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Hairstylists, clients, barbers, friends, family and supporters gathered on December 13, 2015 to celebrate Edwin Mabry, owner of Genesis Beauty Salon for over 18 years, which is located at 1209 Hoag Street.

Club Evolution welcomed over 100 people, who verbally and physically shared memories and words of encouragement.

“He is a self-less man. I wasn’t going to miss this event tonight. He made me the person I am today,” said Ray Woods, NAACP Toledo Unit president.

Suzette Cowell, Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union (TUFCU) CEO, spearheaded the celebration fundraiser. Mabry, a longtime board member of TUFCU, was injured several months ago when an automobile ran over his foot.

“He has helped so many people, and it’s time for us to help him. He has and will help anyone that he can. I know he’s loved, so many people are here. I hope he get well soon,” said Cowell.

“I am humbled by what I heard today. I thank each of you,” said Edwin Mabry.
The Sojourner’s Truth

December 30, 2015

There Are Opportunities All Around – From A to Z “NETWORKING”- Part 3

Maintaining Our Developing Network

By Zahra Aprili
Soulcial Scene Contributor

For the past two months we have been discussing how to build a rewarding and effective network. I have shared with you my belief that having a network means having relationships and it is from this perspective that we have approached my three steps for building a rewarding network. New Year is here and I am really curious to know how all of you are doing.

We used November as our launching month, taking the time to start a conversation, meet someone new and reacquaint ourselves with someone we did not know very well.

1. FIRST CONTACT

In December we begin the process of sifting through these new connections and categorizing them based on our initial purpose and continuing to add new connections.

2. EVALUATION

Step two is EVALUATION of the connections that you have made. Ask yourself key questions to sort your new connections through your network funnel.

1. What was your purpose?
2. Is the contact directly engaged in your purpose?
3. Is the contact is connected with individuals, businesses or organizations that relate to your purpose?
4. Did you make a personal connection in addition to a purpose connection with the individual?

If you have been following along and engaged in the process you should have three to

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Etiquette in the 21st Century: Because Manners Matter

Insisting on Life: Personal Effectiveness

By Robin Reeves
Soulcial Scene Contributor

While out on the social scene during the month of December, I encountered some fantastic people celebrating the birth of Christ, anniversaries, graduations, family traditions and other events that brought lots of people together. I was also reminded by several people that this is not always a good time of year for many for various reasons. I pray all have been comforted.

Reflecting on a few conversations I’ve had over the past few weeks lead me to think of how being aware of our environment and how connected we are to others really does have a profound effect on how we communicate with each other.

One of my conversations was about what’s fair and unfair, another about if black people were relevant in the workplace, what is success and the personal integrity of the presidential candidates who have lost control of their temperament.

Etiquette is the universal connector to the world. It develops our personal effectiveness which is our ability to create distraction free environments. The good news is that most people are aware of the importance of personal effectiveness. The not so good news is that people are unsure of how to develop it or how to demonstrate it.

As I acknowledge the 85th birthday (December 31) of the late Odetta Holmes, folk singer, elementary teacher, and civil rights movement leader, I’m reminded of her love of “work songs” that she said people would sing to ease the pain of the times.

She said, “They were liberation songs,” she later recalled. “You’re walking down life’s road, society’s foot is on your throat, every which way you turn you can’t get from under that foot. And you reach a fork in the road and you can either lie down and die or insist upon your life

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four connections that you have sifted through your funnel and two to three that need sorting. Heading into January we want to bring this process full circle using the last step in our process for building a rewarding network.

Step 3 is MAINTENANCE. It is not enough to make just make the acquaintance of someone and place them in a category for follow up. Remember building a network is building a relationship. Relationships need to be nurtured in order to grow. Likewise, our developing networks need continual maintenance in order to grow and be of use to us. I know you’re waiting for me to tell you how exactly you are supposed to maintain this growing network, right? All you need to do is remember the following:

Be VISIBLE- You cannot make connections and then disappear. This is especially important after your initial follow up. Keep your network engaged. Set reminders to tell you to communicate with members of your network. We get caught up in our everyday lives and sometimes forget to reach out. The old saying is true, “Out of Sight, Out of Mind.” Do not allow your new connections to forget you exist.

