



Local and National News

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“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”

November 12, 2014

Carol A. Goss



Harvard Fellow Addresses UT Students

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“It is not enough today to graduate from high school. You must go to college and graduate if you want to succeed.”

Solidarity with Africa in the Struggle against Ebola

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

After centuries of slavers took her strongest sons and daughters, after years of colonialism, Africa needs her progeny to bring something to her.

- Maya Angelou



Roughly 50 years ago Operation Crossroads Africa's founder, James H. Robinson, wrote in glowing terms of an "extraordinary acceleration of [American] interest and activity in Africa" that was spreading "like wildfire" among U.S. "citizens groups, colleges, and voluntary agencies."

Since 1958 when Crossroads Africa was founded, it has sent approximately 10,000 U.S. volunteers to Africa for short-term service projects. The U.S. Peace Corps, founded three years later, has sent more than 70,000 U.S. volunteers to Africa. More than 16,000 U.S. students and scholars have studied or lectured in Africa since 1949 through the Fulbright program, and thousands more students and scholars have traveled to Africa through other programs for academic purposes.

Since the 1800s, thousands of American missionaries have served in Africa, and hundreds of American non-governmental organizations have done work in or pertaining to Africa. Moreover, a million or more Americans have visited Africa in each of the last five years alone and almost 500,000 Africans currently visit the U.S. each year. Connections between American citizens and Africa have grown increasingly stronger.

Nevertheless, escalating concerns about the spread of Ebola onto U.S. territory currently threaten to reverse what have been decades of gains in an evolving spirit of cooperation and friendship between the peoples of the U.S. and Africa.

In the urgent effort to halt the now transatlantic spread of the Ebola virus, one result of heightened American alarm has been a helpful U.S. medical sector mobilization and public health sector vigilance. Another result, however, of this alertness to sometimes real and sometimes imagined American public health vulnerabilities has been damaged relations with Africa and Africans. This has been caused by what has seemed at points to be a lack of common cause with Africans caught at the center of the Ebola crisis.

American relations with Africa are larger than the present Ebo-

la crisis, not only because of the political, economic, and cultural interdependence of our world, but because of deep American historical ties to Africa. These ties have proceeded from tragic initial connections between the two continents to, more recently, the promising horizons signaled in Robinson's remarks.

Nevertheless, it is possible that American relationships with Africa could be defined for years to come by how we respond to the present moment, and we want the people of Africa to know that there are many Americans standing in solidarity with them

... continued on page 13

Community Calendar

November 14

United Church of God Church Celebration: 7 pm; Guest Pastor David Lunn of Detroit

November 14-16

Indiana Ave MBC Annual Men's Day Weekend: "Men of God Pressing Forward in Faith;" Fri - 4:30 pm Men and Children's Clothing Give-Away; Sat - 9 am to noon - Men's Fellowship Breakfast and Door Prizes, 11 to Noon - prostate cancer presentation; Sun - 10:45 am - service with speaker Tommie Adams, 5 pm - Men's Day Musical "A Concert of Male Voices: 419-535-9544

November 15

Keys to the Kingdom Christian Fellowship: 11 am; Missionary activists: 419-787-6031 or email@Avgim7@aol.com

November 16

United Church of God Celebration of Church Dedication: 10 am guest Levi Cyrus of Shreveport; 4 pm guest Rev. Robert Culp of First Church of Christ True Vine MBC Women's Day: 10:45 am service; Speaker Sis Gloria Tisdale of Rossford First Baptist; "Rejoicing in our Season of Grace and Favor:" 419-539-9104
Macedonia Baptist 13th Pastoral Anniversary: Pastor Clifford L. Mayes; 10 am service: 419-320-2379
Beulah Baptist Choir Anniversary: 4 pm; Guest preacher Bishop Marvin Crittenden: 419-944-5262
Bethlehem Baptist Church 97th Anniversary: Celebration starts at 6 pm with concert featuring Toledo Interfaith Mass Choir: 419-241-9360

November 22

Christian Community Church Youth Alive Talent Show: For youth ages 13-18; 4 pm; Prizes for winners

November 23

Macedonia Baptist 13th Pastoral Anniversary: Pastor Clifford L. Mayes; 10 am service: 419-320-2379
Beulah Baptist Junction Street Project Church Service: 6 pm; Guest preacher Pastor Harold Stegall of Kingdom Life Church Ministry: 419-944-5262
St. Paul AME Zion 4th Pastoral Anniversary: Pastor and First Lady Dwight L. and Mia Gutridge; Morning service at 11 am; Evening services at 5 pm: 419-243-1065 or 419-246-0790

November 26

Ebenezer Baptist MBC Free Annual Need to Feed Thanksgiving Dinner: Noon to 2 pm: 419-729-1466

December 7

Bethlehem Baptist Church 97th Anniversary: 9 am service; Guests Rev. Aaron Brown and the Unity MBC: 419-241-9360

The Sojourner's Truth

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Senator Brown Introduces Bill to Protect Health Benefits for Retiring Workers

Bill would address workers deciding to retire or forego health insurance

This week, State Senator Edna Brown (D-Toledo) introduced Senate Bill 385 to prevent some public employees from losing their health benefits. SB 385 would require that members of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) retiring on or after January 1, 2015, who have attained age 60 with 15 or more years of service credit on that date, are treated as retiring on or before December 1, 2014, for purposes of qualifying for any retiree health care coverage provided by the Retirement System.

"There are over 22,000 public employees aged 60 years and older with between ten and twenty years of service who have been adversely affected by draconian changes to the health coverage offered by OPERS," said Senator Brown. "These workers are facing a choice between unexpected early retirement and the possibility of losing health coverage through the OPERS system."

