with an appreciation gift. “I accept this on the behalf of thousands. I couldn’t have done this by myself, many were responsible for the movement, and many sacrifices were greater than mine,” stated Nash.

“These students will never be the same,” said Young while students and parents prepared for the second half of the conference. The second portion separated students from parents and focused on empowerment exercises. The breakout sessions were moderated by volunteers and experts in their fields.

The Office of Excellence and Multicultural Student Success and UT Joint Committee collaborated with sponsoring organizations: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.; the Coalition for Quality Education; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.; Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.; NAACP Youth Organization; the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa; Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity; Toledo Club of National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women, Inc. and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

In addition to the sponsoring organizations the 2014 conference sponsors were: The Andersons, Inc.; BASF Corporation; Buckeye Cablesystem and The Blade; Fifth Third Bank; Jack & Jill of America, Inc; Lathrop Corp, Paramount Advantage and Promedica Health System, Inc.

The 31st annual conference is scheduled for January 31, 2015.
YouthBuild Graduates Its First Cohort

Special to The Truth

Timothy Smith said he doesn’t know what he’d be doing today if it weren’t for the YouthBuild program that he completed and from which he received several certificates that can help him find a job.

Smith is one of 14 Toledo youth who sought assistance with employment skills training in the construction industry completed their requirements and graduated from the YouthBuild program on January 24. In fact, Smith was so inspired by his accomplishments in the program that he has applied to college and hopes to be enrolled by the fall.

Tobias Abernathy, Jasmine Crutchfield, Jeyvon Emanuel, Chelsie Garrett, Danny Gray, Jessica Hines, Justin Jeko, David Mosher, Jerome Ramsey, Jimmie Ridley, Janiceann Rowlett, Smith, Chiancsey Wilburn, and Jovon Williams received their certificates of completion together with several other certifications. Of the 14, seven earned their GEDs while the others are still working on achieving that milestone.

“The culture of the YouthBuild program is more a family environment than one of a workplace,” said Jeffrey Brandish of First Merit Bank. “These adults are amazing. They have shown that they are taking steps to have a bright future. I have seen their growth.”

First Merit Banks is one of the partners of the YouthBuild program.

The youth participants spent their time in the program learning about carpentry, plumbing, painting, facilities maintenance, and some masonry. They also participated in several community service projects as means of understanding how giving to the community enhances their individual growing process.

In addition to their certificate of completion, five special awards were presented. The Construction Award went to Danny Gray, Tim Smith received the Leadership Award while David Mosher earned the Most Improved Award and Jimmie Ridley earned the Community Service Award. The Education Award was presented to each of the seven participants who earned their GEDs. A special staff award was presented to Justin Jeko for his effort to overcome all the obstacles he handled as he worked his way through to completion of the program.

“This program was a life-changing experience for me,” Chelsie Garrett said. “I learned that you just have to have the determination to keep at it, and I did not have that before.”

Garrett’s mother, Elaine Garrett, and sister, Charise McGee, both said they were incredibly proud of Chelsie’s accomplishments and her desire to change her life.

“She has come a long way,” Elaine Garrett said. “I am so extremely proud of her.”

Participants also received certificates in CPR/First Aid training, completed the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 10-hour course, and a leadership certificate in the Six Pillars of Character leadership.

YouthBuild, a federally funded program, is operated in partnership with United North, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Northwest Ohio Construction Education Center, and 10 other local organizations.

Currently, a second class is in session. For more information on how to join a class, call John Page, Program Specialist at 419.243.8840.

WGTE FM and TV Celebrate Black History Month with “Moments of the Movement, “Toledo Stories” and New Specials

WGTE Public Media marks Black History Month 2014 with a daily series on WGTE FM 91 and a new one-hour radio documentary, as well as two acclaimed “Toledo Stories documentaries and three new specials on WGTE TV.

**Black History Month Highlights on WGTE FM include:**

**MOMENTS OF THE MOVEMENT: “Civil Rights and Change in America”**

Weekdays at 7:35 a.m. during NPR’s “Morning Edition” and weekend mornings at 8:35 a.m. during “Weekend Edition,” February 1 through 28, 2014.

