



Volume 32, No. 6

*"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."*

March 25, 2015

# John Marshall Ford



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# Just My Take

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

*There was a time when I was a picketer across the street. Then I decided I didn't want to be there outside of policy-making. I wanted to be inside, fighting right there on their turf.*

- Yvonne Brathwaite Burke



I took a course in black politics at the University of Toledo in the early 1980s just for fun. I was a finance major in the College of Business Administration but my wife, a liberal arts major, was taking the class as an elective and I thought it might be fun to compete with her to see who could get the higher grade.

I got an A and she got a B plus, but she still claims to this day that her work in the class was every bit as good - or even "better," as she claims, than mine. Even now, we still enjoy good-natured fun, laughing about the days when I first met Jack Ford.

Ford, who was teaching the course, peeped me out in the first class. I was wearing the standard 1980s corporate uniform - navy blue suit, starched long-sleeved white shirt, red and blue striped tie and wing tipped shoes. Even before we were in our seats, he decided instantly that I would be the perfect foil for his class.

I remember much of the discussion time being devoted to the one on one debates we seemed to have each time the class met. Jack would say something like "You're the man's 'boy,' a challenge to my then Republican ideology and a pedagogical tactic he would use to set me up. He knew, that if I, as a young black executive, responded emotionally, that I likely was not ready to "swim with the sharks" in the cold turbulent waters of the corporate world or wrestle in the rough and tumble arena of party politics.

After verbal sparring for a while, Jack would then invariably come back with statistical or anecdotal evidence to illustrate the disparities reflected in my employer's hiring practices and distribution of resources. Having penetrated the outer shell of my ideological protection, my resistance eventually abated by the end of the term and Jack was able to plant the seeds that would lead to me becoming a member of "Jack's disciples."

Ford and his family would later become semi-regulars at Center of Hope and he made the church a ritualistic stop for political candidates who thought that, by attending at least once, their campaign would receive divine favor. I always thought that Jack should have become a minister and he would always attempt to steer me towards politics.

No one individual has impacted my theology more than Jack Ford. He taught me most importantly, "Everything is political," he counseled, "including religion." He also warned me that things are not always what they seem to be so "always scrutinize and challenge long held assumptions." The purpose, I learned, is not to become a perpetual complainer, but to bring about change, particularly in instances where policies and practices provide an unfair advantage to some individuals to the disadvantage of others.

No solitary figure has had more impact on policies in Toledo. Ford practiced what he preached. Under the Ford administration, minority contractors and vendors did more business with the city of Toledo than ever before. CareNet was formed by Ford to provide healthcare benefits to the uninsured well be-

fore President Obama's Affordable Care Act. He also initiated a smoking ban and a domestic partnership policy well before these issues drew widespread attention and acceptance.

No one else has had more impact on local politics than Jack. He is the godfather of many politicians, having birthed the political careers of numerous current and past office holders including Lucas County Commissioner Pete Gerken and Lucas County Auditor Anita Lopez, (a former student) who previously headed purchasing and affirmative action in the Ford administration.

Jack commanded real power, both statewide in Columbus and on the national stage, and would ultimately reach the pinnacle of Toledo politics in 2002. Some in the community think that his rise to mayor of Toledo precipitated a backlash which divided the Lucas County Democrats into the A team and B team. Ford's longtime friend, Carty Finkbeiner, would successfully challenge his re-election. The loss truly hurt Jack and he would never really overcome the sting of the defeat, from which his political power began to slowly dissipate.

Yet Ford's passing leaves a large void, not only on city council but also in the African-American community. Jack had the power to make sure that the poor and people of color were not forgotten and received their share.

Is there anyone on the horizon who is able to ensure that the issues of the poor and people of color are kept on the front burner of politics, policies and power in Toledo?

Someone will be appointed and elected to Ford's now vacant at-large council seat. However, he will never be replaced. For you cannot replace a Jack Ford. Not now. Not ever.