By statute, the Ohio General Assembly gave OPERS the authority to make determinations regarding health care rules for retired Members of the System. At the time of the most recent OPERS pension reforms in Senate Bill 343, the OPERS Board of Trustees made changes to the health care rules. This included requiring retirees to have twenty years of qualifying service starting in 2015 rather than the present requirement of ten years for OPERS sponsored health care.

"OPERS has stated that this rule change is a way to save health care, but I feel older employees are being unfairly used to 'fix' decisions made in the past," said Brown. "It is important to protect and transition employees who may not reach the new 20 year requirement due to their age."



Sen. Edna Brown

Turkey, Ham and Holiday Food Requested for Helping Hands of St. Louis

Helping Hands of St. Louis is asking the community for donations of frozen turkeys, boneless hams, and other holiday food to serve and distribute for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The East Toledo soup kitchen expects to serve 500 people for a Thanksgiving lunch and to distribute 200 frozen turkeys to families and individuals in need. Helping Hands will provide about 200 Christmas food baskets to families to make it possible for families to cook and enjoy their holiday meal together at home.

Meat, boxed stuffing, canned sweet potatoes, canned cranberry sauce, eggs, milk and fresh fruit are requested by Nov. 19 for Thanksgiving and by Dec. 15 for Christmas.

Donations may be delivered between 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday

through Friday at Helping Hands at 443 Sixth St., Toledo. To arrange for a different delivery time, please call Paul Cook at 419-691-0613, ext. 2.

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Forum for Lucas County Landlords to Discuss Solutions to Help Struggling Tenants

Special to The Truth

Catholic Charities Family Support and Guidance Ministry will host a Tenant Readiness Quarterly Landlord Forum 9 a.m. to noon, Friday, November 14, at 1933 Spielbusch Ave., Toledo, Ohio.

The event is an opportunity for landlords, property managers and housing service providers to discuss and address the eviction problems in Lucas County and find ways to acquire help for struggling tenants. Attendees will share best practices, explore new ideas for their businesses and learn industry techniques. Guest speaker Dan Jachimiak will discuss a number of topics including fair housing and tips for effective real estate advertising. Jachimiak has 30 years of experience in real estate and 17 years in property management.

The Tenant Readiness Program was launched last year to work with Toledo individuals and families who want to avoid future eviction and obtain housing they can afford. Each month, Catholic Charities' Family Support and Guidance Program receives over 100 calls from Lucas County families in need of emergency rent assistance. However, in recent years, government funding for rent assistance, which Catholic Charities distributes, has only been available

for a few months each year. In 2013, the agency was able to help just a fourth of the total callers.

"We need to be more proactive in addressing the eviction problem in Toledo," said Brian Rome, Family Support and Guidance coordinator, noting that 70% of rent assistance callers are in the first three months of their lease. "Our goal is to make sure tenants are lease ready and are able to afford a rental before they sign for it."

In its first year, the Tenant Readiness program served 50 Lucas County households and 19 landlords. So far, 89 percent of those households completed the program after they met income, budget and other personal resource requirements at the time of lease signing.

Admission for the Tenant Readiness Quarterly Forum is free of charge. Please RSVP by Wednesday, November 12, to Brian Rome at 419-244-6711 ext. 222 or brome@toledodiocese.org. To learn more about the Tenant Readiness Program, please contact Rome or visit www.catholiccharitiesnw.org/tenant-readiness.

Improved Quality of Medicare Plans and Steady Premiums Are Great News as Open Enrollment Begins

By Marilyn Tavenner, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Administrator

Fall is a wonderful time of year. Changing leaves. Cooler weather. It's also the season for people with Medicare to review their current Medicare coverage, as Medicare Open Enrollment begins.

As we prepare for Medicare Open Enrollment, which began on October 15 and ends on December 7, Medicare wants

... continued on page 13

African Art Has Arrived!!

Hundreds of wood carvings from Ghana have recently arrived at
The Truth Gallery – masks, statues, village scenes!
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You Are Needed to Help an African-American Abused Child

Special to The Truth

Last year in Lucas County over 600 children were removed from their parents for safekeeping from abuse and neglect. Often we hear, "It takes a village to raise a child." It also takes a village to protect a child. Who will help protect these children?

Nearly half of the children in Lucas County removed from their homes due to the imminent risk of harm are African American. These children are living in foster care or with relatives, if the children are lucky enough to have appropriate relatives in the area. They can best be served by a familiar face, an African American face, during this frightening, chaotic time in their lives.

Lucas County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), an accredited member of the National CASA Association is hosting a **free, CASA public information meeting** to recruit advocates for our community's abused and neglected children. The meeting will take place at the **Kent Branch Library on Monday, November 17, 2014 from 6:00-7:00 p.m.** Light refreshments will be served. For additional information or to RSVP, contact casainfo@co.lucas.oh.us or 419-213-6753.

Sponsored by Lucas County Juvenile Court Judges Denise Navarre Cubbon and Connie Zimmelman, CASA is a nonprofit organization of volunteers who thoroughly and independently research cases of child dependency, neglect and/ or abuse. A CASA volunteer is not part of Lucas County Children Services. A trained CASA volunteer is appointed by a juvenile court judge to represent a child's best interests in court and to serve as the child's guardian ad litem (or temporary guardian). As a child's advocate, the CASA volunteer has three main responsibilities: 1) to serve as an independent fact-finder for the judge by thoroughly researching the background of each assigned case; 2) to speak for the child in the courtroom, representing the child's best interest and making recommendations for services for the child and the family; and 3) to act as a "watchdog" for the child during the life of the case, ensuring that what is best for the child happens and that the case is brought to a timely and appropriate conclusion.