Each day, listeners will take a remarkable journey as foot soldiers and leaders from the Civil Rights Movement tell their consequential narratives and testimonies.

In October 2010, the Library of Congress and the National Museum of African History and Culture embarked on a mission to capture a rich and detailed history of our nation’s Civil Rights Movement. They collected hundreds of hours of never-before-broadcast video and audio recordings of the personal histories and testimonials of individuals – many of whom are unheralded who participated in the movement. The result is “Moments of the Movement” – 28 inspirational segments that help listeners better understand and appreciate the sacrifices made to raise our nation to new heights of equality.

**CIVIL RIGHTS IN AMERICA:**

“Seneca Falls, Selma, Stonewall and Beyond”

Friday, February 28, 2014, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Hosted by Charles Dutton, this one-hour radio special examines the relevance and meaning of civil rights in the 21st century and the relationship between the Civil Rights Movement and the efforts of women, other people of color and the LGBT community to expand our traditional definitions of equality. Like “Moments of the Movement” it features first-person narratives culled from hundreds of hours of never-before-broadcast video and audio footage to provide a rich, detailed history of the nation during an important and tumultuous period.

**Black History Month Highlights on WGTE TV include:**

**TOLEDO STORIES: “The African Americans”**

Thursday, February 6, 2014, 8:00-9:00 p.m.

Viewers will learn about Ella P. Stewart, the first practicing black pharmacist in the country; LeMaxie Glover, a nationally-recognized sculptor who taught art in the Toledo Public Schools; and Art Tatum, the legendary jazz musician from Toledo. The program includes recollections from more contemporary African American leaders.

**TOLEDO STORIES: “Undefeated: The Chuck Ealey Story”**

Thursday, February 13, 2014, 8:00-9:00 p.m.

This Emmy Award-winning film profiles Chuck Ealey, the famed University of Toledo quarterback, whose record of victories still stands today. The documentary also captures the mood of a community and nation in the 1960s and 70s.

**POV: “American Promise”**

Monday, February 3, 2014, 10:00... continued on page 7
Kent Branch Library Public Access Center and The Art Tatum African American Resource Center Celebrate Black History Month

The Kent Branch Library Public Access Center and The Art Tatum African American Resource Center celebrate Black History Month with several programs that are free and open to the public.

The annual observation of Black History Month was originated in 1926 by African American historian Carter G. Woodson, as “Negro History Week.” Woodson chose February because it marked the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln and abolitionist Frederick Douglass, two Americans who Carter believed greatly influenced the lives of black Americans.

Discover more about Black History Month at The Kent Branch/Tatum Center events below:

Saturday, February 1
2:30-3 p.m. - The Art Tatum African American Resource Center at Kent Branch presents From Whence We Came… Again. Local History and Genealogy librarian/historian Donna Christian will conduct a workshop that provides useful tools and strategies for African Americans interested in tracing their roots. The program builds upon The Tatum Center’s 2012 Whence You Came workshop. Registration is requested; please call 419-259-5340.

3:30 p.m. – Kent Library & The Tatum Center are co-hosting a reception to kick off an art exhibit that will be displayed throughout the branch. This mixed media exhibit will include paintings, masks, ceramics and stencil drawings. It will feature the works of local African American artists Novarro Gibson, Alice Grace, Amelia Mays and Ron Jamison. (The exhibit is scheduled on view in February and March.)

Saturday, February 15
2 p.m. - The Tatum Center presents Brother Outsider, a film documentary on civil rights hero and strategist Bayard Rustin. Rustin is credited with organizing the historic 1963 March on Washington. A discussion will follow the film lead by Tatum Board member Eugene Washington.

Community Engagement and Outreach for Lucas County.
With all of the leadership roles to fill in Toledo, its time to acknowledge the absence of the African Americans that presence in local configurations of power and do the right thing by filling leadership vacancies the right way rather than the same old, same old redundancy of the past.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman at delperryman@centeroffopebaptist.org.

Perryman... continued from page 2 could be used to augment programming and invest resources more equitably in interventions that actually get positive and relevant community outcomes rather than merely documenting the number of clients served as in the past.