Be VOCAL- Send email, share social media posts, share articles and books of interest with your network. Start a discussion on a particular subject and ask for the opinions of the members of your network.

Be VALUABLE- Refer people in your network to others. Your ability to connect people together is an asset to anyone in your network. Remember all those “No’s” you funneled? They might not be right for your personal developing network, but there is some else who may need to be introduced to that “No” connection. Send out invitations, are you going to an event that may benefit someone in your network? Have an extra ticket? Invite them along. Have a member of your network be your plus one goes a long way when you are nurturing your connections.

Be a VOLUNTEER- As it relates to maintaining your developing network I encourage you to be helpful and get involved. At its height this could mean joining an organization or committee of interest related to YOUR PURPOSE. Getting involved allows you to be around like minded individuals who are a part of, or have the potential to become a part of your growing network. In addition, you are able to keep up with these individuals through structured meetings and activities. In its most basic form, VOLUNTEERING could simply be making yourself available to assist a member of your network and actually following through. Showing that you are conscientious and dependable will go a long way in keeping maintaining your relationships.

I hope that this series has helped each of you to venture out of your comfort zones and think differently about how you approach networking with others and figuring out how to grow your networking relationships. Networking is a continuous cycle, when done correctly will enhance both your business and personal relationships.

Zahra Aprili is a professional consigliere. She works with individuals and businesses that have ideas for growth and change, helping them to get organized and connecting them with service providers who can help them on their journey.

Networking... continued from page 3

... those people who made up the songs were the ones who insisted upon life.” What do you insist upon? What “work song” are you singing?

You may be asking: Robin, what does this have to do with etiquette and image? Well, as usual, I’m glad you asked. Like Odetta said, work songs were liberation songs and the people who made up the songs were the ones who insisted upon life.

Etiquette insists that you sing songs of life, success, confidence, personal integrity and respect in every environment and situation. If your image reflects a sad, low value, irrelevant song, studies have shown that we are a part of, or have the potential to become a part of your growing network. In addition, you are able to keep up with these individuals through structured meetings and activities. In its most basic form, VOLUNTEERING could simply be making yourself available to assist a member of your network and actually following through. Showing that you are conscientious and dependable will go a long way in keeping maintaining your relationships.

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Toledo Chapter of Girl Friends Celebrates the Holidays and Its 55th Anniversary

Sojourner’s Truth Staff

The members of the Toledo Chapter of Girl Friends Inc, along with spouses and friends, celebrated the group’s 55th Anniversary on Sunday, December 13, at the Stone Oak Country Club with a special emphasis on acknowledging the contributions of charter members and welcoming newly installed ones.

Chapter President Marie Latham Bush greeted members and guests and, after a presentation of the chapter’s history, recognized the charter members – Thelma Adams, Joan Coleman and Yvonne McGoodwin-Gandy.

Club members Katrina Barry and Angeline Murry introduced the new members: Lisa Dubose, Alisha Gant, Faith Harriston, Shari Kinnebrew, Patrice McClellan, Valerie Thompson, Richelle Watkins, Stephanie White and Cynthia Tetterton-Williams.

After dinner, the entertainment was provided by Kaydee Entertainment.

The Girl Friends officers are: Bush, president; Barry, vice president; Yolanda Gwinn-Harleston, recording secretary; Wanda Brown, corresponding secretary; Carolyn Lewis, treasurer; Lati Osinowo, chatterbox editor; Emily Monago, technology; Rochelle Rollins, parliamentarian; Comfort Ofori, courtesy & good neighbor; Lera Doneghy, historian; Angeline Murry, membership and Ireatha Hollie, chaplain
Area Office on Aging’s Annual Senior Holiday Party

Over 700 seniors came together from all over Lucas County on December 4 to celebrate the Area Office on Aging’s Annual Senior Holiday Party at the Premiere Banquet Center.

The mid-day event featured a formal sit-down lunch, entertainment by vocalist Marcia Bowen and the Manhattan Dance Company and, naturally, a visit from Santa Claus.

Attendees came from the Lucas County Senior Center as well as senior housing centers, churches and other organizations around the area. This was the 18th annual holiday party hosted by the Area Office on Aging.