Last year, 337 new abuse and neglect cases involving 638 children entered the court system in Lucas County. CASA volunteers were able to serve only 264 of those children. Thus, 59 percent of the children had no CASA volunteer to advocate on their behalf. CASA volunteers play a crucial role in ensuring a stable social and emotional future for these children.

The CASA volunteer becomes an official part of the judicial

proceedings, working alongside attorneys and social workers as an appointed officer of the court. Unlike attorneys and social workers, however, the CASA volunteer speaks exclusively for the child's best interest.

By handling only one or two cases at a time (compared to a social agency caseworker's load of 20 cases or more), the CASA volunteer has the time to explore thoroughly the history of each assigned case. The volunteer talks with the child, parents, family members, school officials, doctors, and others involved in the child's background who might have facts about the case. The volunteer also reviews all records and documents pertaining to the child. The CASA volunteer provides continuity by staying on the case until a permanent custody plan is approved

by the court. That plan may include reunification with the child's parent(s), legal custody to a relative, or adoption.

Research has shown that children who have been assigned a CASA volunteer spend less time in the court system and less time in the foster care system than those who do not have CASA representation. Judges have observed that children with a CASA volunteer also have better chances of finding permanent homes than children who do not have a CASA to advocate on their behalf. Just think of the benefit if every child had his own CASA volunteer to dedicate time and energy solely on his behalf.

There is no more vulnerable population in our community than an abused or neglected child. You can help protect one of those children. Adults (age 21 or older) with the desire and time to help an abused or neglected child can become a CASA volunteer. CASA volunteers are ordinary citizens from all walks of life; no special educational or legal background is required. Sensitivity, dedication, objectivity, and common sense are the most important attributes a CASA volunteer can have.

Each CASA volunteer attends an initial in-depth training program. Continuous, free, in-service training and supervision are *always* available. A CASA volunteer usually spends about 10 to 15 hours investigating and conducting interviews prior to the first court appearance. After that, volunteers work about one or two hours a week on their cases. With the exception of court appearances, CASA volunteers set their own schedules for their case work.

You can be part of these children's futures. You can make a real difference now and for the future life a child. Please step forward. A child is waiting for you.

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A Light Shines in Harlem: New York's First Charter School and the Movement it Led By Mary C. Bounds, foreword by Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

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it easier for
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loves his teacher.
thing you're grate-
cause that makes
him to go to school.
ing, he rises with a
comes home excit-
heart, he's getting
for his future.

But what if the school your child attended was sub-par? What would you do to ensure that he had the best learning atmosphere possible? As you'll see in *A Light Shines in Harlem* by Mary C. Bounds, it was a question that needed tackling.

Rev. Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker knew that Harlem youth were in trouble. As Martin Luther King Jr.'s chief of staff, Walker had worked hard for civil

rights. As a minister who helped reclaim Harlem's neighborhoods, he knew the value of education for its citizens – and he was concerned.

"Increasingly," says Bounds, "Walker heard stories from his congregation about how inner-city schools were failing their children." He considered opening his own school but logistics prevented it. Still, he never stopped searching for answers – until he found something he thought might work: a charter school.

Much like a public school, charter schools are "tax-funded, tuition-free, and open to all public school children..." The difference is in who operates the school, and that parents decide on enrollment. It was education reform in its truest sense, and it was a relatively new concept then.

When he met Steven Klinsky in 1999, Walker hoped the solution was at hand.

For years, Klinsky had been thinking about his brother.

When Klinsky was a kindergartener, his brother Gary tutored him every day after school. Thanks to Gary, who died young, Klinsky was a success, and he'd been thinking about a way to honor Gary's legacy. In the beginning, Klinsky created an academic after-school program that offered kids a fun way to learn – much like the fun he'd had with Gary – but when he learned about charter schools, he became truly excited. Harlem seemed to be the likeliest place for a charter school, if the right building could be found.

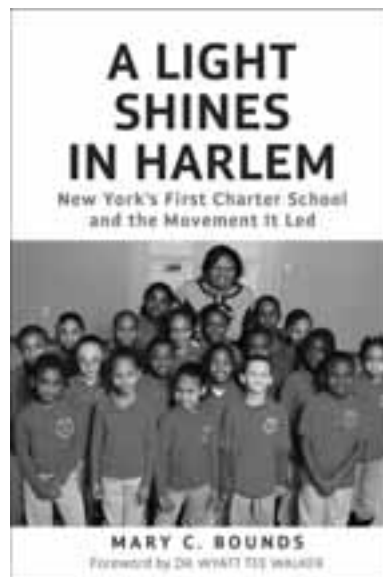
And then someone introduced Klinsky, who had the finances, to Walker, whose church owned a magnificent and nearly-empty structure...

There's been a lot on the news lately about the "crisis" in education, both from the teacher point-of-view and from parents. People worry about their children's success and *A Light Shines in Harlem* sheds some good news on this issue.

I had to smile as I was reading this book, in fact: author Mary C. Bounds' telling of this tale makes it sound almost like a thriller, with heroes and hurdles. I enjoyed reading about the synchronical events that allowed the Sisulu-Walker Charter School of Harlem to become a reality, and the tales about the students. Parents and educators will appreciate the you-can-do-this hints in the back.

Be aware of one thing: this book contains a lot of names, and that quickly becomes overwhelming. Look beyond it, if you struggle, and persevere. In the end, you'll find that *A Light Shines in Harlem* has plenty of class.

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TOLEDO JOURNAL



“Learning as Leading”

Special to The Truth

Community Conversations for School Success is a group that has been meeting at the Kent Branch of the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library, alternate Mondays, 6:30-8:00 p.m. since the end of September.

“Learning as leading”

In response to national, regional and local conversations about the achievement gap between students of color and white students in both K-12 and postsecondary education, coupled with our personal and professional interests, we've collaborated in hopes of shedding local light on the black-white achievement gap through a series of community conversations. Simply stated, we are “flipping the script” and using a tried and tested approach where we go to the community for answers rather than, as academics, we give the answers.