That's just my take.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, D.Min., at [drdlperryman@centerofhope-baptist.org](mailto:drdlperryman@centerofhope-baptist.org)

## Community Calendar

### February 16 – March 31

Art Exhibit: Maumee Branch Library; 40 paintings by artists Larry Parker, Sr

### March 25

Central MBC: Prayer Breakfast; 9 am to noon; Sponsored by the Missionary Society; Speaker Rev. Jimmy Gray

### March 27

Phillips Temple CME Fish and Shrimp Fry: 4 to 7 pm: 419-242-7906

### March 29

New Prospect Baptist Church Annual Men and Women's Day: Men's Day during 11 am service; Women's Day service at 4 pm  
Indiana Ave MBC 50th Pastoral Anniversary Celebration: Spiritual Sons' Service; For Rev. John E. Roberts and First Lady Bernice Roberts; 6 pm

### April 3

River of Life Church "Good Friday Food Giveaway:" Noon to 1 pm; Giving food away to families in the community: 419-380-9357  
Mt Nebo Baptist Good Friday Service: Noon to 3 pm; Guest preacher Pastor David Bullock of Detroit; Free ham giveaway: 419-246-8561

### April 5

Friendship Baptist Church "The Resurrected Savior:" 8:30 to 9:30 am; Presented by WordUp Drama Ministries

### April 17

Indiana Ave MBC 50th Pastoral Anniversary Banquet: For Rev. John E Roberts and First Lady Mother Bernice Roberts; Ramada Inn Secor; 6 pm

### April 17-19

Calvary MBC Women's Ministry 18th Spring Retreat: 419-531-9443

## The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's Truthful African American  
Owned and Operated Newspaper

Fletcher Word – Publisher and Editor  
Marticia Hurst – Office Manager

Tricia Hall – Reporter  
Carla Leonard – Social Editor  
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Toledo Mourns the Loss of Jack Ford • Toledo Mourns the Loss of Jack Ford • Toledo Mourns the Loss of Jack Ford

# Remembering a Toledo Giant: Jack Ford

By Fletcher Word  
Sojourner's Truth Publisher

The first time I had the opportunity to sit down and have a lengthy, one-on-one conversation with Jack Ford was in early 2002, several weeks after his inauguration as the City of Toledo's first African-American mayor. The meeting was set up at his request, possibly because I was the only person in the media who had endorsed his bid for the position of Toledo's chief executive.

We met in his office on Martin Luther King Day, a day on which the city was officially closed for business and the mayor was one of the only city employees at work. We spoke for about an hour on how he expected to handle business as he led the city for the next four years.

A little less than four years later, we sat down again in that office as we conducted his only exit interview in the wake of his re-election loss to Carty Finkbeiner. He was clearly upset that he had lost that election, losing elections didn't happen often for Jack Ford. He was upset that his message and his administration's accomplishments had not registered with the city's voters but he voiced no regrets about those accomplishments.

"Our biggest challenge was to make the city a little more entrepreneurial in how it handles its budget ... how the money comes in, how the money goes out," the mayor replied when asked about how well four short years had gone.

"We invested in a tow lot which will bring in millions; we cut some longstanding practices such as unquestioned sick leave abuse; we tackled health care for the uninsured and there are now a little over 7,500 who are in CareNet or who have been placed into other existing programs; we tried to change things with respect to the longstanding insider network that tended to preclude a level playing field for minorities in city contracts; we listened to the citizens who indicated they wanted civility on the 22nd floor and we attempted to do that and, finally, we made great strides in working with the disabled community – curb repair, housing, ordinance on visibility, the first wheelchair accessible playground in northwest Ohio; we repaired more roads than any other mayor has and built more new homes as well."

What he didn't mention initially was his very early decision to get a smoking ban passed, without dissent, through City Council – the first such ban for a major Ohio city. It was a decision that, frankly, cut into revenues for some city businesses such as restaurants and bars. It was such an unpopular decision in so many quarters that it made his 2005 re-election loss a virtual certainty.

But Mayor Jack Ford never expressed any regret over the decision. "I would definitely do it again," he said then. "I believe there will be people alive in 25 years that otherwise wouldn't be."

He may have paid a political price for that

... continued on page 4



Jack Ford



Ford and Biden

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Jack Ford... continued from page 3

courage of conviction but Toledo's smoking ban provided an example and cleared the path for other elected officials in Columbus and, later, in Lansing, MI to do the right thing and implement state-wide smoking bans.

And with that, Ford exited the political scene and attended his retirement party later in the week. Except, of course, he didn't quite retire from the political scene, did he?

I got a call a couple of months after Jack left office and had moved on to other things such as teaching. He asked me if he could join The Truth as a political columnist. I thought long and hard about that, perhaps for as long as a millisecond, before saying "yeah, sure, absolutely, you betcha!"

For years, before he ran again for office, Jack handled the chores of dispensing invaluable political insight and wisdom to The Truth's readers. He wrote about local, state and national politics from the viewpoint of an insider and, clearly, he was always an insider whether in or out of office.