Verica Zapiecki, MD
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Fros, Fashions & Finds A Holiday Hair Affair

By Megan Davis
Soulcial Scene Contributor

The holiday season is upon us and there are lots of gatherings with family and friends. From Christmas dinners and corporate gatherings to New Year’s Eve services and midnight soiree’s, these winter holidays are filled with festive events where the perfect hairstyle is required.

Members of the Toledo Afro Club submitted pictures of their styles that can transition from a day job to an evening affair with little to no effort. In this holiday edition of Fros, Fashions and Finds, there are several style options featured that naturals can wear at any stage of their journey.

For short naturals, the hair can be accented with great accessories or color. If you’re afraid of adding color to your hair, you may wish to try a temporary color like Marian Blanton did. She used Rave temporary spray in deep purple from Ulta on her TWA (teeny weeny Afro).

Roi and Tori Blackwell are twins who are wearing bold colors and high textured comb coils which can transition easily from workday to holiday. Colors like theirs are available in the Textures and Tones product line, but for those who are seeking a more natural color, try Henna or Naturtint vegetable-based hair color to achieve similar looks.

For those wearing locs, Earlean Mack Belcher is wearing curls that were set on pipe cleaners, available at any craft store for under $2 per bag. Her hair was set while damp, using one pipe cleaner per loc. They are left in for up to a week, since they can be worn as a bob, and when unfurled, tight curls are revealed and can last up to one month.

Mary Mason Peacock has her locs in a fiery red color and set in a braid-out style. Locs are braided together while damp and dried completely for this look, which can also last up to one month.

Afros will never go out of style, and there are many ways to wear them. Young Naturalista Aadya Davis is wearing a Bantu Knot-Out, that she set on her own, for soft curls and accented them with a thin... continued on page 9
The Movement Church Presents a Holiday Fashion Show

The Movement Church held a fashion show on December 12 to feature items collected by the congregation to be donated to women living in the YWCA of Greater Toledo Supportive Housing. There was an interesting twist, however. The models in the show were those women who will be receiving the clothes they modeled.

The fashion show was held at the church’s facility at 5650 Central Avenue. Pastor Rodney and First Lady Tameka Jackson welcomed attendees. Genise Lindsey served as the mistress of ceremonies and Jacqueline Jackson presented her original poetry and a praise dance.
Who’s New in Town? Welcome Eric Williams!

Eric Williams, who arrived in town from Florida three months ago to assume the position of executive director at the Wayman Palmer YMCA is clearly excited by the opportunities his new job presents.

“We are looking to go back to a more full-service organization,” he says noting that recently the services offered by the Wayman Palmer Y have been limited to child care. Those services are certainly extensive, however. The Y is a licensed child care facility and, on a typical day, has between 75 and 85 young clients in the building – pre-schoolers, after schoolers – and is open for business until 11:00 p.m. for parents who work the second shift.

Williams wants to expand membership now and offer adults wellness and fitness services. “We are going to take the Y back to the community,” the new arrival says.

Williams, a Pittsburgh native has been with YMCA for a number of years starting in his home town. Most recently – for the past six years – he and his wife Victoria, also a Pittsburgh native, have been in Jacksonville, Florida where Eric served YMCA as a district vice president. The move to Toledo places the Williams close to their family again, particularly their children and grandchildren.

Here, Ivy Fullilove is wearing the Braided Rapunzel Wrap, representing a Tribal Trend called Eembuvi Braids originating in Namibia by the Mbalantu Tribes. Today, many women wear box braids which is an American version of the style. Her daughters, adorned in organic locs, are wearing lightweight, woven head wraps with the braided accent as well. For similar head wraps, visit www.TheKitchenSalon.com, a Toledo-based company, to shop for similar wraps.

If you’re wearing a protective style this season, Genie Locs, also referred to as yarn braids, are a great, lightweight style. As seen in the photo, Marian Blanton is wearing her Genie Locs swooped to one side to showcase the shaved sides of her head. She accented them with gold cuffs and cowry shells, available at Powell’s Beauty Supply store in Toledo.