The group uses a process called “popular education” by some, “learning as leading” by others, and “group-centered leadership” or “collective leadership” by yet others. The most important aspects of the process is that **every person has an equal voice and valued knowledge, and the group mutually determines issues, investigates them, and determines appropriate actions rather than acting on some predetermined goal or objective.**

One early contributor of the approach is Antonio Gramsci, an Italian who fought against fascism (an oppressive and authoritative form of government) in the 1920s and '30s. He coined the term “organic intellectual” to emphasize the idea that all people, no matter what their vocation, are intellectuals: people from all walks of life contemplate, research and act based on their insights. Gramsci emphasized that for society and its institutions, including schools, to survive and thrive, everyone's contributions to understanding and acting upon the world must be equally valued.

Another important 20th century contributor was civil rights activist and leader Ella Baker, known best for her leadership role with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, or SNCC. Authors Stephen Preskill and Stephen Brookfield, who wrote the useful guide *Learning as a Way of Leading* (2009), noted that Baker, a leader in SNCC as well as the NAACP during the 1954 to 1968 Civil Rights movement, was “the movement's most influential theorist of, and practitioner in, collective leadership, or what she often referred to as group-centered leadership”.

Baker called for people throughout society to be involved in making decisions that affected their lives, instead of being overly influenced and controlled by experts and professionals. According to Preskill and Brookfield, Baker believed collective leadership involved building a community where all are viewed as equals, where each voice is considered unique and essential, and where people work together to discover mutually agreed-upon goals. It is exactly in this spirit that conversations have been developing and will continue.

In our first four conversations, participants have come from many walks of life, including teachers and school administrators, parents and grandparents, ministers, city government workers, community organizers and children's advocates, police, security and probation officers, and students ranging in age from upper elementary through graduate school. One teacher who came to the first conversation has brought her fellow teachers as well as parents of children in her classroom to subsequent conversations.

The group has identified five main topics of concern, and through research and sharing views and experiences, are now *continuing conversations* to increase our common understanding of them as well as strategies for addressing them. The identified issues are: cultural competence, community involvement in schools, parent involvement in schools, the disproportionate suspension and expulsion of students of color, and the question of government control in schools. Further columns on “Community Conversations” will report on the research, discussion, and conclusions of the group surrounding these topics as well as other issues that may arise.

We whole-heartedly believe that in order for society to thrive, individuals

must come together to discuss freely matters of common concern. In the last three decades, such gatherings have decreased, as documented by sociologist Robert Putnam in the popular book, *Bowling Alone*. “Community Conversations” is intended to create a free and democratic space—a place where people can try out ideas and collectively select the ones most important to act on—as well as to develop smart ways to act.

Such ideas develop over time, as a group gets to know each other, and builds common understanding together. Patience and persistence matter. As one participant wrote at the end of the third conversation, “Keep going and let the group lead the journey. This is not going to be solved in an eight-week journey. This is an Odyssey.”

The authors of this column are both faculty at the University of Toledo and facilitate the group “Community Conversations for School Success.” Willie McKether is associate dean in the College of Language, Literature and Social Science and associate professor of Sociology/Anthropology, and Lynne Hamer is professor of Educational Foundations and Leadership and currently directs UT@TPS. Everyone is welcome to join in the Community Conversations, which take place alternate Mondays, 6:30-8:00 pm, at the Kent Branch. The next conversation will take place November 24.



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Carol A. Goss: "No Longer Stuck in Place; Hope for the Future"

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

"It is not enough today to graduate from high school," said Carol A. Goss in her speech last week before a packed house at The University of Toledo's Ingman Room in the Student Union. "You must go to college and graduate if you want to succeed."

Goss, former president and CEO of The Skillman Foundation, a private independent foundation in Detroit whose mission is to improve the lives of children in the area by strengthening schools and neighborhoods, was brought to UT as a guest of Brothers on the Rise, the Association of Black Faculty and Staff, Alpha Phi Boule and the UT Division of Student Affairs.

Last Wednesday evening's event was opened by Mistress of Ceremonies Jovita Thomas-Williams, UT associate vice president for Human Resources and Talent Development and Kaye Patten Wallace, Ph.D., UT senior vice president for Student Affairs welcomed the guests

Pariss Coleman, Esq., member of the Alpha Phi Boule, introduced the speaker. "She refuses to accept many of the wrongs in society," said Coleman of Goss.

Nearly 200 people, primarily UT students, turned out for the first such event of the season. Goss, currently a fellow in the Advanced Leadership Initiative program at Harvard University, has been involved in philanthropy for more than 20 years. A native Detroit, Goss has a BA in sociology and a masters in social work from the University of Michigan.

She has served as a program officer with the Stuart Foundation in San Francisco and program director at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in Battle Creek, Michigan. Crain's Detroit Business named her one of southeast Michigan's Most Influential Women, an honor bestowed only once every five years on the region's most dynamic and powerful women.

... continued on page 9



Willie McKether, Kaye Patten Wallace, Carol Goss, Pariss Coleman, Anthony Quinn



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Carol A. Goss... continued from page 8

Her experience also includes more than 20 years involvement in child welfare, family services and youth development in Detroit and Oakland, California.

"What has happened to the black community?" she asked her audience before ticking off her four reasons for the decline of black neighborhood: the exodus of middle class black families from the urban core; the lack of remedial assistance in those neighborhoods as institutions also move away; crime and drugs; structural racism.

For the students, Goss offered suggestions to ensure their success:

First, "Focus, focus, focus," she said. "You must learn how to use technology." Goss spoke of the benefits of using technology in this day and age.