But also, this leadership void provides an opportunity for the County to do the right thing by bringing in leaders with fresh energy and a different perspective by placing the “right” candidates in leadership.

Seldom, do the “contestants of choice” for leadership in Toledo include qualified voices of historically marginalized communities. However, look for the County to bring in Alan Bannister to augment the trend in new leadership that began with the hiring of Lucas County Administrator Laura Lloyd-Jenkins.

Bannister, well connected statewide and nationally but under-appreciated by the D. Michael Collins administration, is expected to lead light on global human rights issues. Her dramatic life is told with poetry and lyricism, and includes interviews with Steven Spielberg, Danny Glover, Quincy Jones, Howard Zinn, Gloria Steinem, Sapphire, and Walker herself.

INDEPENDENT LEN “Spies of Mississippi”
Monday, February 10, 2014, 10:00-11:00 p.m.
View the story of a secret spy agency formed during the 1950s and 60s by the state of Mississippi to preserve segregation and maintain white supremacy. Over a decade, the Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission employed a network of investigators and informants, including African Americans, to help infiltrate the NAACP, Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). They were granted broad powers to investigate private citizens and organizations, keep secret files, make arrests and compel testimony. The program tracks the commission’s hidden role in important chapters of the Civil Rights Movement, including the integration of the University of Mississippi, the trial of Medgar Evers and the KKK murders of three civil rights workers in 1964.

For more information: Jamie A. Pierman, 419-380-4646 or jamie_pierman@wgtz.org.

Black History... continued from page 6 p.m.-12:00 a.m.
“American Promise” spans 13 years as Joe Brewster and Michèle Stephenson, middle-class African American parents in Brooklyn, New York, turn their cameras on their son, Idris, and his best friend, Seun, who make their way through Manhattan’s Dalton School, one of the most prestigious private schools in the country. Chronicling the boys’ divergent paths from kindergarten through high school graduation, this intimate documentary presents complicated truths about America’s struggle to come of age on issues of race, class and opportunity. Winner, U.S. Documentary Special Jury Award, 2013 Sundance Film Festival.

AMERICAN MASTERS “Alice Walker: Beauty in Truth”
Friday, February 7, 2014, 9:00-10:30 p.m.
Most famous for her seminal novel The Color Purple, writer/activist Alice Walker was born February 9, 1944, into a family of sharecroppers in rural Georgia. She came of age during the violent racism and seismic social changes of mid-20th-century America. Her mother, poverty and participation in the Civil Rights Movement were the formative influences on her consciousness, becoming the inherent themes in her writing. The first African American woman to win a Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, Walker continues to shine a light on global human rights issues. Her dramatic life is told with poetry and lyricism, and includes interviews with Steven Spielberg, Danny Glover, Quincy Jones, Howard Zinn, Gloria Steinem, Sapphire, and Walker herself.

REGENCY LENS “Spies of Mississippi”
Monday, February 10, 2014, 10:00-11:00 p.m.
View the story of a secret spy agency formed during the 1950s and 60s by the state of Mississippi to preserve segregation and maintain white supremacy. Over a decade, the Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission employed a network of investigators and informants, including African Americans, to help infiltrate the NAACP, Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). They were granted broad powers to investigate private citizens and organizations, keep secret files, make arrests and compel testimony. The program tracks the commission’s hidden role in important chapters of the Civil Rights Movement, including the integration of the University of Mississippi, the trial of Medgar Evers and the KKK murders of three civil rights workers in 1964.

For more information: Jamie A. Pierman, 419-380-4646 or jamie_pierman@wgtz.org.
Ford Revives Holiday Celebration

Toledo City Councilman Jack Ford’s Holiday Celebration held December 29 at Club Evolution. The event was presented by Citizens with Ford and featured a live performance by the KGB Band.

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Rev. Cecil Jerome Graham Installed as Pastor at True Vine

Sojourner’s Truth Staff

In September 2000 Cecil Jerome Graham accepted God’s calling to the ministry. He spoke with his pastor, Rev. Cullian Hill, D.Min., of Detroit’s Greater Concord Missionary Baptist Church, for advice and for confirmation of that calling.