"Tough times are ahead for the Midwest states of Michigan and Ohio," wrote Jack in February 2007, a year and a half before the economy bottomed out. "The economic heart of these two industrial giants is being



Ford and Obama

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# African Art Has Arrived!!

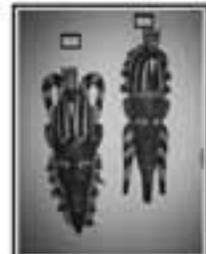
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Jack Ford... continued from page 4

ripped out by global forces which cannot be ignored ...”

Then Jack jumped back into politics with a flourish, running for the Toledo Board of Education, then City Council and even considering a run for state representative as an independent. His health struggles in recent years did not diminish his enthusiasm for playing a leadership role in this town and for pushing forward his favorite policy initiatives.

In the years to come, Jack's legacy as a visionary trend-setter may or may not always be celebrated as much as his gruffness and obstinacy will be. But make no mistake, he was indeed blessed with the ability to see things as they should be. Along with Carty, well before either one became mayor, he revamped the city's management and introduced the strong mayor concept and the city council structure as we know it today. When in the mayor's office, along with the smok-

ing ban, he brought CareNet into existence in order to insure the uninsured. That's a policy that would later be adopted nationwide, of course.

Jack was always a relevant force and an important voice in his adopted home town – no matter which office he held and even when he was out of office. There aren't enough buildings and streets in this town to name after him.



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# A Weekend Spent Commemorating Selma: 50 Years and Counting

By Deborah Porter

Special to *The Truth*

The trip to Selma for the 50th commemoration of Bloody Sunday was full of events and emotion for me. Sharing it with my 23 year-old daughter was absolutely priceless. Here are a few pictures and excerpts from the journal I kept.

## Thursday:

**Driving down** to Selma from Birmingham. I thought of how dark it must have been at night making that drive. Thought of the three freedom riders who were killed in Mississippi in 1964, driving on a street that probably looked very similar.

We toured downtown Selma as Montgomery Public School kids marched over bridge

We visited the Voters Rights Museum and saw a Jimmy Lee Jackson play

There was a mass meeting on Thursday night at Tabernacle Baptist Church with Dr. Bernice A. King

"We talk about my father as a leader and rightfully so but he was a leader among leaders. They understood the 'we factor,'" said King

"Today we keep having false starts, leaving people disillusioned, disappointed," she continued. "We must stop diluting our strength; we must organize. Stop starting organizations and come along side an existing one and support it. We must find a way to connect the generations. The Israelites came out together, old and young."

## Friday:

Various workshops and community discussions on race relations.

## Saturday:

Heard the president and U.S. Congressman John Lewis. Lewis would never have imagined 50 years ago that he would be introducing the first black president on that same bridge 50 years later. The president said they marched so we could run. We run so our children can soar.

I met a lady from outside of Demopolis, AL. Her first time to a jubilee. Bloody Sunday happened when she was 13. But she never marched because her parents wouldn't let her. She remembers the separate water fountains and getting food from the back of restaurants. She remembers her classmate being chained to the back of a Klan truck and dragged and surviving.

Several people passed out today. Not very hot. About 70 degrees but we had to stand for hours. Found out later there was no seating for the foot soldiers, those who marched 50 years ago and some are in their 80's. Whoever had seats should have given them up. Also, many foot soldiers did not have rooms in Selma but in Montgomery. Normally a 50 minute drive but because of all the traffic it was a 4 hour drive this weekend

## Saturday Night:

Freedom flame awards gala. Foot soldiers honored.

## Sunday Church:

Maybe you came to see the president but God wants you to see the savior, Jesus," said Pastor Otis Dion Culliver of Selma's Tabernacle Baptist Church. "You may have come to Selma to cross the bridge. But first you have to come to the cross."

And there was a bridge crossing, a gospel concert. So many people. Delicious food and homemade desserts. Only a couple of places to get water and use restrooms on other side of bridge. At the gospel concert participants included Tom Joyner, Kirk Franklin, Tramain Hawkins, Bebe Winans, Virtue and Estelle

Walking the bridge, you just knew that there had been countless prayers offered and not just for the 600 marchers on March 7, 1965. I believe WE were on their minds as they marched. Not knowing what they would be met with on the other side of that bridge or if they would survive to be the beneficiaries of what they were marching for.

But they marched anyway for me and my family to live the life we are blessed to now live.