Second, "form or join a study group ... identify the smart kids and join their groups," she said.

Third, "use social media wisely," she cautioned, warning the students that whatever was posted on social media would be on social media forever.

Fourth, "find mentors," she advised.

Fifth, "study, study, study." She suggested that a student should take one really difficult course every semester, one course just for fun and fit the rest in between the two in terms of degree of difficulty.

Sixth, "have a good time." She told her audience to look for opportunities to mix with diverse groups of people.

"Make a commitment to be successful," she concluded.

After a question and answer session with the audience, closing remarks were presented by Anthony Quinn, PhD, assistant dean, Recruitment & Retention, Col-

lege of Natural Sciences & Mathematics and president of the Association of Black Faculty & Staff and by Willie McKether, Ph.D, associate dean, College of Languages, Literature & Social Sciences and president of Brothers on the Rise.



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Medicare Open Enrollment Oct. 15 - Dec. 7

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Spread Holiday Cheer with the Gift of Family History

Special to The Truth

Amidst the gifts, meals and parties of the holiday season, one word takes precedence -- family. There's no better time to begin learning about family roots, especially as you're gathered together in celebration. And doing so is easier than ever.

While researching family history or exploring ethnic roots was once a task-heavy chore, filled with hours of library visits, interviews or public records inquiries, now you can conveniently traverse the genealogical landscape thanks to new technology tools, such as mobile apps, social media and even affordable Ancestral DNA tests that enable you to find family stories you may not have known about.

Liven up the holidays and connect with those who mean the most by sitting down and chatting about family history. Here are some pointers to get started:

- Start with what you know: Using a website like Ancestry.com, or the Ancestry app (available on iOS and Android), enter the information you know into your family tree. Upload photos to preserve memories. Don't have all the facts? Don't worry. This is just the start of your quest.
- Take a DNA test: DNA isn't just for TV shows and professional detectives. You now can be your own detective. Get your ethnic breakdown by percentage, such as 50 percent Irish and 50 percent Native American, and find out who else may be related to you with tools such as AncestryDNA. On average, folks taking the test have 60 matches to 4th -- or closer -- cousins in their results.
- Chat with relatives at family gatherings: Over the holidays, dive into your family history with relatives. Consider gifting them family history resources like a DNA test. Record any interviews, particularly with the elderly, and take detailed notes. Ask everyone to bring photo albums and heirlooms. Any documents you create or collect you can attach to your online family tree for preservation.
- Look at the ancestry hints in your family tree: Ancestry provides hints about possible relatives to populate your family tree. These clues could give valuable insight into your family's legacy and connect you with lost relatives.
- Share your findings: Whether it's at the next family reunion, or as a belated holiday gift wrapped and framed, share your findings with your family for a better understanding of your collective heritage. Plenty of websites offer printing services, so consider the perfect stocking stuffer: a calendar, book, poster or other gift that will bring more meaning to the holidays. Encourage family to try the app and fill in their own family tree.

For more researching tips, or to get started on your own search, visit www.Ancestry.com.

Whether it's confirming a family legend, discovering an old yearbook photo of a grandfather before he left for World War II, or meeting a family you never knew existed, it's never been easier to create memories and family traditions during the holiday season.

Courtesy StatePoint

International GAMES DAY – Saturday, November 15

The Toledo-Lucas County Public observes **International GAMES DAY** scheduled at several library locations this November.

This special day, officially observed on **November 15**, is an initiative now in its seventh year, and run by volunteers from around the world and held under the auspices of the American Library Association (www.ala.org), in partnership with Nordic Game Day and the Australian Library and Information Association.

The goal is to reconnect communities through their libraries around the educational, recreational and social value of all types of games. More than 1,000 libraries around the world will participate and showcase gaming programs and services.

We hope you join us at one or all of our programs, where you can enjoy a variety of classic and new games that will challenge your memory and skills.

• **Saturday, November 15** - Main Library, 325 Michigan St. - 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

- Family Feud from 10-11 a.m. presented by The Entertainment Network
- Pop Culture Jeopardy from 2-4 p.m.
- Giant Games: Chess, Scrabble™ and Tic-Tac-Toe
- Alice's Wonderland Croquet
- Toledopoly
- The Great Toledo Blizzard
- Metro Twister Scene It
- Games Giant Word Search
- Board Games Galore!



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For more information contact Ryan Rollison at 419-476-3494

Rep. Fedor Proposes Delay of High-Stakes Education Decisions Based on Student Test Scores

Teachers, students deserve time to implement standards effectively

State Rep. Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) introduced legislation today to institute a three-year suspension of high-stakes decisions based on student test scores in measuring student growth and evaluating teacher performance. In June, the legislature voted to suspend high-stakes decisions based on test scores for the 2014-2015 school year, but schools say one year does not provide enough time for a successful transition.

"Ohio's New Learning Standards and related assessments have taken effect this year, and deliberate implementation is critical to ensuring that the transition to higher-level standards is successful," said Rep. Fedor. "This legislation would essentially give Ohio's schools, educators and students the time to implement the standards effectively and without threat of punishment."

During a suspension – often referred to as a "safe-harbor" period – report card ratings cannot be used to trigger state sanctions, such as making schools eligible for vouchers. Additionally, student growth

measures cannot be used to make decisions regarding the dismissal, retention, tenure or compensation of a teacher.

"Ohio is at a critical moment where the state must decide how to move forward in a way that truly improves public education for our children. The switch to new learning standards shows a serious commitment to our children's future," said Melissa Cropper, President of Ohio Federation of Teachers. "However, testing continues to be an obstacle to a vibrant learning environment when instructional time is lost to hours of tests and test preparation - this is a poor frame for teaching, learning and understanding. A three-year pause on the high stakes decisions attached to testing will give Ohio time to make thoughtful decisions about the next steps in educating our children and what role testing should have in that process."

