



# The Sojourner's Truth

Volume 37, No. 4

“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”

January 27, 2016

## Unity Day Revisited



Articles - pages 2 and 16

Photo Courtesy Johnnie Early, PhD

### *In This Issue...*

Parryman  
Page 2

Doni Miller  
Honored  
Page 4

Tolliver  
Page 3

Zahra and  
Robin  
Page 5

Debutante Tea  
Page 6

### Soulcial Scene

MLK  
Breakfast  
Page 7

Mary Louise  
Page 8

Megan  
Page 9

Kool  
Keith  
Page 11

Unity  
Breakfast  
Page 16

Book Review  
Page 13

Classifieds  
Page 15

# Black Mothers of the New Movement

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, D.Min.

The Truth Contributor

*... I think Dr. King would want us to also honor the many others whose lives were taken too soon and unjustly. For if you're not talking about truth, justice and equality – what are you talking about?*

*- Tracee Perryman and the Justice Or Else All Stars*



Seldom are we afforded an opportunity to obtain an insider's view of black struggle at the intriguing five-points intersection of race, gender, work, home and community. Overcoming persistent popular and institutional stereotypes of black women, the organizers of the 2016 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Celebration were able to provide Toledo with a truly diverse ceremony that actually aligned with King's hard fought agenda.

The keynote address was given by Pastor Cori Bush, an African-American woman, mother, pastor and activist whose work is situated on the frontlines of the justice battlefield in Ferguson, Missouri. History often overlooks the lives of women of color who risk their lives and work tirelessly to bring healing, health and wholeness simultaneously in the home and community.

Pastor Bush, one of these unsung black mother activists, agreed to also share her story with the Truth's readers.

**Cori Bush:** Thank you everyone. Just sitting here and watching and listening to everyone, this is an awesome, awesome event you have. This is an awesome event, and maybe you don't understand it because you're used to it, but I'm not used to this. This is blowing my mind sitting here, and it's blowing my mind because the MLK Day celebrations that I've gone to back home, the ones that my parents drug me out to, I had the look that they drug me out. I sat there as a youth and we sang the songs and I listened to the speakers and I, "ugh, ugh, ugh." Even now, the ones that we have in St. Louis, actually the one we had last year and I think today, the protesters protested it because it wasn't enough youth involvement, it wasn't enough activist involvement.

We're talking about the new Civil Rights Movement and the people that were actually feet on the ground were not even invited to the table, but then I look around in this place and I see all of these beautiful babies around the place, I see them moving and working and doing, and even the ones that are in the stands, they aren't giving that face like mama made me come, so I applaud you, Toledo. I applaud you.

First, I must thank my God and my Father for this opportunity to send me here, to have me here. It is an honor to stand before you today to commemorate the legacy of the one, the great Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I want to say thank you to Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson of the City of Toledo, to Sharon Gaber, president of the University of Toledo, thank you all so much, and also to Linda Alvarado, executive director of the

Board of Community Relations for inviting me to this wonderful event. To the clergy, elected officials, military, and to you, the residents of Toledo, thank you.

Now, as we were sitting and were listening to the Justice or Else All Stars, I was looking out at some of the faces of the people, and not to criticize anyone, but I was looking out to see some of the reactions, because that holds me right there what they're saying. They're saying say her name, say his name. In case you didn't know, that that's a hash tag that we put when somebody dies. Especially, it kicked off with Sandra Bland, hash tag Sandra Bland, say her name. Say the name, say the name, don't let that pass you, say the name, and so I was noticing that the looks on some people's faces was "why do they seem so angry?"

Well we should be angry because the melanin in my skin says that I can't live and I don't understand why. My melanin is beautiful. It won't scratch off, it won't come off, I can't change it or nothing, but I could do it, if I could I wouldn't because it's my beauty, it's my soul, it's everything that's in me. And I'm not saying the amount of melanin in my skin makes me better than you, what I'm saying is the beauty that is you, don't knock the beauty that is me. Your beauty is yours, my beauty is mine.

I guess I'll go back to the script now. So justice or else, is giving a voice to the voiceless through storytelling. I absolutely love this theme. It speaks of empowering everyday people to change the world. As I walked up to this podium, or as people saw the article, the article with me in it, the picture on the back of the program, some placed me in a box in their minds already. A black person, box. Oh, it's a woman speaking, box. She has braids, subcategory to the box. I doubt if she's middle class, subcategory. She's a Ferguson protestor, she's violent, subcategory, and the list goes on and on and on.

And as this list goes on, the value on my voice for what I'm about to say for those same people gets smaller and smaller. They start to care less and less about what I have to say, my words become invalid. Invalid, unimportant and irrelevant before I even get started, so bear with my voice. All the while, while you're tuning me out, hash tag, hash tag, hash tag, new hash tag. These labels that we allow our society to place upon us desensitize us to being separate. It's okay for us to be separate. These new seeds of division are sewn in us each and every day through the media and popu-

... continued on page 14

## The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's Truthful African American  
Owned and Operated Newspaper

Fletcher Word – Publisher and Editor

Becky McQueen – Business Manager

Tricia Hall – Reporter

Rev. D.L. Perryman – Columnist

Megan Davis – Columnist

Zahra April – Columnist

Robin Reeves – Columnist

Mary Louise – Columnist

Jennifer Retholtz – Webmaster

Jessica Crans – Layout

**A Certified MBE**

The Sojourner's Truth, 1811 Adams Street, Toledo, OH 43604

Phone 419-243-0007 \* Fax 419-255-7700

thetruth@thetruthtoledo.com

www.thetruthtoledo.com

## Community Calendar

### February 2-4

Abundant Life Ministries Winter Revival: "Reviving the Saints;" 7 pm nightly; 2.02 Guest speaker Bishop Michael Pitts; 2.03 Speaker Pastor Cordell Jenkins; 2.04 Guest speaker Evang. Joyce Rodgers: www.almtledo.org

### February 5

City of Zion, Mt Zion Church Presents Toledo District of FGBCF International "Fire on Friday;" 7 pm; Guest speaker Pastor Hart Ramsey of Northview Christian Church: 419-246-1850 or cozmtzionchurch.com

### February 21

City of Zion, Mt Zion Church Family and Friends Day: 10:30 am; Guest speaker Pastor Reginald Perry of Victorian Believers Ministry Virgin Islands and the BGSU Choir: 419-246-1850 or cozmtzionchurch.com

### February 27

Abundant Life Ministries 2016 ALM Black History Month Red Carpet Extravaganza: 5 pm – Meet and Greet; 6 pm – program; Black History moments, music, art, vendors, networking

# TPS Proud! Say What?

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

Well, the "partial" results are in as to the grade cards that are issued by the educational oversight committee in Columbus regarding how well high schools are accomplishing their mission of educating their students.

And for as Toledo, it ain't a proud thing to speak about. I know...I know...everyone can read the stats in their own way and they can issue public relations statements touting their achievements in order to try to militate against the report that has been issued. But.

The "but" is that in this case, the "numba's" tell the tale and not some slogan about being, "TPS Proud!" (with all apologies to Romulus Durant, the super of TPS).

The initial report card grade was a glaring and eye popping "F." Not a lot of pride there, I daresay!

Listen, I am all for catchy phrases and whirlwind of public appearances so as to try to showcase that TPS is on the right track and that things are looking good! But.

The "but" is that things are not seemingly looking good for the indefatigable Durant or for the now-chagrined TPS teachers and administrators.

No, the chronic challenge for TPS as it has been for the past few decades is that TPS has not been in the win column (an A or B rating) since Noah built the Ark.

It does not take a genius for anyone to know that the educational system in the public schools in Toledo is in a chronically bad fix. If students cannot do math or science or read at their grade level (and that has been happening for decades), something is wrong in the Land of Oz and you do not need a wizard hidden behind a smoking screen to figure it out.