Chanel and Deborah Porter



Shofar blower leads the march across the bridge



Dr. Bernice King (seated center), Rev. Jeremiah Wright (to her left)

March Is Women's History Month • March Is Women's History Month • March Is Women's History Month • March Is Women's History Month

# Recognizing the Full Humanity of Women

By Carla Yvette

This image inspired me. The image of two women of two different races standing together for a common cause with their fist held high in empowered confidence and a unified strength captivated me and I wanted to share.

Pictured are Gloria Steinem and Dorothy Pitman Hughes. Born in Toledo Ohio, Gloria Steinem is known as one of the most prominent activists of second-wave feminism and a representative for the feminist movement in the late 1960s and 1970s and is the founder of Ms. Magazine.

"A feminist is anyone who recognizes the equality and full humanity of women and men."  
- Gloria Steinem

Dorothy Pitman Hughes, co-founder of Ms. Magazine, is an African-American activist, public speaker and author. She organized the first shelter for battered women in New York City and co-founded the New York City Agency for Child Development now known as the New York City Administration for Children's Services.

"If [women] could go to banks and get a [business] loan, the whole face of Harlem would change."  
- Dorothy Pitman Hughes

The picture was taken in 1971 for Esquire Magazine to kick off a media campaign on feminism.

The raised fist has been used to represent the empowerment of feminism and racial equality for years. It has been used in the black power and women's rights movements and has been associated with militancy and rebellion as well as unity and solidarity. Socialist, communist and political activists have used it. No one group owns it and no one "cause" can claim it. It's use conforms to the meaning of the movement, the cause, the group or individual. The raised fist has been used equally by the oppressed and the oppressors, one representing dominant superiority the other defiant determination. One fact remains true; no one can define its meaning for you. In honor of women's history month and for the sake of this article, I invited a few friends to share what the Fist In The Air represents to them. Please read what they had to say:

"For me, the fist in the air represents symbolism of empowerment of women. It denotes taking charge of our own lives, and standing in solidarity with all women of strength, courage and good-will regardless of race, class, background or social standing. We are united and moving forward together. We must lift each other up, and not put each other down."  
~Lisa Holden

"This picture represents the power of women

of all races and how far we've come to be equal." ~Kim Barker

"The Fist in the air represents women's empowerment and equality and how far we've come from not being able to vote or work for the same pay rate as men even though we were doing the same job. It also represents having a love for women of ALL colors, uplifting and embracing each other instead of tearing each other down." ~Sonya Jones

"I hold my fist in the air to honor my



Gloria Steinem and Dorothy Pitman Hughes 1971 Esquire Magazine Image by Dan Wynn



Lisa Holden and LaVonda Johnson



Sonya Jones and Kim Barker



Rhonda Jemison



Sharon Johnson

sisters, my people and the struggle. The fist has symbolized power for generations. Sisters that have found their place, honored their purpose and support each other in not just their successes but also their failures. Those that stand together in individual battles and remain strong during global wars. Women that have been beaten, humiliated, embarrassed, hurt and abused but still stand. The women who gain power from each other and strength from our Creator." ~Rhonda Jemison

"In Celebration of All women and womanhood ~ Embracing my God-given place, power and strength I raise fist in salutation to the women before me and those behind that have fought with blood sweat tears and prayer to be the amazing ,women, mothers, sisters, mentors you are standing strong, filling the gap, lending a hand and going above and beyond to do what's right in a very imperfect world . I love you my Sisters." ~Sharon Johnson

The Library Legacy Foundation and The Maumee Bay Club of the National Association of Negro Business & Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. present



## A'Lelia Bundles

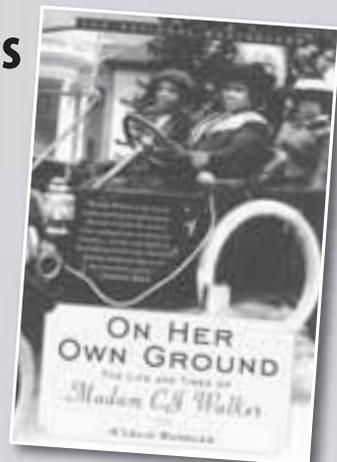
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# Mt. Nebo Honors "The Silent Soldiers"

Sojourner's Truth Staff

This year the Mt. Nebo Voice of Hope Outreach Ministry hosted the church's 15th annual Stepping Out in Faith Black History Banquet on March 1 at the Premier Banquet Complex and paid homage to "The Silent Soldiers," 16 members of the community who have set an example for service in a humble manner.

The event, hosted by Pastor Cedric Brock and emceed by Larry Jones, featured a presentation by praise dancers, a solo by First Lady Debra Brock and greetings by various dignitaries.