H.B. 642 was referred to the House Education Committee, and has yet to receive a committee hearing. To date, 18 legislators have co-sponsored the legislation.

It really shouldn't be over!

Published November 7, 2014

By Steven Flagg

As expected, a dynamic new superintendent carried the day and Issue 1 passed. It's to his credit and the relationships he has built in this community that TPS passed a new levy for the first time since 2001. I'd like to say congratulations, but I can't because Issue 1 wasn't for the kids.

A lot was left unsaid by those campaigning and supporting the levy about the ability to improve student outcomes and the issues TPS officials pledged would be resolved. You can find information about these issues in the posts at this site. It's my way of protesting the injustices found in how resources

are allocated to schools serving our most disadvantaged students. It should be a wake-up call and elicit protestations.

To those who kept their silence on the issues and those who did not ask the questions, this quote seems most appropriate: "To sin by silence, when one should protest, makes cowards of men."Ella Wheeler Wilcox 1914. You can read the full text of her poem from her book of poetry, *Poems of Problems*, page 154 at the Internet Archive.

Fundamental changes are needed and TPS administrators don't have the resources nor

the cooperation and vision of their Board and union leadership to meet the expectations of better student outcomes that they have created during their campaign to pass Issue 1.

There is still an opportunity to make those changes and we can only hope that Romules Durant and his staff will have the courage to discuss and address the impact of onerous contract provisions such as seniority based teaching assignments before any wage increases are agreed upon.

If it's really for the kids, speak up. Better yet, shout from the mountain top.

Arts Just as Crucial as Math and Science, Say Education Experts

Special to The Truth

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math -- known collectively as STEM -- has been the buzz phrase for educators for some time. But, with many school districts eliminating art, music and other humanities classes, there has been a recent push by educators to change the focus from STEM to STEAM, and add arts back into the mix for a more well-rounded education.

"Many experts agree that STEAM education is a great way to engage children of all ages in creative play, discovery and learning," says Dr. Eric Klopfer, Platform Learning Expert and member of the Expert Panel at VTech, a world leader in age-appropriate and developmental stage-based electronic learning products for children.

Whatever the present academic focus of your local school district is, you can help support a more comprehensive education for your children at home, while making it fun. Here's how to incorporate STEAM learning into your children's playtime:

Art Time

The school day may not offer daily opportunities for creativity to flourish, but you can turn the playroom at home into an artists' studio. Keep on hand arts and crafts supplies such as glue, construction paper, glitter, scissors, string and paint.

Take a trip to a museum or gallery and learn about different artists and styles to get kids inspired.

... continued on page 13



A Question of Leadership

Lima's NAACP: The Impossible Dream?

By Vickie A. Shurelds

The Truth Contributor

There is no question that the NAACP nationally retains its purposeful relevance. In a nation gone hate group wild, the term "hidden racism" is a misnomer as open hostility toward one's group of choice is deemed the right of an 'American Citizen.' Since 1909 the biggest, baddest, boldest movement for the support of Civil Rights for all has been unable to find a foothold in Lima, Ohio.

Certainly, there is a need for strong leadership in Lima and in Allen County, for that matter. People of color are underrepresented on every effective level of education, economic development, politics and industry. Even the arts have shown no long standing place for people of color.

It seems the NAACP would be the perfect solution to creating an opportunity for the voice of the 59 percent (according to the 2010 Census) people of color to be recognized, yet we find once again the leadership has been unable to pull together a strong enough bond with the people to have an effect on issues that make a difference.

There have been short bursts of hope in the recent past when events created the perfect storm and a need for strength beyond local capabilities caused an outcry of justice from the sleeping giant; but a few phone calls and demonstrations to calm the pulse of the upsurge re-capped the energy until it fizzled

out and returned underground to accept the inevitable complacency that "this is the way it is" in Lima, Ohio.

The current movement in economic development has stirred the 'pot' again. New businesses are scheduled to open in the downtown area; Rhodes State College has chosen the center of the city as the perfect spot to launch their expansion; the long-discussed South Side Corridor is taking shape with new industry breaking ground and revealing the true existence of dollars ... for whom?

Roused again by the realization this movement is taking place without the direct participation of people of color the call goes out again for leadership in the form of a new staging of the Lima Unit of the NAACP.

Local stakeholders turned to the Dayton Chapter for guidance and mentorship... meetings, plans and discussions took place, and when it seemed all was in place the announcement was made the time had come to choose the person who would lead this 'new' Lima Unit during this critical time. Through a horrifying series of unfortunate events, the only person eligible to serve as president was Pastor Ronald Fails.

Yes, the same Pastor Ronald Fails, who several weeks after his election, was again front page news in Lima for an arrest during an FBI sting for soliciting a female minor.

The guilt or innocence of Fails during any of his arrests, court hearings, or questionable activities is not nearly as important as his refusal to step down from his position knowing the critical need so many people in Lima are facing.

This is the time to place the spotlight on who is getting contracts for construction and human resources. Literally thousands of jobs are at stake, and the memories of



all those people working on building new schools in Lima back in the Bush days and having to search long, hard and deep to find the diversity in the mix remains a crystal clear image in the minds of Lima's minority businesses.

This is the time to come to the table with high-level presentations and demands for unilateral inclusion of qualified minority business enterprises, and demands for a seat at the table during development phases of tax abatements and outsourcing ... instead, the Lima Unit of the NAACP must forgo those meetings, because the leadership's personal issues are outshining the needs of the people.

It's happened before. Whether the destruction began with mismanagement of funds, indiscretions in direct conflict with the basic philosophy of the NAACP, or just a myopic lens of focus on the individual versus the betterment of the people in need of action, there is something missing in the leadership.