“Everything I see has a sermon to it,” Graham told Hill. “There’s a message in everything I see.” That was exactly what Hill needed to hear and in June 2001, Graham delivered a trial sermon at Greater Concord after being named associate pastor of the church.

In July 2006, Graham accepted a position of associate minister in his Toledo hometown at Indiana Avenue MBC and worked with Rev. John E. Roberts, D.Min, for the next seven years until he was named pastor of True Vine MBC in November 2013.

This past Sunday, January 26, 2014, Graham was officially installed as True Vines pastor and his mentors, Hill and Roberts, were there to give the ceremony a boost. The installation’s theme was “Feed My Sheep” from John 21:17.

Roberts delivered the service’s statement of purpose and Hill delivered the afternoon’s sermon. A host of other church men and women also participated in the celebration. Rev. Roy McElyea, associate minister at Indiana Avenue and Rev. Jerry Boose, pastor of Second Baptist, conducted the readings.

Rev. F. Alexander Sheares, pastor of First Baptist of Rossford, brought the Charge to Pastor; Rev. Sylvester Rone of Tabernacle MBC and president of the Baptist Ministers Conference brought the Charge to Church Membership; Rev. Bobby Welborn, pastor of Charity MBC led the prayer of installation and Rev. Willie Perryman, D.Min, pastor of Jerusalem MBC delivered the benediction.

Presentations were made by Sister Audrey Starks and Mother Mattie McCallister; felicitations by Sister Rosemary Dunn of True Vine, Deacon Leroy Bates of Indiana Avenue and Sister Renae Williams of Greater Concord.
AKA’s Serve Community on MLK Day

In honor of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter members served the community by volunteering at the MLK Kitchen for the Poor where Harvey Savage is the executive director.

The Martin Luther King Jr. celebration was held at the Lo Salem Baptist Church January 20, 2014 beginning with service at 10:00 a.m. The guest speaker was the former president of the Toledo Chapter of the NACCP, Rev LeRoy A. Williams.

Following the service a full-course meal was prepared and served to community members from 12:00-1:30 p.m. Over 160 individuals were served, 80 percent were males and 15 percent were females and five percent were children. The events were free and open to the public.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. ZAO Chapter volunteered to assist with this community service for the day to honor Martin Luther King Jr. AKA members who participated were Katina Johnson, president; Margaret Huntley, vice president; Donnetta Carter, connection chairman; along with Deborah Washington, Ed.D; Na’Tasha Nunn; Zyisha Bailey; Sheila Brown; Frances Collins, Ed.D; Pamela Green-Jones; Jacky Brown; Morgannia Dawson; Leola Green Haynes and Mary Beal.

CELEBRATING
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Morning Worship Service
Sunday, February 9, 2014
11 a.m.

Historic Third Baptist Church
402 Pinewood

“Counting Our Blessings”

Yanick Rice Lamb, Professor
Howard University
Interim Assistant Chair
Department of Media, Journalism & Film
Co-founder, FierceforBlackWomen.com
“I AM” Series Part 2: MLK of Service

Norris ‘Elevated Thinkin’ Finley and Amelia Gibbon hosted part two of the I AM series January 20 at the Collingwood Arts Center. During part one, the adults discussed the complicated issue of the image of black women and how it has reached its current state.

Part two focused on youth and how our decisions as adults to support these negative images impact them. The event’s dialog centered around questions such as: How the negative image of black women in music, pop culture and the media influences and affects our youth? How are the adults contributing to the negative portrayal of black women in music, pop culture and the media? What is the impact of fathers on their daughters.

The “I AM” series is a number of forums that were birthed from the “I AM” video created by Toledo’s own neo-soul group IndiSoul REY (www.indisouley.com). I AM is a tribute to black women, letting them know that they are beautiful in the state in which they were naturally created.

Ohio Department of Health Announces Flu Activity in Ohio is Now Widespread

Flu vaccine is available at most healthcare providers’ offices, local health departments and retail pharmacy chains. For more information on influenza, including where to find vaccine, visit www.flu.ohio.gov.