This year's honorees were: Deacon Sammy Bills, Bernard Davis, Brenda McFall, Alisha Pettaway, Deacon Joseph Sommerville, Barbie Chatman, Deacon Marion Edwards, Shirley El Iness, Hunter, Mother Sarah Frieson, Pastor Shirley Sparks, Anita Madison, the Kitchen of the Poor, Arthur Walker, Craig Dotson and Thomas McClain.



# A Lot of Drama During Deltas' Founders Day

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Toledo Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc celebrated Founders Day 2015 on Saturday, March 7 with a Rededication Ceremony, luncheon and a play at The University of Toledo's Student Union.

About 50 sorors gathered on Saturday. "Dedicated to service, sisterhood and scholarship, we have been working for and empowering African-American communities for 102 years," said Chapter President

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Daughter and Mother Stacey Jackson-Harris and Yolanda Jackson



Billie Lothery and Alexandria Harris



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Event Chairman Rochelle Rollins, Playwright Joyce Lewis, Chapter President Angela Siner



Janelle Butler-Phifer and Lucille Swan



Jessie George, Sue Fletcher, Barbara Stodghill

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# YWCA Milestones Awards Reaches Its Own Milestone

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Once again the YWCA of Greater Toledo held its annual Milestones: A Tribute to Women ceremony honoring women in various categories. This year, however, the event took on a slightly different twist.

For the past 20 years, the YWCA has held a luncheon to commemorate its honorees. This year, the 20th Milestones Awards were held in the evening at the Seagate Center and, as usual, hundreds of attendees were regaled with stories of great accomplishments.

This year's honorees were: Carol Bintz, Arts; Sr. Mary Carol Gregory, Education; Dr. Iman Mohamed, Sciences; Laneta Goings, Volunteerism; Sharon Speyer, Business; Arlene Singer, Government; Barbara Petee, Social Services.



Shelly Ulrich, Winda Birt, Reba Helm and Sheronda Arnott



Erika Goings and Donnette Tiggs



Diana Patton and Dawn Humphrey



Maria Martinez and Janelle Butler-Phifer



Laneta Goings and Melissa Overton

# UMADAOP of Lucas County Fundraiser

By Carla Yvette

A fundraiser for UMADAOP of Lucas County took place at the Beirut Restaurant on February 26 to support the organization's drug free and violence prevention youth programs.

John Edwards, executive director, said this is one of the soft fundraisers they have each year to help support some of the initiatives that are currently going on. UMADAOP, which stands for the Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Program, provides age appropriate, gender-specific and culturally relevant after-school, evening and weekend activities designed to promote and enhance developmental assets that help young people make positive and healthy choices to increase abstinence from alcohol and illicit drugs.

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Sheriff John Tharp and John Edwards



Phil Copeland and Art Jones



Joseph Ferguson, L.C. Everage, Joyce Vidales with Geof Allan and Charles Hughes



Elgin Rogers and Rev. John Walthal



Debra Brown, Ray Woods, Tina Butts and Alyssa Webb



Keith Mitchell, Councilmen Theresa Gabriel and Tyrone Riley

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Music Fest... continued from page 16

all night long with her quit-wit and unrehearsed humor. The night was filled with eating, drinking, dancing, laughing, and the musical mix of soul, rock, old school, new school with a sultry mix in between. Each performance left the crowd waiting in anxious anticipation for the next. Yes, they were just that good.

House band "Electricity" accompanied each artist and when DJ M-Sax was not pumping out the sounds between sets, he and Arthur Bishop double-teamed the audience on their saxophones and "blew them away."

The talented lineup included: Tim Jackson, Chicago, Illinois; YASU, Toledo, Ohio; Wayne Hightower, Cleveland Ohio; Arthur Bishop, Toledo, Ohio, Demetrius Rodriguez, Alliance, Ohio; Michael Barringer, Toledo Ohio; DJ M-Sax and, of course, the lady who made it all happen, Thee' Oracle, Lisa Hightower.

March Madness Music Fest, the brainchild of Lisa Thee' Oracle Hightower was the kickoff for LIVE MUSIC WEDNESDAYS which will feature a live house band, a true music set to hone your craft and flaunt your "voice" and will include: Open Mic for vocalists, poets, comedians and spoken word artists. A Featured Artists Act, A Jam Session for musicians and will take place the first Wednesday of every month at Club Evolution. For more information, call 567-307-0687.