Everyday there are meetings taking place. Decisions are being made on who will benefit; who will profit from the economic development happening in Lima. There will be an impact. Without a doubt, the impact will shake the community of color from root to tip.

The only question is: "will the result be a positive one that could take hundreds of families out of poverty, or leave them there while elevating those who enjoy the most resources into the next tax bracket?"

The leadership is unable to prepare for such high level critical issues because it must first deal with the question: "Does \$100 cash, an ATM receipt and condoms in hand at a local hotel equal the actions of a man soliciting sex for hire according to the FBI Violent Crimes Against Children Task Force?"

W.E.B. DuBois, James Weldon Johnson, the Honorable Julian Bond, Kweisi Mfume, Martin Luther King, Jr. – these names bring honor and pride because they focused on social justice instead of power for personal benefit. The expectation of leadership for a NAACP unit that can bring a credible voice and create a chance for change long overdue to a community in need can't be blurred. The economic state of the 59 percent of Lima's people of color is the reflection of "the dream deferred".

Step Up. Step Back. Move.

Our narcissistic culture too often finds itself led by coercive leaders that hold their personal agenda above the sake of others. *It is absurd that a man should rule others, who cannot rule himself. –Latin Proverb*

Simply D'Vine Boutique

opened its doors on August 9, 2014 and the word is, It's Simply D'Vine!

The boutique is a hip new fashion boutique with a wide variety of clothing and accessories presented in a unique way. Rather than put you in a box, Simply D'Vine invites you to join their unique fashion circles. You have the opportunity to shop from all of their distinct and uniquely styled clothing "closets". Young at Heart, Moderately Chic and Sophisticated Lady. The boutique also carries a selection of stylish dress shirts, ties and socks for men. Men suits are available for order.

Simply D'Vine is NOT your average clothing boutique. What makes it special, are not just the fashions inside, not the arrangement of the merchandise but the great value for upscale clothing. Simply D'Vine prides itself on offering their customers excellent merchandise at the best price.

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Toledo, Ohio 43623
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(after Thanksgiving the boutique will remain open until 7:00pm on Saturdays)
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Education Experts... continued from page 11

New Technologies

Handing over your expensive, breakable mobile technology to your young children may not sound ideal for on-the-go learning, but there are durable tablets built for children that support learning apps combining STEM subjects with the arts.

For example, InnoTab MAX, VTech's most powerful and versatile 7-inch tablet, features access to more than 650 educator-supported apps, including

hand-picked Android learning games and age-appropriate learning software and content through VTech's Learning Lodge, as well as creative onboard apps such as Movie Maker and Art Studio. The apps feature a wide curriculum of language arts and reading, math, science, social studies, problem solving and creativity, that have been reviewed by a panel of education and child development experts.

Music

Participation in music education has been proven to improve grades in STEM subjects. Not only that, it's a ton of fun.

If your school offers opportunities such as band or chorus, encourage your kids to get involved. If arts programs are scarce, invest in a keyboard or guitar for the home. Even if private music lessons are out of the budget, there are plenty of online tutorials that can help with the basics.

While there's no doubt that math and science comprehension are critical, education experts advise parents to support an interdisciplinary approach to learning that incorporates the arts as well.

Courtesy StatePoint

Perryman... continued from page 2

during this present crisis and beyond.

To show friendship and solidarity with the peoples of Africa—in ways that go viral in the most beneficial sense and that indicate the scope of America's "wildfire" of "interest and activity in Africa"—those signing onto this statement:

- Endorse this statement of support for Africa through our individual or organizational sign-on;
- Commit to circulating or otherwise sharing this statement among our net-

works for additional mobilization of signatures—and upon completion of the signature phase of the statement commit to circulating or sharing it with our African friends and networks in the U.S. and abroad;

- Pledge to make a financial donation (in whatever amount possible) to one or more organizations working in West Africa as front-line responders to the Ebola epidemic (there are many options—see a list of groups at interaction.org, or go to specific group websites such as peacecorpsconnect.org/ebola-fund/, or denominational

sites such as ame-church.com, lottcarey.publishpath.com, or catholicrelief.org); and

- Continue to seek opportunities to strengthen personal and professional connections to Africa and its people.

From: Petitioning The American People by Operations Crossroads Africa, Transatlantic Roundtable on Religion and Race, and The African Cultural Exchange

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

Medicare Plans... continued from page 4

everyone to know that quality continues to improve both in Medicare Advantage and in the Part D Prescription Drug Program.

Each year, plan costs and coverage can change. During open enrollment, seniors and people with disabilities across the country have the opportunity to review their current Medicare coverage and see if they want to make any changes for the next year. It's important for people with Medicare to take the time to make sure their current situation still meets their health care needs best.

To help people choose a plan, Medicare calculates plan "star ratings" for Medicare health and prescription drug plans. Each plan gets a number of stars on a scale of 1 to 5—with 5 being the best—based on quality and performance. These ratings are designed to help people with Medicare, their families, and caregivers compare plans, in addition to information on their premiums and benefits.

This year, people with Medicare who choose to enroll in a Medicare health or prescription drug plan will have access to more high-rated, four- and five-star plans than ever before. Approximately 60 percent of Medicare Advantage enrollees are in a Medicare Advantage Plan earning four or more stars in 2015, compared to an estimated 17 percent back in 2009. Likewise, about 53 percent of Part D enrollees are currently enrolled in stand-alone prescription drug plans with four or more stars for 2015, compared to just

16 percent in 2009. Since the passage of the Affordable Care Act, enrollment in Medicare Advantage will increase to 42 percent to an all-time high of over 16 million and Medicare Advantage premiums will have decreased by 6 percent.