Ohio Department of Health

ODH Stresses Still Time to Get Influenza Vaccine

Special to The Truth

Influenza activity is now widespread in Ohio, meaning that there are increasing reports of influenza-like illness in more than half the regions in the state, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) announced today. During this flu season, which started in October and likely will continue into spring, 833 influenza-associated hospitalizations have been reported to ODH. The highest number of such hospitalizations has been reported in northeast and east central Ohio but activity in other parts of the state is quickly increasing. At this time during the 2012/2013 flu season, 1,922 hospitalizations had been reported. No pediatric fatalities have been reported this season in Ohio.

“Because the flu virus is now widespread throughout Ohio, immunization is all the more essential,” said ODH Director, Dr. Ted Wymyslo. “Immunization is the safest and most effective way to fight the flu so I encourage all Ohioans who have not already done so to get vaccinated today.”

Symptoms of influenza can include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Although most people fully recover from the flu, a small portion of people do experience severe illness (like pneumonia and respiratory failure), and sometimes the flu can be fatal. Anyone who becomes ill with the flu and is pregnant, is younger than five years of age or is elderly, has an underlying medical condition or experiences a particularly severe form of the illness should contact their healthcare provider immediately. In addition, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) vaccine experts recommend that everyone 6 months and older should get a flu vaccine each year.

Most of the flu circulating in Ohio is the H1N1 strain from the 2009 influenza season, which is now considered a commonly circulating seasonal influenza strain. This strain disproportionately affects young and middle-aged adults. Fortunately, H1N1 is one of the flu strains included in this year’s vaccine.

While vaccine provides the greatest protection against the flu, other effective ways to reduce the spread of illness include: washing hands frequently, or using alcohol-based hand sanitizer; covering coughs and sneezes with tissues, or coughing or sneezing into elbows; avoiding touching eyes, nose and mouth; and staying home when sick and until fever-free for 24 hours without using fever-reducing medication.
Senator Brown Introduces Bill to Increase Calamity Days

Special to The Truth

This week, State Senator Edna Brown (D-Toledo) introduced legislation to increase the number of school calamity days in response to recent severe winter weather conditions across Ohio. Senate Bill 269 would add three calamity days to the current limit of five. "Ohio has experienced particularly harsh weather this winter which has caused many schools within my district and across Ohio, to use or exceed their five excused calamity days already this year," stated Senator Brown. "The need to make up multiple school days causes scheduling, budgetary, and other concerns for school administrators, teachers, and families alike."

Senate Bill 269 would provide similar additional options for community schools which are already on a minimum hour scheduling structure. "Although classroom hours remain important, it is crucial that we allow school administrators to focus on safety as districts across the state continue to deal with extreme winter conditions," added Brown.

The bill has an emergency clause to make it effective for the current school year.

Ohioans Urged to Take Precaution Against Cold Weather

Keeping Your Family & Your Neighbors Safe in Extreme Temperatures

Special to The Truth

Ohioans are being urged to take preventive action against the upcoming extreme cold-weather conditions by the Ohio Emergency Management Agency and the Ohio Department of Health. By preparing your home and car in advance for winter emergencies, and by observing safety precautions during times of extremely cold weather, you can reduce the risk of weather-related health problems.

The Ohio Emergency Management Agency has already contacted all local partners and is ready to assist in the event of any power outages.

Since December 24, the Ohio Department of Health has learned of 37 emergency room visits related to cold exposures, hypothermia or frost bite. They will continue to closely monitor similar visits over the next several days as well as emergency room visits due to carbon monoxide exposure.

Although staying indoors as much as possible can help reduce the risk of car crashes and falls on the ice, you may also face indoor hazards. Many homes will be too cold—either due to a power failure or because you may also face indoor hazards. Many homes will help reduce the risk of car crashes and falls on the ice, due to carbon monoxide exposure.

Check on your neighbor:
• Ohioans are urged to check on their neighbors as temperatures across much of the state are expected to dip into the negative double-digits. Ohioans should get in touch with friends, family and loved ones, and help spread the word about how to stay safe in the extreme cold.
• Learn how to best help older Ohioans in your neighborhood with these tips from the Ohio Department of Aging.