Let me give you my take on the problem and let's see what happens and also what you think about it. I will divide my musings into three easy to digest morsels:

**Morsel One:** Teachers cannot teach and administrators cannot administer. Note: this is not an indictment of the serious and dedicated teachers and administrators who do a Herculean job within their job duties...so if someone chafes about this, it is akin to the apothegm that when you throw a rock into a pack of dogs, only the dog that is hit, howls.

I contend that since the system is in chronic fatigue, that it invests in bringing in outside and proven trainers who can help turn around an urban school system for the good. In-house fixes have not worked and will not work. TPS is a closed system and if they con-

tend or believe that they have the in-house resources to right the listing ship, that is part of the problem. They are fooling themselves.

If the TPS system is assigning the majority of its newly-minted teachers to the "inner city" schools and is letting the seasoned teachers go elsewhere, that is a problem.

If teachers whose first contact with minority children and with poverty is only via a text book or watching BET or Aspire, they are doomed to frustration and failure.

Class and culture are butting heads in the classroom. Both pupil and teacher lose.

If administrators' hands are being tied as to getting rid of the tenured clock watcher teacher or the uninspired teacher or the lazy teacher who thinks teaching is a breeze job with great retirement and summer off benefits, that needs to change...now.

If the board of education is populated by political has beens or those who want to start a political career (or are using a school board slot as a landing pad from a busted or prior political career, or they just like seeing their name in print), they need to go.

As a lawyer who for some 30 years has heard tales of woe from teachers in the classroom about how they were mistreated by administrators and from parents of students who told stories of teachers not teaching or not even being able to teach, TPS has a problem that will not go away with slogans. Bring in outside help...now!

**Morsel Two:** Parents who won't parent.

What can be more frustrating to a teacher than having a student in his or her class who is totally oblivious to the educational setting and will not even try to learn and when the parents or guardians are consulted about this student, the parents clam up and blames the school.

To all parents and guardians out there: Take note. You are the parents and you don't stop parenting when you come out of the delivery room of the hospital with your child.

Parenting is 24/7 and that includes your active participation and involvement in the learning process for your Tan'neshekay or your De'Antwone.

You do not get a bye if you send your kid off to school without his or her homework completed...or if the child has not had breakfast or comes to school with a cold.

You do not get passing marks when you are not giving constant discipline and encouragement at home to your child so that he or

she can enjoy learning and will respect the classroom and the teacher in the classroom.

Although poverty can be a serious obstacle to the learning experience, research has shown that family expectations communicated to the child as to both her positive self-esteem and imparting learning as a highly valued goal, is a major factor in that child believing that she can accomplish the task.

If the home environment does not set standards of excellence (and accordingly less TV time and computer/texting time), that message will be lost in the shuffle.

If the parent does not speak with the child about the importance of reading and

Problem-solving skills, the child may not take it to heart that education can be his ticket out of a bleak situation. Good example? Dr. Ben Carson.

... continued on page 14



**DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

**TOLEDO EXCEL**

Office of Excellence Programs, UT Joint Committee, and Sponsoring Organizations

presents the

**32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference  
for Aspiring Minority Youth**

inviting all 7th - 12th grade students,  
parents and community

**Beyond the Classroom: The Rewards  
of Self-Directed Learning**

**Saturday, January 30, 2016**  
8:30 a.m. (sharp) to 1:00 p.m.

at

**The University of Toledo**  
Student Union Auditorium  
Doors open at 7:30 a.m.

**---Free Admission and Lunch---**

Guest Keynote Presenter:  
**Kevin Powell**

acclaimed political, cultural, literary and  
hip-hop voice in America

Advance reservations strongly suggested  
but not required:

Registration Begins January 19 thru  
January 28, 2016

10 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Register online at  
[www.utoledo.edu/success/excel/index.html](http://www.utoledo.edu/success/excel/index.html)  
or

by calling (419) 530-3823 or 530-3820

how do I choose  
the best  
hospice?

We have the expertise and insight to provide exactly what you need - whether in your home, a nursing home or in our home-like Hospice Centers.

We can help like no one else can. Starting right now.

**HOSPICE**  
OF NORTHWEST OHIO  
[straight-answers.org](http://straight-answers.org)

# Eight Ohioans Receive Awards for Carrying on MLK Legacy: Including Toledo's Doni Miller

Lt. Governor Mary Taylor spoke in January at the 31st annual Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Celebration held at the Trinity Episcopal Church, Columbus. The event was sponsored by the Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission.

"Despite the barriers that were placed in front of Dr. King, his vision for a better tomorrow inspired a nation to stand together and speak out against hatred and racism. Dr. King has forever enriched our heritage and commitment to non-violence, peace, dignity and justice for all. We continue to be inspired by his work today and strive to build a world where individuals 'will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character,'" Taylor said.

Also at the event, Taylor and the Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission presented the following awards:

## Governor's Humanitarian Award –

**Pastor Dianna Shurelds, Lima**, has been serving the Lima community as an unsung hero for more than 30 years. An excellent cook, for years she has made home-cooked meals and then delivered them to the homeless. Feeding the homeless has since become a ministry of her church, the Church of the Living God in Lima.

## Community Building Award –

**Pastor Mark Ford, Akron**, began his preaching ministry at age 17. He has been a community leader in the cities where he has served, promoting racial harmony and denominational unity. He was one of eight founding members of the Love Akron Network whose mission is to call Christian leaders of the



State Sen. Edna Brown and Doni Miller

greater Akron area to pray, unite and collaborate in ministry for the advancement of spiritual and social transformation in their communities.

## Cultural Awareness Award –

**Greg Merkel, Lima**, has been mentoring

youth preparing for the Lima regional contest of the Statewide MLK Oratorical Contest for seven years, including two years as the program coordinator. He does so through volunteering with a program called "I Am Making a Difference," which prepares youth in grades kindergarten through 12 for the Lima regional contest.

## Economic Opportunity Award –

**Melinda Carter, Columbus**, has dedicated her career to serving the marginalized and underserved. A civil rights advocate, Carter became the director of the Office of Equal Business Opportunity for the City of Columbus in 1997. During her nine-year tenure, the city's utilization of minority- and women-owned firms quadrupled. After serving the City of Columbus, she had her own business and then she was named the equal employment opportunity coordinator for the State of Ohio and deputy director of the Equal Opportunity Division of the Ohio Department of Administrative Services in 2009.

## Educational Excellence Award –

**Robert Decatur, Columbus**. An educator for more than 26 years, Decatur has assisted with tutoring youth to help them excel in their coursework and obtain scholarships. He has taken many students under his wing. He currently serves as director for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion Scholars Program at The Ohio State University.

## Health Equity and Awareness Award –

**Doni Miller, Toledo**, has more than 25 years of experience in health care, spending the majority of her time as a senior administrator at what is now the University of Toledo Medical Center and community health centers. She currently serves as chief executive officer of Neighborhood Health Association in Toledo, the largest community health center in northwest Ohio. Outside of work, Miller is a supporter of women's shelters and minority inclusion.

## Social Justice Award –

**Joe Coffey, Hudson, and John Tyus, Reynoldsburg**

**Joe Coffey** is lead pastor of Christ Community Chapel, which has campuses in Hudson, Aurora, Highland Square and Stow. The church also operates Restoration Chapel at Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional

Facility, a facility in Highland Hills operated by the Ohio Department of Youth Services. Each Restoration Chapel service attracts about 60 participants..

**John Tyus** created a mentoring program, called The I.D. Movement, for fatherless African-American males. The I.D. Movement is based at World Conquerors through Jesus Christ, the church on the west side of Columbus where Tyus serves as assistant pastor.