For people with Medicare, this is good news in how they receive care. Plans that are higher rated deliver a high-level of care, such as improving the coordination of care, managing diabetes or other chronic conditions more efficiently, screening for and preventing illnesses, making sure people get much-needed prescription drugs, or getting appointments and care quickly. A high rating also means these plans give better customer service, with fewer complaints or long waits for care.

If you have Medicare and need assistance, you can visit Medicare.gov, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), or contact your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). You should have received the 2015 "Medicare & You" Handbook and important notices from your current plan, Medicare, or Social Security about changes to your coverage. If you're satisfied with your current coverage, there's nothing you need to do.

Better quality in Medicare health and prescription drug plans isn't the only good news for people with Medicare. For most seniors who have Original Medicare, the 2015 Part B premium will stay unchanged for a second con-

secutive year at \$104.90. This means more of seniors' retirement income and any increase in Social Security benefits will stay in their pockets. The Part B deductible will stay the same as well.


Medicare is working hard to make sure this good news continues so that seniors and people with disabilities will continue to get the health care coverage they deserve.



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Youth & Young Adult 4th Sunday



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Master's of Science in Nursing, certificate of authority, certificate to prescribe, DEA registration and excellent interpersonal communication skills including proficiency in computer required. Current certification as a Psychiatric-Mental Health Advanced Practice Nurse (PMHCNS-BC or PMHNP-BC) is required.

Send resume or apply to:

Unison Behavioral Health Group, Inc.
Human Resources - APN
1425 Starr Ave.
Toledo, OH 43605
Fax: 419-936-7574
Website: unisonbhg.org

EOE

Educational Advisor - ETS TRIO Programs

Bowling Green State University

The primary purpose of Educational Advisor is to provide supportive services to achieve the performance objectives of the Educational Talent Search(ETS) programs. The Educational Advisor recruits and retains new and continuing middle and high school students to increase secondary school achievement, assists students with supportive services necessary to help their promotion to next grade level, graduation from high school and then be prepared to matriculate to a post-secondary institution. This is a Grant Funded position. This position has many related duties and is in Bowling Green, Ohio.

Full-time, Administrative staff position available. For a complete job description & instructions on how to apply for this position visit <https://bgsu.hiretouch.com/> or contact the Office of Human Resources. Bowling Green State University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Educator and Employer. We are committed to a multicultural environment and strongly encourage applications from women, minorities, veterans and persons with disabilities. In compliance with the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA), if you have a disability and would like to request an accommodation in order to apply for a position with Bowling Green State University, please call 419-372-8421.

Director Wanted

Small Non-Profit Neighborhood Center has opening for Part-Time Director. Submit Resume in person to 330 Oak Terrace Blvd. Holland, OH 43528. Monday through Friday 9:00am - 1:00pm

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Applicants must be comfortable working in a community mental health center, have two years of relevant professional experience to include previous clinical experience with demonstrated leadership ability.

Current Advance Practice licensure including a RN - Certificate of Authority and Certificate to Prescribe in Ohio and DEA registration. Current certification as a Family Practice Clinical Nurse Specialist or Family Practice Clinical Nurse Practitioner is required. Excellent interpersonal communication skills and proficiency in computer use and experience working with an electronic health record and electronic prescribing software are essential.

Send resume or apply to:

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Website: unisonbhg.org

EOE

Positions Available:

Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Fellowships with the Immigrant Children's Defense Corps

Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE), a non-profit regional law firm that provides high-quality legal assistance to low-income persons and groups in western Ohio, and agricultural workers statewide, seeks a dynamic, bright, hardworking attorney to serve as an Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Fellow. The Fellow will provide civil legal assistance to immigrant children eligible for asylum, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, or U-visa status, and represent the children throughout Ohio in related juvenile, asylum, and immigration proceedings. The term of service will begin in December of 2014 for one year (with a possible renewal). Two positions are available. At least one of the positions will be in our Dayton office; the other will be in Dayton or Toledo.

Qualifications:

The Fellow is required to have excellent oral and written communication skills, as well as interpersonal, organizational, and negotiation skills, and the ability to work as a team member. The ability to communicate in Spanish is required. Knowledge of immigration law and/or experience with immigrant children preferred. Diverse economic, social, and cultural experiences are preferred. The Fellow must be admitted to practice law in Ohio and have graduated from an Equal Justice Works member law school.

Compensation:

The Fellow will receive an AmeriCorps living allowance of \$24,200 plus supplemental benefits paid of \$16,800 for housing; student loans; relocation; professional dues; and other allowable expenses. Other benefits include: \$5,645 Segal Education Award upon successful completion of service; childcare assistance; professional development and training assistance; student loan forbearance during services and interest accrual payment for eligible loans upon successful completion of service; participation in Equal Justice Works training opportunities and conferences, as applicable; and fringe benefits, including health insurance (medical, dental, vision, Rx), disability insurance, and life insurance.

To Apply:

Send resume as soon as possible, electronically preferred in Microsoft Word format, to:

Email: jobs@ablelaw.org

Subject: Immigrant Children's Defense Corps

Or

Immigrant Children's Defense Corps

c/o ABLE Recruitment Coordinator

525 Jefferson Ave. | Toledo, Ohio 43604

Equal access to ABLE's office is available. Applicants requiring accommodation to the interview/application process should contact the recruitment coordinator at the address listed above.

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Mt. Nebo Celebrates 84th Church Anniversary

Sunday, November 2 brought forth the congregation of Mt. Nebo Baptist Church to celebrate the church's 84th anniversary. The church, led by Pastor Cedric Brock and First Lady Debra Brock, were joined in their celebration by Rev. Tim Pettaway, pastor of Walk the Word Church, who offered the sermon.

The theme of this year's celebration was "Celebrating a Church Built on Faith, Hope and Love."

This year's anniversary chairman was Betsy Taylor.





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