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Bonny and Ren Becker



Michael Barringer and Shirley Wood



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Penny Rouse with Clara Petty and Jacky Brown



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**Lucas County**



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**Jugs Bowling Center**  
Saturday, April 18, 2015  
11:00 am and 2:30 pm

**Interstate Lanes**  
Saturday, May 2, 2015  
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Siblings, Wayne and Lisa Hightower with Tim Jackson



Spoken Word Artist Michael Barringer



Spoken Word Artist Michael Barringer and Singer Guitarist Tim Jackson



Singer, Yasu

UMADAOP... continued from page 9

Other program activities are designed to increase youth awareness and provide education to avoid violence, delinquency, school failure, gang involvement, family alienation and teen pregnancy.

Edwards says they are currently in the process of opening two women's recovery houses and also raising funds to take 30 teen-aged boys on an Amtrak trip to California this summer. The initiative labeled, 'Surf and Turf' is for youth who might not otherwise have the opportunity to go on family vacations or who may not have been outside the proximity of their immediate neighborhoods.

"We feel that such a trip will enable them to expand their vision, encourage them to succeed and achieve success and to avoid gangs and other related problems," he said.

Edwards who has been with the program for 35 years said their goal for this fundraiser was to raise \$5,000.

For more information about UMADAOP of Lucas County, please visit [www.umadaops.com](http://www.umadaops.com).

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Delta Drama.. continued from page 8

Angela M. Siner. "We are dedicated to the mission of our inspiring and empowering Founders, 22 young women who on January 13, 2013 at Howard University established our illustrious sisterhood."

The Toledo chapter began in 1937 as seven young women founded a mixed organization of graduates and undergraduates. Over the years, three area chapters have evolved – Toledo Alumnae, Beta Lambda at UT and Epsilon Omicron at Bowling Green State University.

Saturday's program, after the Rededication, consisted of a prelude by Soror Kaylene Miller and the welcome by President Siner. Soror Sheree Madison-Emery offered the invocation.

The Toledo Alumnae Steppers presented "A Tribute to Our Founders," after which, Siner led the sorority in acknowledging the sorors with 25-years of service – Cynthia Dye, Tonia Pace – and those with 50 years of service – Delois Baskin, Shirley Duckins and Twyla Wheaton.

After lunch, the audience was treated to a performance of Soror Joyce Lewis's play I Am Black and Beautiful. The work was directed by Soror Sylvia Carter. The three-act play is a series of vignettes by a cast of 10 women commenting on love, self-esteem and sisterhood.

The chairman of Saturday's Founders Day event was Rochelle Hall-Rollins. Committee members included Linda Ewing, Wanda Galloway, Alexandria Harris, Billie Lothery, Bessie Mack, Sheree Madison-Emery and Sandra Strong.

Chapter officers are President Siner, First Vice President Jacquelyn Jones, Second Vice President Staci Jackson-Harris, Corresponding Secretary Meiuttenum Brown, Recording Secretary Vicki Ampiw, Financial Secretary Tiffany Hairston, Asst Financial Secretary Tene Jackson, Treasurer Stephanie Teamer, Asst Treasurer Sheray Hall, Journalist Kaylene Miller, Chaplain Madisonn-Emery, Sergeant-at-Arms Barbara Stodghill, Parliamentarian Erica Parrish and Heritage and Archives Karen Sherman-Sorina.



Angela Siner and Bonita Johnson



Bessie Mack and Meiuttenum Brown



Martina Turner, NaTasha Baker, Reyna Mangrum, Jamee Temple



Yvonda Bean, NaTasha Baker, Jacquelyn Jones, Martina Turner, Kalyene Miller



Joyce Lewis and Rochelle Hall-Rollins



JoAnn Smith, Meiuttenum Brown, Yolanda Jackson



Phyllis Grant and Odell Chancy

  
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# Starting a Life Together

Embracing a warm and simultaneously elegant champagne color theme; every subtlety and detail served as a perfect the representation and expression of love the bride and groom [Ms. Cynthia Rose and Mr. John H. Thomas, Jr.] share. The couple shared their marriage vows before family, friends and a host of professional associates on Saturday, February 14, 2015 during a ceremony and reception at The African American Legacy Project.

Cynthia Rose, a 1974 graduate of Jesup W. Scott High School, chose Valentine Day as their date to wed. Mrs. Rose-Thomas earned her undergraduate degree in Public Administration from the University Toledo in 1974 and holds and a Masters in Business Dynamics from Wharton Business School.