The commission is housed in the Equal Opportunity Division of the Ohio Department of Administrative Services, which provides centralized support for state agencies.

For more information about the Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission, visit [das.ohio.gov/mlk](http://das.ohio.gov/mlk).

## African Art Has Arrived!!

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

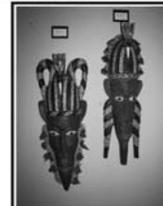


The Gallery is open Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 4 PM



See more art online at  
[www.thetruthtoledo.com](http://www.thetruthtoledo.com)

The Truth Gallery  
1811 Adams Street  
419-242-7650



The Soulcial Scene

There Are Opportunities All Around – From A to Z: ‘F’ is for Finances

By Zahra Aprili
Soulcial Scene Contributor

It is a new year and with this year, like all the previous years, I am sure that you have decided on a resolution of some sort.



What is it? ‘Eat Healthier,’ ‘Workout More,’ ‘Spend more time with the family?’

Each of these resolutions require taking a look at your financial circumstances, right? You cannot eat healthier without changing what you purchase to eat.

Where are you going to work out? Are you buying a gym membership or using an at-home system? Maybe you will just attend a regular fitness class?

What’s keeping you from spending time with your family? Is your work schedule crazy? Are you putting in overtime? Are you too tired to engage with your spouse/children when you get off work?

Forget resolutions, let’s look at your goals. You want to go back to school, buy a new house or new car. Maybe you are ready to get married, start a family, or have another child?

Too many times I hear potential clients say, ‘~Z~, I like what you’re doing. I’m going to come see you when I get my money right.’

What exactly is holding you back? No, that was not a rhetorical question. I really want you to ask yourself, WHAT IS HOLDING YOU BACK?

I am in the car; it is around 8:30 in the morning. I am listening to Tom Joyner on Mix 95.7 and it goes to commercial. The first thing I hear is an announcer for an 800 number talking about credit repair.

...continued on page 12

Etiquette in the 21st Century: Business Etiquette – Exclusion In The Workplace

By Robin Reeves
Soulcial Scene Contributor

Have you ever been invited to a party where you did not know anyone except for the person who invited you and the entire time it seemed as if you were trying to start or jump into a conversation but no one was really interested in what you had to say?



Or, have you ever been the new person in a class of seniors who have been in school together since freshmen year and have no interest in adding a new person to the group so no one will acknowledge you with a simple hello or strike up a small talk conversation?

Are you the employee who goes to work every day and says ‘I like my job but the people...?’

If you said yes to any of these three scenarios or if you know someone who has experienced these type of situations then this business etiquette article on exclusion may be just what the doctor ordered.

I find it quite interesting that over the past few years several Toledo and surrounding area organizations, clubs and companies etc...have committed to creating a more inclusive workplace.

I have thought about this and wondered what happens when an organization creates a new inclusion policy and procedure to be implemented by the same staff that saw nothing wrong with the old exclusion way.

Whether it was written or not, they (the staff) may have felt a sense of comfort and security with the old policy that worked just fine for them even though now, for the sake of the company, a new inclusion policy is needed.

So back to my first paragraph with the scenarios of exclusion. The party people, college students and coworkers only found value in what they were comfortable with. To be receptive of adding a new dynamic policy to the equation may require too much effort which will move them out of their comfort zone.

How did we get to the point that exclusion is easier than inclusion? The ...continued on page 12

Advertisement for Eastern Star Missionary Baptist Church featuring Dr. John W. Williams, Pastor, and 'Worship Experience'.

Advertisement for DIXIE CARS DIV. DIXIE AUTO LEASING INC. featuring phone number 419-476-8678 and price \$2,500.

The Soulcial Scene

# The 51st Annual Debutante Cotillion Informational Tea

Special to The Truth

The National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. Toledo Club held their 51st Annual Debutante Cotillion Informational Tea on Sunday, January 10, 2016 at 3: 00 at Indiana Baptist Church. Despite the inclement weather, the auditorium was filled with interested young ladies.

Cotillion Co -chairman Karen Jarrett opened the program and welcomed potential Débutantes and Debs-In-Waiting, parents and friends and gave an overview of the program lineup.

Toledo Club President Denise Black-Poon said that the insignia for the organization is "The World in the Hands of Women". The mission is to promote and protect the interest of African American business and professional women: to serve as advisors or for young people seeking to enter business and professionals, to improve the quality of life in our local and global communities to and foster good fellowship.

Black-Poon said that these young ladies will be in good hands and NANBPWC will help shape the world for a better future by providing them with specialized training, workshops, and scholarships.

Barbara Tucker, former North Central District Governor, brought special greetings on behalf of the current North Central District Governor Elizabeth M. Chaney.

The Cotillion Chairman Wilma Brown spoke to the purpose of the Cotillion Débutantes Ball. It began in April 1965 with the intent of presenting young ladies from the community into society and providing scholarship funds for their college education. The club also wanted the young ladies to be aware of fact there are social advantages that exist that they have been exposed to dsince their childhood.

The Cotillion is open to any young lady attending parochial or public school as a junior or senior who has maintained a 3.0 GPA and is of

good character.

Brown noted that cash scholarships will be presented to the top three winning Débutantes. Other awards will also be given including the talent award and Ms Congeniality.

This year's ball will be held at the Great Hall at the Stranahan Theatre on Saturday, May 28, 2016.

The Debutantes and Debs-In-Waiting will participate in many rehearsals, etiquette classes, skin care classes, workshops and talent night from February until May.

Co Chairmen Karen Jarrett and Denise Cardwell shared information on what's ahead during these weekly sessions and rehearsals. The Debutantes (seniors) and the Debs-In-Waiting (juniors ) will have slightly different programs.

Dennis Jarrett mentioned the importance of having an escort and their responsibilities. Mr. Jarrett will also assist Bill Miller and Elizabeth Schlagel, who are the choreographers for the weekly waltz rehearsals.

Talent Co-chairmen Beverly Tucker and Deborah Carlisle will work with the young ladies during the talent rehearsals. Tucker said each Debutante needs to prepare now for the performance that will take place on Monday, May 23 at 6 p.m. at Keyser Elementary School on Hill Avenue. The talent show is free and open to family, guest and friends.

Light refreshments were provided by NBPW entrepreneur Denise Cardwell who is etiquette chairman and a caterer by profession.

Club Sisters Ethel Scott (Membership), Sherry Teed (Leadership), Wanda Terrell Galloway (North Central District Protocol Chairman and Toledo Club Corresponding Secretary ) and Larry Cardwell helped in operations and logistics for the informational tea.



Denise Black-Poon and Wanda Terrell





**NATURAL HAIR CARE & APPAREL**

Shop Online at [TheKitchenSalon.com](http://TheKitchenSalon.com)

Free Shipping On Orders \$40 Or More



**AFRICAN DASHIKIS**



**Hair & Loc Products**



**Accessories**



**Tams & Headwraps**

(419) 984-0395  
info@thekitchensalon.com

The Soulcial Scene

2016 MLK Scholarship Breakfast Honors Students and Community Activist

Sojourner's Truth Staff

On Saturday, January 16, the brothers of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Alpha Xi Lambda Chapter held its 24th annual MLK Scholarship Breakfast, honoring four high school seniors with scholarships and announcing its annual Drum Major Award to Wanda Jean Butts, founder of the Josh Project.

The breakfast, which has grown tremendously over the years in attendance, drew in excess of 400 participants to this year's event at The Pinnacle.

Clyde Kynard offered the welcome and the invocation. Monika Culp led the audience in the rendition of "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

Chapter President Jose Rosales and Planning Committee Member Lance Price presented the scholarships to this year's recipients: Ivan Dye, Jr. a senior at St. John's Jesuit High School; Charlvan Gaston, a senior at Scott High School; Aaron Thompson, a senior at St. John's and Oran Williams, Jr. a senior at



Young Guests

Maumee Valley Country Day School.