Follow these important steps to protect yourself, your family and your neighbors:
• Use fireplace, wood stoves, or other combustion heaters only if they are properly vented to the outside and do not leak flue gas into the indoor air space.
• Never use a charcoal or gas grill indoors—the fumes are deadly.
• Never leave lit candles unattended.
• Keep as much heat as possible inside your home.
• Check the temperature in your home often during severely cold weather.
• Leave all water taps slightly open so they drip continuously.
• Eat well-balanced meals to help you stay warmer.

If you must go outside:
• Dress warmly and stay dry.
• Wear a hat, scarf, and mittens.
• Avoid frostbite.
• If you have to do heavy outdoor chores, dress warmly and work slowly.

Keep an eye out for:
• Frostbite.
• Hypothermia.
• Asphyxiation.

Know the risks of extremely cold temperatures:

When exposed to cold temperatures, your body begins to lose heat faster than it can be produced. Prolonged exposure to cold will eventually use up your body’s stored energy. The result is hypothermia, or abnormally low body temperature. Body temperature that is too low affects the brain, making the victim unable to think clearly or move well. This makes hypothermia particularly dangerous because a person may not know it is happening and won’t be able to do anything about it.

Hypothermia is most likely at very cold temperatures, but it can occur even at cool temperatures (above 40°F) if a person becomes chilled from rain, sweat, or submersion in cold water.

Frostbite is an injury to the body that is caused by freezing. Frostbite causes a loss of feeling and color in affected areas. It most often affects the nose, ears, cheeks, chin, fingers, or toes. Frostbite can permanently damage the body, and severe cases can lead to amputation. The risk of frostbite is increased in people with reduced blood circulation and among people who are not dressed properly for extremely cold temperatures.
The Death Class: A True Story About Life by Erika Hayasaki

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

Last year, you went to too many funerals.

There were too many days taken off work to attend wakes. Too much sitting Shiva, too many casseroles eaten in church basements, too much grief and too many friends lost. Even if it only happened once, it was too much.

Tragedies always make you think about your own mortality. Someday, yes, you’re going to die. But as you’ll see in The Death Class: A True Story About Life by Erika Hayasaki, you need to learn to live first.

As a journalist for several larger newspapers, Erika Hayasaki had seen plenty of death. She was at Virginia Tech after the shootings, had been on New York City’s streets, had seen corpses, interviewed survivors; she’d even been close friends with a victim of domestic violence. And it began to bother her – a lot.

“I had become a journalist to try to explain… the world and its stories,” she says. “But death’s mercilessness and meaning, I could not figure out…” So when she heard about a college course taught by a popular, much-loved teacher in New Jersey, Hayasaki begged to be allowed to sit in on the class.

Dr. Norma Bowe agreed – but Hayasaki couldn’t be just a journalist in the back row. She had to participate.

So Hayasaki spent a semester following The Death Class to morgues, autopsies, and a funeral home where the “sacred” happened. She took "field trips" to prisons, visited hospices, examined her own mortality and, as the one-semester project turned into a several-years-long friendship, Hayasaki got to know Bowe and her students.

She learned that Bowe, who is a consummate caregiver, wasn’t just a teacher. Formerly a nurse, she was a mentor, advice-dispenser, calm presence, and advocate, seemingly always on the lookout for opportunities to make a difference. Bowe taught in prisons, redecorated hospices, supported a homeless girls’ shelter, and helped found an organization that fosters change. She taught that life is good, especially if you can make it better for someone else.

Above all, she encouraged her students (old and new) to call her anytime, and she came flying when they needed her. She was there for them – and vice versa, when tragedy struck too close to home.

Though it has a title that might make you think it would be dark, depressing, or even a little bit maudlin, The Death Class is really anything but.

That journalism background is apparent in author Erika Hayasaki’s writing, which is excellent: Hayasaki has a reporter’s way of winnowing out the facts, the interesting stuff, small details, and tiny secrets that make us want to know more. She immerses us so well into the story of the class, students, and the professor that it’s almost easy to forget we’re reading. We become part of what’s happening, complete with triumphs, gasps, and life-affirming inspiration.

This book is fascinating, a true pleasure to read, and I think that if you want something that puts life’s purpose into perspective, this is it. For you, The Death Class is too good to miss.
INSTRUCTOR NEEDED
High school Social Science, Foreign Language & Math instructor sought for UT Upward Bound Summer Program. Interested? Send letter of application, resume, certification & 3 references to progers@utoledo.edu. Place Upward Bound Application in email subject line.