The groom, John H. Thomas, Jr. is a 30 year veteran of the Lucas County Juvenile Probation Department. He graduated from Macomber High School in 1973 and St Thomas Aquinas College in 1978.

Robin Reese served as Rose-Thomas' Maid of Honor and Timothy Campbell performed the duties of Best Man for the groom.

The couple radiated with happiness as they welcomed family and friends to a sumptuous meal and delightful reception immediately following their vows.

The couple will continue residing in Toledo.



Kim Barker... continued from page 16

"I also would like to thank my family who traveled from Kentucky, Florida, Columbus and Chicago to be here for my special day. I cannot forget my church family Sis Wallace, Deacon Kramer and Sis Kramer for stepping up to help out. I love each and everyone who showed up and showed out. Again thanks so much."

birthday, I had a blast! It was a long journey but it turned out beautiful. Thanks to my mom Brenda Higginbotham, my aunts Gail Lawson and Jackie Coogler, my worker family Penny Smith and Andy Nye. Thank you all for putting up with me this past year.

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# Family Business 3: The Return of Vegas by Carl Weber with Treasure Hernandez

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

c. 2015  
Urban Books  
\$23.95 / \$26.95 Canada  
264 pages, plus extras

Family comes first.

That was a tenet you grew up with: nobody better come between you, sibs, and parents. Fam forever, sticking together.

But is blood really thicker than water? In the new book *Family Business 3* by Carl Weber with Treasure Hernandez, both spill just as easily.

Junior Duncan was a man in love.

He never thought he could feel this way, but Sonya made him crazy-happy. She was beautiful, smart, sexy - and though he didn't know it at first, she was also the wife of Brother Xavier, murderous leader of the Duncan family's biggest rivals. So on the day that Junior's proposal to Sonya led to death threats, the Duncans circled the wagons.

Sonya tried hard to stay away from Junior, to protect him and his family, but it wasn't possible; she knew that Xavier would kill the entire Duncan family in a second but she loved Junior too much. When he vowed to protect her, she ran away with him, hoping their escape wouldn't lead to harm (or worse!) for everyone they loved.

Brother X was insane with jealousy and anger. If he couldn't have Sonya, then nobody could, and he'd start looking for her by doing as much damage as he could to Junior Duncan's family. But first, he had to break out of prison and then he had to try to broker a deal with Bernie Goldman and his men.

Gathering warriors was important now. What Junior did with X's wife meant war.

Paris Duncan had always been Daddy's Girl. Patriarch LC had taught his baby girl how to shoot, fight and kill, and now Paris was one of the Duncan Family's best soldiers. She'd even assassinated the man she loved because it needed doing. But it practically killed Paris when LC was shot in the chest by someone he knew.

It was widely known on the streets that nobody messed with Vegas Duncan. Fresh out of prison, Vegas was ready to take his usual position of security in the Duncan Family but the growing war with Brother X... it concerned him. There could be a lot of bloodshed with this kind of street-fighting. Vegas' mentor offered to help quiet troubled waters, but would Minister Farah's intercession be enough?

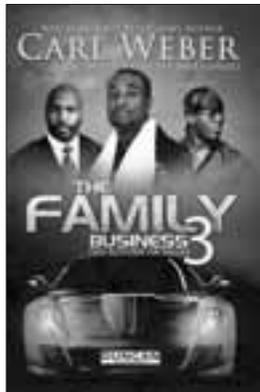
Action, sex, drugs, and violence - this book has all that packed between its covers. It's gangsta gone gang-busters. And it's kind of ho-hum.

In *The Family Business 3*, the women are all beautiful, scantily-clad, and oversexed. The men are all tall, handsome sure-shots and oversexed. There's the usual gay brother who crushes on a thug, violent twins, baby-daddy drama, a "dirty cop" on the dole and ethnic mafias everywhere.

Sigh.

Yes, author Carl Weber (with Treasure Hernandez) includes just what you'd expect in a book like this. And yes, it's tired.

Having said that, though, if you've read the first two *Family Business* novels, you'll undoubtedly want to know what happens next. You're probably wondering now, so go ahead. Put *Family Business 3* on your shelf. But I wouldn't be grabbing it first...



# Ashford Files



Accompanied by husband State Rep. Michael Ashford and campaign volunteer Diane Gordon (left), Ruth Ashford filed her petition to run for the District 4 Toledo City Council seat special election in May. In this, her first bid for elected office, Ruth Ashford has emphasized her behind the scenes political experience and her vision of bringing safe streets and economic growth to her district.