Butts, this year's Drum Major honoree, founded The Josh Project in 2007 after the drowning death of her son Josh. She and her organization have helped thousands of children in the community by teaching them how to swim. She was named one of the top 10 CNN Heroes in 2012 for her accomplishments.

The Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. was founded on December 4, 1906 at Cornell University



Alpha Phi Alpha, Alpha Xi Lambda Members



Wanda Jean Butts



Scholarship recipients - Oran Williams, Jr; Aaron Robert Thompson; Charlvan Gaston and Ivan Dye, Jr.

in Ithaca, NY and was the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established for African Americans.

EXPERIENCE  
AFRICAN  
AMERICAN  
CULTURE

---

Celebrate Black History Month at the Library with special programs and events for the whole family.

Call 419.259.5200 or visit toledolibrary.org for more information.






## The Soulcial Scene

# At Home With Mary Louise – Season After Season

## I'm Sending You a Valentine

By Mary Louise

Soulcial Scene Contributor

As a young girl my thoughts of Valentine's Day were candy and roses for your significant other. However as I got older and did my research, I discovered that Valentine's Day has so much history. Celebrations on that day started about five centuries ago or more.

And the celebration is worldwide. In addition to the United States, Valentine's Day is celebrated in Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France, Australia, Denmark, Italy and Japan, among other countries.

Valentine's Day is so big that nearly 150 million cards are exchanged on Valentine's Day. And in the U.S. alone, over 40,000 workers are employed at chocolate factories.

On the other hand, my research also reveals that the Catholic Church recognizes at least 12 different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, not all of whom were martyred. The saint for whom the day is named is the Valentine who was a priest during the Third Century in Rome.

There came a time in that long gone century when Roman Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and children. Valentine continued to perform marriages for young people in se-



cret – how about that! When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death - beheaded.

Oh my goodness! Valentine's Day has really educated me about the true reason for this outstanding day meant for lovers.

While some believe that Valentine's Day is celebrated in the middle of February to commemorate the anniversary of Valentine's death or burial, which probably occurred in 278 C.E., others claim that the Christian church may have decided to place St. Valentine's feast day in the middle of February in an effort to "Christianize" the pagan celebration of "Lupercalia."

Celebrated in the middle of February, Lupercalia was a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, as well as to the founders of Rome – Romulus and Remus.

Now you have it. Valentine's Day is more than candy, flowers and Hallmark cards. It has a history going back for centuries. Remember when Valentine's Day approaches, it's the most celebrated day on the planet – by over 62 percent of earth's inhabitants.

Enjoy your chocolates and those beautiful red roses and outstanding cards and remember the overwhelming history for this awesome holiday

Happy Valentine's Day from my home to yours.

### Mary Louise's Famous Valentine's Dessert – Sugar Cookies w/Pecans

Ingredients:

- ½ cup granulated sugar
  - ¼ cup pecan halves
  - 1 roll (16.5 oz) Pillsbury refrigerated sugar cookies
  - ¼ cup packed brown sugar
  - 1 tsp vanilla
- Step-By-Step

#### Step #1

In an 8-inch heavy skillet, melt ¼ cup of granulated sugar over medium-low heat – about three minutes without stirring, until golden brown. Watch carefully, as my Grandmother Tudda would say, to avoid scorching.

Remove from heat. Stir in pecan halves until coated. Pour mixture onto sheet of foil. Cool until hard, about 15 minutes. Finely chop pecan-sugar candy.

#### Step #2

Heat oven to 325 degrees. In large bowl, break up cookie dough. Stir brown sugar and vanilla until well blended. Stir in chopped pecan-Sugar candy.

#### Step #3

Using about one measuring tsp dough for each, shape dough into ball and roll in remaining ¼ cup granulated sugar, place two inches apart on ungreased cookie sheets ...

#### Step #4

Bake 10-15 minutes or until edges are light golden brown. Cool two minutes; remove from cookie sheets

My boys would be ecstatic when my sugar cookies with pecans came out of the oven



### HIRING – Process Operator Positions

The BP-Husky Toledo Refinery is currently accepting applications for Refinery **Process Operator** positions. The Process Operator position involves maintaining, monitoring, troubleshooting and controlling the continuous operations of petroleum refining and process equipment. Starting pay is \$30.20 per hour. After completion of a basic training, rate of pay is \$32.22 per hour.

#### Application requirements include:

- Minimum High School diploma/GED.
- Minimum of 12 college credit hours, or prior experience as an Operator in a refinery, chemical or power plant, or military equivalent.
- Ability to work rotating 12-hour shifts including days, nights, weekends, and holidays, in an outside all-weather environment.
- Willing to participate in pre-employment testing (including drug test) and background check screening that may take several weeks to complete.

#### Preferred requirements include:

- Completion of a higher education degree (i.e. Associate Degree, Bachelor Degree, etc.) preferred.
- Prior production operations experience preferred.
- Experience with distillation, filtration, separation, blending, storage, shipping and chemical reaction processes preferred.

Applications will be accepted online at <http://jobs.bp.com> from February 1 – February 7, 2016. Use Key Word number **70246BR** to apply for the position online. Formal resume is required for upload to the BP Career Center at time of application. **CANDIDATES MUST UPLOAD RESUME FOR FULL CONSIDERATION.**

The Soulcial Scene

Fros, Fashions and Finds

Lupus, Hair Loss and Beauty: Monica Mitchell's Story of Empowerment

By Megan Davis

Soulcial Scene Contributor

Women are faced with many physical challenges in one lifetime. Adjusting to a changing body during pregnancy to enduring "big change" called menopause is enough to take a woman from one end of the emotional spectrum to the other as if she were on a rollercoaster ride.

Throughout those changes, women also know that after nine months, give or take a few weeks, a baby will be born and they can have their body back or, after so much time, menopause will come and the changes become a thing of the past. Yet there is one thing that women face at any age, that may or may not disappear with time and that is hair loss. Hair loss affects millions of women around the world, and that also may affect their overall perception of themselves.

Hair loss can most likely be attributed to one or more of a few things: trauma, neglect, heredity, chemicals, medication, infection or illness. One local woman is speaking out about her hair loss experience, how she lives with it and how she will deal with it going forward.

On January 15, 2016, Monica Mitchell took to her Facebook Page to reveal her struggle to her online friends and family. Her statement read, "Let me reintroduce myself. Hi, my name is Monica some of my friends call me Mony. I was diagnosed with Discoid Lupus well over 15 years ago. The people in my circle know about it, but I have only told them in private. This disease has

...continued on page 10



Monica Mitchell - before



Mari Taylor, MUA



Monica - after



Mari Taylor, Monica, Isha Darrington, Moira Frazier

Lanaya McDonald's Birthday Celebration on January 15 at Our Brothers Place



Lanaya McDonald



Lanaya and Keny Emory



Alicia Aiken and Milbry Stacy



Roxanna Fair and Lanaya



Darlene Rose and Carla Fitzgerald



Dorine Mosley and Cheryl Folsom

Listen. Help. Heal.

"This is what I was meant to do."

Greg Swartz, DO  
Mercy Family Physicians

Caring together. MERCYHEALTH

Choosing a Mercy Physician is one of the healthiest choices you can make. We are more than your doctors, we are partners in your long-term health. We listen, help and heal, and we are there when you need us most. Because caring for you, your family and the ones you love — this is what we were meant to do.