Jonelle Massey, is wearing long length Senegalese twists, installed by African Braids & More Salon. This is a popular trend in protective styling this year. Jonelle, is the owner of the Style 5:16 Consignment Boutique located at 3412 Markway Plaza in Cricket West. At her boutique, you will find vintage jewelry, fur coats, boots, leather apparel, and couture handbags. She also carries men's wear and a variety of accessories. Her boutique has many items that would make a great ensemble for your holiday gatherings.

No matter which holiday or event you are celebrating this season, high fashion and style is possible with natural hair.
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA), located in Toledo, OH is seeking experienced applicants for a Manager of Resident & Special Services and a Service Coordination Specialist. For complete details, visit www.lucasmha.org/Employment. Only online applications received at the above website by 01/10/16, will be accepted. These are Section 3 covered positions. HUD recipients are encouraged to apply and are to indicate on the application if you are a LMHA Public Housing resident or Housing Choice Voucher Program participant. Persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

NO PHONE CALLS. Equal employment opportunity shall be afforded to all qualified persons without regard to age, race, color, religion, religious creed, gender, military status, ancestry, disability, handicap, sexual orientation, genetic information or national origin.

SPECIAL NOTICE

RE: Examinations for Journeyman Wireman Applications for the Journeyman Inside Wireman test will be accepted January 4-8, 2016 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.

HVAC/R TECHNICIAN

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) is seeking experienced applicants for HVAC/R Technician. Visit www.lucasmha.org/Employment and click on the appropriate job link for details. Deadline: 01/10/16. This is a Section 3 covered position and HUD recipients are encouraged to apply. Please note on your submittal if you are a LMHA Public Housing resident or Housing Choice Voucher Program participant. Persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply. NO PHONE CALLS. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

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At Home With Mary Louise – Season After Season
That Special, Enchanted Time – The Wedding Day

By Mary Louise
Soulcial Scene Contributor

As the big day approaches, the mind moves a mile a minute. Budget, themes, color schemes, entertainment, menu --- you name it. As a wedding planner, event specialist and event decorator, my job is to make sure your event is spectacular.

Follow my wedding check list. At the top of that checklist, for our discussion today, my advice to you is - balance the budget and do things in moderation. Your top concern should be budget. From my experience married couples don’t like budgeting, but then, later they wonder why they’re spending too much. My advice to them, to you if you are planning a wedding, is to stay focused on what is important and stay within your budget.

Spending within your means determines everything - what, when and where! Usually wedding planning comes in packages such as:

Platinum Package: The sky is the limit. The bride asks for it and it’s done. All the bells and whistles. However, all those bells and whistles come at an outstanding price tag.

Silver Package: Some of the bells and whistles. It should look expensive but not be. This is what most of my clients select since it has a lavish look but stays within most budgets.

Economy Package: The basic white cotton look – table cloths, floating candles for centerpieces, few if any flowers. An exchanging of vows while keeping things extremely simple. Nevertheless, the economy package can still be very presentable with nice clean lines.

Your planner also has three to four packages. When selecting what you want on your dream day, keep in mind that you will be feeding a lot of people and, regardless of the package you select, that can get expensive. Think, think, think … Be mindful at all times of pictures, color schemes, wardrobes, transportation, honeymoon, bachelor party, bachelorette party, rehearsal dinner – they are also factors. So stay mindful while spending. Keep things within reason for you. And budget, budget, budget!!

Meanwhile, your wedding will be a wonderful, outstanding day regardless of the amount spent on it! The bride and groom should get creative. Attend wedding shows for ideas. Invite the wedding party over to participate in making centerpieces together – that will cut down on costs. Creativity is the key.

In the wedding planning world, we use a term – “finalizing.” That is adding and subtracting from the wedding list while being mindful in focusing on the important things that really matter.

If these suggestions are followed, the bride will have an outstanding day and save lots of money along the way. May your memories of this awesome day last forever … Remember – your day, your way!
The men – Archons – of the Alpha Phi Boule held their annual holiday party at the Toledo Country Club on December 5 honoring as always the Archousai – wives and partners of the members.

The annual Christmas party, always a black tie affair, is an opportunity for the Boule members and wives to display their finery and revel in the festive holiday spirit with their friends. And, as always, music, fine dining and conviviality mark the occasion.