REGISTERED NURSE-
HEALTH HOME
Full-time opportunity available for experienced nurse to coordinate consult on medical care with all providers, complete health assessments, provide medication education and provide direct service to clients. Community work and travel between sites is required. Work schedule for this position may vary to include evening and weekend hours.

Qualified candidates must possess current Ohio RN license. Primary care and psychiatric nursing experience required.

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

ACCOUNTING MANAGER
The Toledo Lucas County Port Authority seeks an Accounting Manager to lead the preparation of consolidated financial statements; to maintain books of account; to prepare various financial reports; and to facilitate preparation of the annual budget and interim reporting.

Qualifications include:
1. Bachelor’s degree in Accounting; a Master of Business Administration Degree is a plus
2. Certified Public Accountant licensed by the State of Ohio
3. Five years of experience in public accounting and/or conducting audits of governmental entities

A complete job description is available at: www.toledoportauthority.org/careers

Notice to Bidders: Inquiry # FY14-54, (Project # 5003-14-1799) for Health and Safety: Health Education Building - Fire Sprinkler Upgrade for the University of Toledo Health Science Campus. Sealed bids for this project must be clearly marked with the project number on all inner and outer envelopes and/or shipping containers. Bids must be addressed and delivered to the University of Toledo, Main Campus, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 18, 2014. Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 2:05 p.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000. Copies of Plans, Specifications, and Bid Forms may be obtained from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Rd., Toledo, Ohio 43615. Call 419-385-5303 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of $65.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Dennis Costlow of JDRM Engineering at 419-824-2400. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in the Health Education Building, Room 227, at the University of Toledo, Health Science Campus, 3000 Arlington Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43614. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 10%. Project Estimate: $135,000.00; Breakdown: Fire Protection: $135,000.00.

NORTHGATE APARTMENTS
610 STICKNEY AVENUE
Now Accepting Applications for 1 and 2 Bedroom Apartments

HUMAN RESOURCES ASSISTANT AND PROCUREMENT ASSOCIATE
Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA), located in Toledo, OH seeks experienced applicants for a Human Resources Assistant and a Procurement Associate. For complete details of the position and to apply, visit our website at www.lucasmha.org. Only online applications received at the above website by Friday, January 31, 2014, will be accepted. This is a Section 3 covered position and HUD recipients are encouraged to apply. Please note on your submittal if you are a LMHA Public Housing resident or Housing Choice Voucher Program participant. Persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply. NO PHONE CALLS. Equal employment opportunity shall be afforded to all qualified persons without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, sex, military status, ancestry, disability, handicap, sexual orientation, genetic information or national origin.

LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE
Full-time opportunity available for experienced Licensed Practical Nurse to perform administrative duties in the Medical Clinics such as referral coordination, client case closures, program discharges, initiation of prior authorizations and other duties as assigned. Work schedule for this position varies, may include evening hours and will require travel to various sites.

Qualified candidates must possess certification as a Licensed Practical Nurse. At least one year experience in a medical office required. Prior experience in a behavioral health setting preferred.

Send resume or apply to:
Unison Behavioral Health Group, Inc.
Human Resources - LPN
1425 Starr Ave.
Toledo, OH 43605
Fax: 419-936-7574
Email: hr@unisonbhg.org
EOE
Gamma Sorors Greet the New Year

The U.N.I.Q.U.E ladies of Gamma Phi Delta Sorority, Inc., Beta Phi Chapter, brought in the New Year with a “Fabulous First Friday” networking event, Jan 3 at Our Brothers’ Place.

President Jennifer Lewis says the social networking event is their first of many and was an opportunity to come together to connect and socialize.

Gamma Phi Delta Inc. was founded in Detroit MI in 1943. February 20 by two sisters, Dr. Violet T. Lewis and Elizabeth Garner. Membership is open to women in all professions, including business-related positions, vocational occupations and young women who are still pursuing their educational goals as undergraduates.

Each year the Gamma Phi Delta Sorority gives away two $1000 scholarships.