To find a physician like Dr. Swartz in your area, call 888-204-8775 or visit [mercy.com](http://mercy.com)

A Catholic healthcare ministry serving Ohio and Kentucky  
Cincinnati | Irvine | Lima | Lorain | Paducah | Springfield | Toledo | Youngstown

## The Soulcial Scene

*Fros, Fashions... continued from page 9*

*caused me to lose most of my hair, causing me to have to hide behind wigs and weaves. Sometimes I get so tired to the point that I just want to sleep for days. There are other symptoms that I have but that's not my focus at this time. My focus is to tell you how awesome God is. I need your praises not your empathy or sympathy. All I can say right now is stay tuned. EMPOWERMENT."*

According to the American Osteopathic College of Dermatology, Discoid Lupus Erythematosus (DLE) is a chronic skin condition of sores with inflammation and scarring favoring the face, ears, and scalp and at times on other body areas. When lesions occur in hairy areas such as the beard or scalp, permanent scarring and hair loss can occur.

The famous singer, Seal, suffers from DLE. There are three other types of Lupus, which include Neonatal, Drug Induced Lupus (DIL), and Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE). For more than 15 years, Monica has lived with the symptoms of DLE, which led to her permanent hair loss.

For many women, the hair is like a crown and it is something that often illustrates the personality and character of a person. When a woman's hair is styled a certain way, it is often a reflection of who they believe themselves to be. Historically, African women wore their hair in different styles of braids to distinguish their age, status/class or to identify with a certain tribe/village.

When suffering from hair loss, styling the hair is a major challenge. Not only can this be frustrating, but also can be costly. Purchasing hair and supplies to have them installed or replacing worn wigs with new ones, can cost thousands of dollars that many women don't have to spend. When it becomes necessary to wear hair pieces, it has to become a part of the budget.

Since I've been Monica's friend since 2004, I can say that she has never allowed DLE to be her banner or disclaimer. In spite of having various symptoms, she has been a positive friend to me and others. She has been an inspiration, having lifted herself up from the trenches of life's circumstances to be an entrepreneur.

Through her business, she has spent many years caring for young children, mentoring them and their parents and blessing her community in the Old South End with an annual back to school event that provided games, lunch, entertainment, book bags and school supplies for families in her neighborhood.

As a Christian, she has often been the support, prayer and praise partner and confidant for other women in the church. God has always been her strength. That is what has made Tuesday, January 19 such a special day. This was a day to be a blessing her as she has blessed so many others. She was the recipient of a complete makeover by Moira "Fingaz" Frazier and her team.

At 11:00 a.m. The Loft Boutique Salon was the location for the event. When I arrived, Micheal Wood had his cameras and lights set up, the team was in place and Monica was seated, both nervous and excited. I arrived with balloons and a card to celebrate her big day and the tears flowed as we hugged.

This makeover came to be after Monica had approached Moira several years ago, looking for something different. She expressed her story to her then and recently, Moira contacted her to encourage her to share her story with others because she felt it would help someone else. This coincides with the overall vision of her business model. She uses her craft and gift of hair styling to uplift women's self esteem and to make them feel beautiful even on days when they are struggling to embrace their beauty.

Fingaz put her expertise and skill into practice creating a custom human hair lace front unit for Monica. When asked what the process was, she said that the key to a custom unit is in the measurements. This important step in the process is necessary to ensure that the unit fits properly and looks natural to the client's face shape and head size.

She further said that the difference between a custom unit and a beauty supply wig is that custom is made to fit and store-bought wigs have a standard size that may not fit well and they may be made with lower quality hair with a shorter lifespan.

As one of the first stylists in Toledo to establish a product line of hair, the unit she created was made with hair from the Fingaz Fantasy Hair, Gold line. This line offers affordable Brazilian, Malaysian and Peruvian hair that lasts up to six months with continuous use or longer when worn as a unit (wig) since it can be removed and worn again. The hair can be shampooed and restyled as it has a natural texture-offering curly to straight locks.

She also offers each client education on how to care for and maintain their custom units so that they may preserve their investment and maximize

the wearing of their unit.

During the time that Monica's custom unit was being created, she received a full makeup application with Mari Taylor who created a glamorous look. Her work transformed uneven skin tones and blemishes – a result of DLE – to look smooth and natural. She created beautiful brows that were naturally thin and made the eyes dramatic.

While it isn't an everyday look, Mari was able to show that bold makeup can still enhance the natural features and beauty of a person. Once the makeup application was complete, Isha Darrington provided the wardrobe with pieces from Forever 21 Plus and jewelry from Charlotte Russe. The jersey knit fabric was both in the mid length dress and long black shrug that can be paired with other pieces for different looks. These affordable yet versatile pieces were given to Monica along with an additional outfit to jumpstart her spring wardrobe.

The big reveal took place shortly after 2:00 p.m. where video and photos were captured as myself and Monica's son, Torian Rentz, saw her for the first time. We looked, laughed, hugged and cried together as we witnessed a great weight being lifted from her. It was more than just getting a makeover, it was the beginning of a new journey for Monica as she plans to share her story with others.

She hopes to empower women to talk about living with Lupus or any other illness that can cause skin or scalp damage and permanent hair loss. Many women may not share details about their hair as it may be due to feelings of shame or anxiety from living with illnesses, scarring and hair loss, but Monica hopes that her willingness to share will begin a conversation with other women that is long overdue.

Not only are women suffering in silence, but they may also be unaware of solutions available to them right here in our community. This makeover proved that not only was sharing a personal journey important and empowering, but giving back and being a blessing was just as necessary. This is a shining example of women empowering women.

The Loft Boutique Salon is located at 1855 S. Reynolds Rd. and is owned and operated by Linnette Owens who specializes in natural hair, haircuts and color services. Moira "Fingaz" Frazier is a licensed cosmetologist who can be reached by calling 419-215-9249 or on her website [www.fingazhair.bigcartel.com](http://www.fingazhair.bigcartel.com). Her email address is [fingazhair@yahoo.com](mailto:fingazhair@yahoo.com). Mari Taylor, makeup artist, can be reached at 419-206-0277. Isha Darrington, wardrobe stylist, can be reached at 419-902-0522 and Micheal Wood, photographer/videographer can be reached at 419-377-5971. The team can also be found on Facebook and Instagram, please follow them to learn more about the video that will also show Monica's story.



**Regina Whittington**  
Owner/Operator

**RegWhitt.COM**  
Social Media Marketing  
& Management

567-703-6272  
[rw@regwhitt.com](mailto:rw@regwhitt.com)



**DIXIE** Auto Leasing Toledo, OH

5880 N. Detroit  
**Month to Month Leasing**  
419-476-8674

WE ARE A FULL SERVICE BUSINESS

The Soulcial Scene

# KOOL2Dos

By Keith Cook

Soulcial Scene Contributor

KOOL2Dos are “kool” ways to enjoy yourself within a full tank of gas from the (419). They are concerts, festivals, events, exhibits, creative ideas, and more, which are free, inexpensive or worth the \$\$.

“THE L.O.L. LOUNGE” (FREE Comedy Show)



Comedian Kool Keith hosts this FREE Comedy Show every first Thursday of the month upstairs @Our Brothers Place (233 N. Huron, St.) in downtown Toledo. Doors open at 8:00 p.m. with DJ Big Trav’s Video Show. The comedy show begins at 9:00 p.m.

Every month we showcase some of the Midwest’s most polished amateur & seasoned veteran Comedians. The evening makes for a great date night. Our next show is on Thursday, February 4 featuring Comedians: D. McMullen & A.J. Rice. Come join us!

“The Glass City Wine Festival” takes place here in Toledo on Saturday, March 5, 2016 @SeaGate Convention Centre. This is your opportunity to taste regional wines, sam-



Kool Keith



ple gourmet cheeses, and fare from local restaurants. You can also shop for unique gifts and household treasures from a myriad of local craft businesses.