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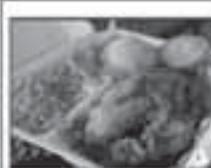
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# CLASSIFIEDS

March 25, 2015

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## New Hope Missionary Baptist Church

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Attention or Subject: Pulpit Committee

## Search-Lite Community Baptist Church

Is now accepting resumes for

### A Youth and Young Adult Pastor— Part-time

Send resume to:  
Search-Lite CBC  
200 East Broadway, Maumee Ohio  
c/o P.O. Box 80426 Toledo, Ohio 43608  
or search-lite10@bex.net

Attention P. Williams: Church Administrator

## Special Notice

RE: Examinations for Journeyman Wireman

Applications for the Journeyman Inside Wireman test will be accepted April 6-10, 2015 at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 8, 807 Lime City Road, Rossford, Ohio between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. The qualifications to be eligible for this examination are:

1. Must be 18 years of age or over,
2. Must live in the jurisdiction of Local 8 for one year prior to application.
3. Must have proof of 4 years employment in the commercial/industrial electrical construction industry.

## CARE MANAGER

Full-time

Accountable for overall care management and care coordination of the consumer's care plan, including physical health, behavioral health and social service needs and goals. May provide health home services as needed.

Must be licensed in Ohio as an LISW, LSW, PCC, PC or RN. Prior experience as a care manager preferred.

Send resume or apply to:

Unison Behavioral Health Group, Inc.  
Human Resources - CM  
2310 Jefferson Ave  
Toledo, OH 43604  
Fax: 419-936-7574  
website: unisonbhg.org

EOE

## Director – Human Resources

Lucas County Children Services Board in Toledo, Ohio is seeking a Director, Human Resources. To view full job posting and to apply, please visit our website at [www.lucaskids.net](http://www.lucaskids.net) No phone calls please.

**Notice to Bidders:** Inquiry # FY15-49, (Project # 5001-15-1810) for Anatomy Specimen Storage Facility 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, April 7, 2015 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 \$100.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from John Vanauker of Hasenstab Architects at 330-434-4464. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, March 31, 2015 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: 12.5%. Project Estimate: \$2,630,000.00; Breakdown: General Const: \$1,345,000.00; Plumbing: \$215,000.00; Fire Protection: \$28,000.00; HVAC: \$501,000.00 & Electrical: \$541,000.00.

**Notice to Bidders:** Inquiry # FY15-54, (Project # 5004-15-189) for UMC AHU 11 Replacement 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, April 14, 2015 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 \$75.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from David Schoonmaker of SSOE Group at 419-255-3830. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, April 7, 2015 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: 12.5%. Project Estimate: \$298,000.00; Breakdown: Mechanical: \$298,000.00.

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EOE

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## Kim Barker: Making 50 Look Fabulous!

By Carla Yvette

You only turn 50 once and Kim Barker wanted to make her birthday one to remember. Family, friends and coworkers filled the Gesu Banquet Hall on March 7 to help celebrate her special milestone. The theme of gold and white set the mood for a fun, festive evening.

Guests enjoyed a buffet-style, home-cooked meal that included, but was not limited to chicken, dressing, green beans, mac & cheese, salads and rolls, all prepared by her mom, aunts and friends. DJ Clean provided music and entertainment for the crowd of close to 200 people as they danced, mingled and helped themselves to a dessert spread of candy, cupcakes, cake balls and a beautifully decorated 50th birthday cake.

With heartfelt expression, Barker said, "I would like to thank God for blessing me with such wonderful people in my life. Thanks to everyone who came out to help me celebrate my 50th

... continued on page 12



Kim Barker Fabulously Fifty!



Kim Barker (center) with mother Brenda Higginbotham, father Sterling Coogler and stepmother, Linda Coogler



Kim Barker surrounded by friends and family

## March Madness Music Fest Toledo

By Carla Yvette

The first Annual March Madness Music Fest Toledo went down on March 21. The event, which highlighted local artists as well as artists from around the Midwest, was hosted in the newly re-opened Club Evolution, which is currently under new management. Their vision is to bring good live music to Toledo and features the amazing cuisine of Chef Bunny from Jamaica.

Comedian Kelly Williams emceed the event and kept the crowd laughing

... continued on page 10



Shawn Turner aka DJ M-Sax and Arthur Bishop



Comedian and MC for the evening, Kelly Williams



March Madness Music Fest brainchild, Lisa Thee Oracle Hightower



Darius Savage, Curtis Turrentine Jr., TJ Highsmith, Chris Pope and Mark Smaw make up the Band "Electricity"



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