There’s plenty of parking and we’ll help you get the wine and gifts you buy to your car. Tickets sell fast! VIP tickets allow you access one hour before everyone else, which is wise since some vendors may run out of wine. For more information and tickets: [www.glasscitywinefestival.com](http://www.glasscitywinefestival.com)

The annual “Meridian Winter Blast” celebration is an amazing weekend of fun in downtown Detroit on February 12, 13 and 14. You can enjoy free ice-skating in Campus Martius Park, professional skating demonstrations, unique ice sculptures, food, marshmallow roasting, entertainment and once again the giant ice slide.



For entertainment there are two stages with more than 50 entertainment acts performing. There is a Taste of Detroit food and vendor tent with Metro Detroit restaurants, local stores and artisans. Meridian Winter Blast will also feature a special Kid Zone as well as several Comfort Stations where guests can warm up.

For more information visit the official Meridian Winter Blast site at: <http://www.winterblast.com/overview/>

# Poetry Night by L’Apo Theatrical Productions

By Monique Ward

Soulcial Scene Contributor

Saturday, January 15th, published playwright, poet and author, Opal Dunlap, hosted “Poetry Night” at Common Space in Toledo, Ohio. Dunlap, founder of L’Apo Theatrical Productions, LLC & L’APO Studios, expressed to the crowd how she wanted to bring back an outlet for spoken word artists. Poet Jonie McIntire was the first to present her piece, “Powered,” which won The Arts Commission’s Poetry Sidewalks competition.

The dynamic poem is featured on a city street in The Old West End. Law student Callie Staton performed her somber but empowering work, “Life of an Endo Warrior,” expressing her emotional and physical struggles with cancer.

Spoken word artist Gary Bond recited his work, “I Was There,” to a hushed audience. He spoke of iconic events in black history and how he participated in them, allegorically speaking.

Dunlap, promised that she will have “Poetry Night” once a month in order to continue to foster the unity in the poetic community.



Callie Staton



Opal Dunlap, poet, playwright, impresario



Gary Bond

**ROCK the BLOCK COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR**

**FREE FOOD  
COMMUNITY RESOURCES  
INFORMATION  
ENTERTAINMENT**

Invited Participants:  
Mobile Meals  
Job Services  
CareSource  
Victims Advocacy  
Safelink  
Summer Job Program  
And many more

**Saturday January 30, 2016  
9:00am to 3:00pm  
3000 Monroe Street  
Toledo, Ohio 43606**

“Building Stronger Communities”

For More Info: 419-242-8660  
Or Community Participants Call 419-381-4167

**H&R BLOCK**

## The Soulcial Scene

Finances... continued from page 5

When I hear commercials like the one I heard in the car or see the commercials on television that are advertising the same type of service, it makes me wonder. Who are these people? Where are they located? How much does this service cost? Why would I call into a call center to ask for help with something as personal as my financial situation? Is this a scam?

Too many times we hear the horror story of someone going through a debt consolidation program or restructuring of a mortgage only to find that their case is continually handed off to a new representative, whom they have never met. The company makes promises that they are unable to keep, there is no accountability because they are headquartered in other cities and states.

Money is a very personal thing. I go into the same branch of my bank because I know the tellers. They know me. I will wait in line to conduct my business with Sam. Why? Because, she is my teller.

Over the years, I have developed a relationship with her. I trust her. So why is this not the same when we are looking for a company that will help us with our debt, teach us about our credit, coach us through our monthly budget and expenses, help us save for our goals, or all of the above? Many will say that it is because there is no company like that in our area. They are wrong.

----

This month I want to connect you with S. Judi Ellis. Ellis has over 30 years of experience in the banking profession. Her passion has been to help people establish themselves financially and teach them how to position themselves to live debt free. Some of you may already know Ellis from her time at National City Bank (now PNC) or her community work with non-profit organization K.E.V.I.N. Inc.

What you did not know is that you can now find Ellis at Smart Money Management LLC., a local company that specializes in helping individuals and families navigate their finances. I had the opportunity to sit down with Ellis to ask her about the work she does with Smart Money Management.

**Question:** You retired in 2003 from the bank, but now you are back in the field working with Smart Money Management. Why?

**Ellis:** After retirement I started working with children and young adults through K.E.V.I.N. Inc. We worked to educate them about finances and provide counselling and guidance as they prepared for college or to enter the workforce. I realized that while focusing on the youth, I was neglecting an important group of people, the adults in the lives of these children. I decided that in addition to the youth, I need to work their foundations at home.

**Question:** Explain your passion?

**Ellis:** I love to see a household working. I love to see families succeeding. When finances are in order everything else falls into place. I think people see in me the love that I have for helping. It is my ministry, my gift from God. I enjoy having the opportunity to see lives change. I am able to help people get their lives on track, turn their situation around and that gives me joy.

**Question:** What is Smart Money Management?

**Ellis:** Smart Money Management is a holistic financial service firm. We believe in changing people's habits as well as implementing financial strategies to relieve stress. We offer debt elimination, budgeting plans, credit repair, savings and emergency fund plans and student loan management. We also are able to help clients avoid and or get out of garnishments.

**Question:** What should someone expect when coming to meet with you for the first time?

**Ellis:** Well first off, we do not share our client's information. Our services are very personal and we make sure that we keep it confidential. When people are in a financial situation they want an understanding and non-judgmental ear. We meet with clients face to face and walk them through solutions to change their

money habits. Our initial appointment is 20-30 minutes. There is no charge for this appointment. We will review the client's personal financial data to assess a solid plan for moving forward. We take a look at all possible avenues and present them to the client. Then it is up to the client to make a decision.

**Question:** How much does the program cost?

**Ellis:** The initial consultation is free. It cost absolutely nothing for someone to sit down with us to have solutions presented. Each client's program will be different and the cost will vary based on the plan of action selected.

**Question:** How can someone who is interested in help get in contact with you?

**Ellis:** They can contact the office to set up an appointment with me 419.830.4104 option 2 or email me at Judi@smartmoney.life.

For general information they can visit the website [www.SmartMoneyForLife.com](http://www.SmartMoneyForLife.com) or email [prosper@smartmoney.life](mailto:prosper@smartmoney.life).

---

So I pose the question again. WHAT IS HOLDING YOU BACK? If your answer has anything to do with money, I hope you will take advantage of the opportunities Judy Ellis can offer.

Zahra April 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.

Business Etiquette... continued from page 5

point at which exclusion creates a safe place and makes people feel superior because of position - power of privilege?

Well if you are reading this article and are interested in how to avoid getting stuck in the exclusion zone with false securities, I have a few questions for you to ask yourself to determine if your actions could be creating an exclusive workplace environment.

When answering these questions, keep in mind that proper etiquette and image is the art of sincerely making people around you feel comfortable with you and the ability to create a distraction-free environment.

Also, your answers to these questions are based on your characteristics and personality because your answers are based on what is correct to you. So in other words, there is no "correct" answer because your response may be driven by internal conflicts, motives, needs and perceptual press. This type of questioning is a form of ambiguous stimuli.

**Five questions to ask yourself if you are an excluder at work.**

1. Am I a professional bully?
2. What do I have to gain from excluding my co-workers?
3. Have your behavior negatively affected productivity for my organization?
4. Am I creating a hostile work environment?
5. Am I following and agree with the new inclusion policy and procedures guidelines?

**Five questions to ask yourself if you have excluded yourself at work:**

1. Am I a good fit for this organization?
2. Have I put up any barriers that created my feeling of exclusion?
3. Can I be productive while feeling excluded?
4. Has my confidence and self esteem been effected because I feel excluded?
5. Am I aware of the companies inclusion policy and procedures and how they apply to me?

If you have answered the questions above to the best of your ability, you are one step closer to success! In my business etiquette class we discuss how identifying the types of relationships you have created and how you can break the barriers of exclusion. Building your confidence, personal integrity and respect will give you a solid foundation to begin the process of moving forward in business and to how the false security of position, power and privilege will not be your only measure of success.

Please visit our website at [www.reevesetiquette.com](http://www.reevesetiquette.com) for our 2016 Business Etiquette Workshop in April!

In closing, here is an insert of a passage from the book A Choice of Weapons by Gordon Parks

"I realized, for the first time, that my fears had been generously fed by my own insecurity, that there was far more selfishness in my heart than I could comfortably live with. I found that praise had come much easier to my ear than criticism; and , having grabbed hold of the essence of my problems, I saw that I hadn't matured so much as I had just grown older. It would take time to overcome these faults; but at least I was aware of them." pg. 238

"Because Manners Matter"



# PARQWOOD APARTMENTS

**DESIGNED FOR ADULTS 55 & OVER OR DISABLED**

**Featured Amenities Include:**

- Modern Open Floor Plans
- 24-Hour Emergency
- Energy-Efficient Appliances
- Maintenance Services
- Clothes Care Centers On-Site
- Pet-Friendly Community

**Accepting Applications-Call Today!**

**YourNextPlaceToLive.com**

## 419-214-6943



2125 Parkwood Avenue | Toledo, Ohio 43620

# Best Friends Forever by Kimberla Lawson Roby

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

You'd do almost anything for your best friend.

c. 2016  
Grand Central Publishing  
\$20.00 / \$24.00 Canada  
183 pages

You'd take a bullet, take her in, or take her anywhere she needed to go. You keep her kids and her confidences. And, as in the new novel, *Best Friends Forever* by Kimberla Lawson Roby, she'd do the same for you. Probably.

Celine Richardson was absolutely furious at her husband, Keith.

It was bad enough that he came home at 5 a.m., but lying about where he'd been was the last straw. It was obvious that Keith was cheating on Celine – but what Celine couldn't figure out was why.

He claimed that she acted like she never had time for him, and Celine had to admit that she'd been awfully busy for the last few months. Building her business took a lot of her time, but didn't they have date nights? Sure, she'd been preoccupied now and then, but when they sent their 10-year-old daughter, Kassie, to spend the weekend with Celine's best friend, Lauren, didn't Celine and Keith spend alone-time together?

They did, but that wasn't good enough for him. He was cheating on Celine with some tramp, but he wouldn't come out and admit it.

And yet – that wasn't the worst thing in Celine's life.

Just a few days before Keith's first lie, she found a lump in her breast and, after rounds of doctor visits and too many tests, her worst fears were confirmed. It was malignant, but Keith was full of excuses why he couldn't accompany her to the hospital and Celine knew instantly that she could never again rely on her husband for support. Still, she wasn't alone. With the help of her best friend and her brother - and no thanks to her no-good, absent husband - she'd be just fine.

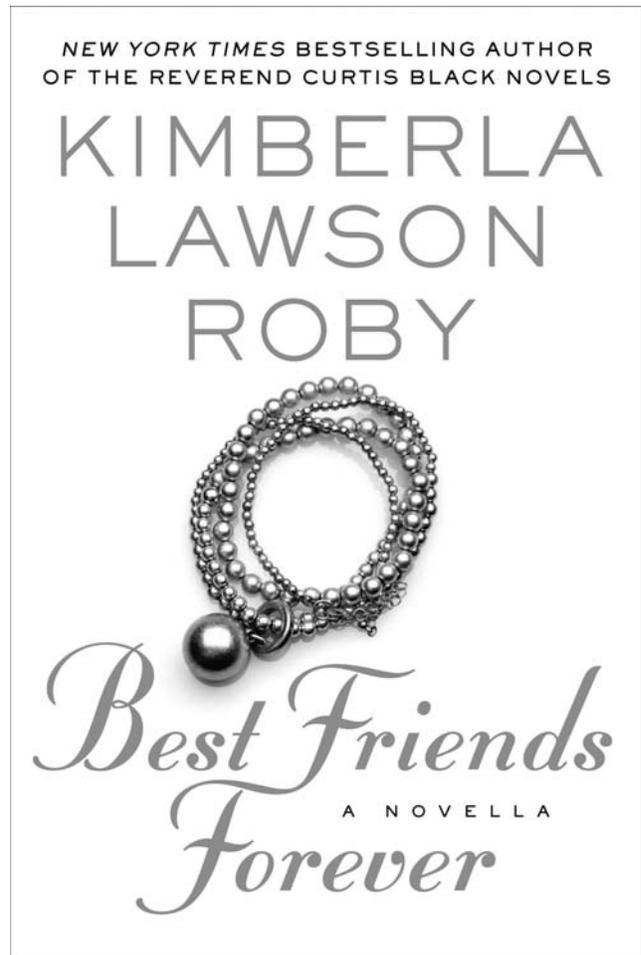
But Keith wasn't done, and neither was cancer. Celine's recovery didn't go well, and her soon-to-be-ex had a bombshell to share, one that she sensed wasn't the whole story. And just when Celine thought she couldn't take any more, Lauren spoke her mind...

Friendship, as you know, is never one-sided. It's a give-and-take, and that includes *Best Friends Forever*.

From the very first scene in which a delicious scandal erupts, author Kimberla Lawson Roby gives her fans a story that's sordid and scary but also, in an odd way, spiritually uplifting. Roby's Celine is a strong,

God-loving woman who's totally out of patience, but I enjoyed that she's given a lifeline as well as two surprises, one right after the other. While that ultimately leads to what I felt was an abrupt ending that left me hanging, it also gave me hope that we haven't heard the last of these characters.

And the takeaway? I liked it, and I think you will, too: readers get a great girlfriends novel that's easy to read, super-quick to finish, and that can happily be passed around or recommended for a book group. If that sounds like a dream read for you, then get *Best Friends Forever*. It could be a book you'll do anything for.



Best Friends Forever author Courtesy Paul Crave

*Tolliver... continued from page 3*

Don't be part of a system that trains your child to be a flipper at a hamburger palace or to be placed on a conveyor belt to a prison wearing fashionable orange jumpsuits.

If the parent does not exhibit or model some standard to their child that there are consequences for not learning, the child will not transfer that value to the classroom and understand that she or he must tow the line and be affirmative in not "dropping out" or running with the pack of kids that have no positive educational compass.

**Morsel Three:** A society that minimizes "geeks."

When did learning and the love to learn become an object of jokes and ridicule?

How stupid are the movies and TV programs that portray people who learn and who acquire knowledge as being awkward and buffoons and nerdy!

And then to hear some black kids say that if you learn, you are trying to "be white!" What a devastating lie. Since when are educational accomplishments now the exclusive domain of whites?

If anyone buys into that sucker lie, they are on the road to misfortune and misery because this society demands and requires high school graduates who are accomplished and erudite.

When companies chronically complain that they cannot find enough high school graduates to fill basic manufacturing and technical slots without enrolling them in post high school tutorial programs, there is a problem

in the public school system in America.

In my opinion, competent and caring teachers should be at the high end of the totem pole as to respect and honor and pay. The high end. For it is they who have the training and duty to pass on to future generations the spark of learning that can stay with a child forever and when that spark is not sparked, society pays for it, big time.

Don't believe me? Check the juvenile courts and jails and prisons and dropouts to see how many were encouraged by their parents to be academic achievers.

So, whenever you get a chance to assist a student in learning, quickly and gladly do so because you are looking into the face and eyes of your future.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at [Tolliver@Juno.com](mailto:Tolliver@Juno.com)

*Perryman... continued from page 2*

lar culture and we accept it. The more labels we have the less justice we see, and the less justice we seek, because everyone is consumed by their own box. Dr. King spoke about not focusing on the things that make us different, but the things that make us the same.

So yesterday I arrived here in Toledo. A group of us had a dinner at a local restaurant. A young lady there approached me and asked, "So did all of that stuff really happen in Ferguson? Because you know, I was reading something, I saw something about it just yesterday." And I answered, "Yes, it did, and actually it was worse than what you saw or what you just read."

Who reaches this baby about our world? Who tells her that ignorance doesn't stop? Just because you're not paying attention, it doesn't stop little black boys and black girls, black women, black men, brown women and brown men from being killed unjustly, just because we're ignorant to it.

That person was me for a while. I was her. I was fed that story from my elders. Go to school, get good grades, get into a good college, get your degree, get a good job, get a husband, have some kids after you travel the world and see some things and live a good life. Yeah, I drank the Kool-Aid, but no one ever told me that walking, driving, thinking, blinking, anything while black could get me killed.

Growing up as a politician's kid with the police always around, I believed that if the police hurt you it was because you did something wrong. It was because you were wrong. You had to do something wrong because you know, we free now. The Civil Rights Movement is over with, it's done. Jim Crow over with. At about the age of 14, I started to notice something wasn't right, that something wasn't adding up, so Bishop Desmond Tutu said if you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. The apathy and complacency that we allow in our communities are on the side of the oppressor. Are we teaching our young people the truth? Are we giving them the platform to speak their experiences? And then if we give them the platform do we validate their voices?

This is what happened in Ferguson when Mike Brown, Jr. was killed by former Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson. As this 18-year-old baby's body lay in the street in Ferguson for 4-1/2 hours uncovered, blood laying in the street, it was about 105 degrees with a heat index of somewhere around 103, 107, somewhere in there, hot. So this was okay. It was okay and we were supposed to just allow it. It was supposed to be normal for us. It was supposed to be okay. We were supposed to say, "Oh, he must've done something wrong to deserve to lay in the street for 4-1/2 hours like a dog out waiting for somebody to come and scoop him up.

So we felt voiceless because we could only

stand there. We couldn't cross the line. We felt voiceless, so we didn't know what to do to be heard. There was no script, there was no instruction book for us. Remember, we're everyday people. We didn't have anything that was set before us that says this is what you should do if this should ever happen. All the boycotts and all the marches that we did, MLK Day and other different things, we actually, it wasn't, we weren't coming up against anything, it was all in observance of or to commemorate, so when it hit the fan we didn't know what to do but hit the streets, use our voices.

We were everyday people who just wanted to see justice. So we questioned, we shouted, we cried, we sang, we prayed, we yelled, we parted. Oh, we parted, it was called demonstration. We helped, we comforted, we marched, we boycotted. They yelled, they threatened, they bullied, they beat, they stomped, they arrested, they hogtied and teargassed. We were armed with signs written in marker. They were armed with assault rifles, riding gear, tanks, dogs, chemical weapons, drones, helicopters, special surveillance units, etc., etc. We lived this all day, every day, day after day, night after night. We protested 24 hours a day, day after day, week after week, month after month. We protested for more than 400 days.

(to be continued)

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

*MLK Unity... continued from page 16*

the killing of Michael Brown in August 2014 by Police Officer Darren Wilson. Bush has been on the frontlines of the Ferguson movement as a protestor, cleric and medic (she is also a registered nurse).

Also giving voice to the theme of paying homage to such recent deaths was a local group Justice or Else All Stars who chanted the name of the black men and women killed recently by law enforcement officials. "End Police Brutality" and "Black Lives Matter" were the placards they raised.

Soloist Carmen Miller opened the event, followed by the call to order by hosts Andrew Kinsey and Vivian Hurtado. The Scott High School Marching Band entertained the audience before the U.S. Armed Forces brought forward an honor guard and the Toledo Fire & Police Departments presented the colors.

UT President Sharon Graber welcomed guests and audience and remarks were offered by Toledo Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson, U.S. Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur and Toledo Public Schools

Superintendent Romules Durant, Ed.D.

Bush, a recipient of the 2015 Woman of Courage Award from the Emmett Till Legacy Foundation, urged the audience to "validate the voiceless," noting how voiceless those in Ferguson felt after the Brown killing and the decision not to indict the officer.

"We questioned, we shouted, we cried, we sang, we prayed, we yelled," said Bush. "The police yelled, they threatened, they bullied, they beat, they stomped, they arrested, they hogtied and tear-gassed us. I'm not anti-police; I'm anti-police brutality. I'm anti-foolishness."

Other performers at this 15th annual event included the United Vision Baptist Choir, the Toledo International Youth Orchestra, the JV4 and Matthew Hart.



Photos courtesy Johnnie Early, PhD

# CLASSIFIEDS

January 27, 2016

Page 15

## NATIONAL ACT-SO COMPETITION

Attention all high school students: So you think you can dance, you think you can sing or write poetry, stories, playwrighting or have a great science project or play an instrument and many other categories, this is your opportunity to shine, not only shine but if you win in your category, you will earn a free trip to the National ACT-SO competition where the prizes are much greater. We will be taking the first place winners to Cincinnati to compete on a national level in July. Don't miss out. For more information, call Ms. Rankins @ 419 944 6823/419 944 6823. Sponsored by the Toledo Chapter NAACP.

## Major Donor Relations Manager

2 Positions available

### North Territory South Territory

Under limited supervision, manages development and fundraising initiatives on behalf of the Zoo in the South Market (Perrysburg to Findlay greater metropolitan market) or North Market (SE Michigan and suburban Detroit). Identifies, qualifies, cultivates, solicits, and stewards potential major donors. Builds awareness of and giving to all Zoo support opportunities including President's Circle memberships, corporate sponsorships, fundraising event involvement, capital campaigns, planned giving, grant proposals, etc. in the designated geographic area. Works closely with all Zoo departments, especially the Development Department. Has close connections to the philanthropic community in that marketplace, including individuals, businesses, foundations, and other non-profit organizations with whom the Zoo can collaborate. Reports to the Director of Institutional Advancement.

The selected individual (s) will independently organize time and schedule, prioritizing activities and demonstrating the self-motivation to achieve the satisfaction of connecting donors to Zoo initiatives that fulfill their philanthropic desires. This position is exempt under the Fair Labor Standards Act and requires time worked in excess of forty hours per week but does not require daily time at the Toledo Zoo.

Bachelor's degree in marketing/sales or related field and six to nine years of experience in professional sales, fund raising, marketing, management and supervision; or any equivalent combination of education and experience. Must have a valid drivers' license and insurable by the fleet insurance carrier.

The Toledo Zoo is an Equal Opportunity Employer and a drug and alcohol free workplace and offers a competitive salary and benefits package. For consideration resumes should be submitted by February 7, 2016 to the Human Resources Recruiting Manager at [resume@toledozoo.org](mailto:resume@toledozoo.org).

Phillips Temple CME Church 565 Palmwood Ave. is hosting a Super Sunday Party Feb. 7, 2016 along with our 2nd annual "Chili & Cornbread Cook-Off." The Cook-Off begins at 3 PM. Kick-Off-6:30 PM. Admission is <12-\$5 adults-\$10 Competition fee is \$20 for chili \$10 for cornbread or \$25 for both. Trophies awarded. Big Screen-Games-Prizes For more info or entry, please call 419-242-7906/419-242-7906 or 419-902-5772/419-902-5772.

## Baker/Assistant Bakery Manager

### The Toledo Zoo

Assists in planning, supervising and coordinating day to day operations of the Timberline Bakery. Including baking and overseeing production of all wedding cake and special event baked goods, supervise staff in the preparation of food, assuring proper inventory levels are maintained, assuring labor cost and revenue standards are met, and adheres to proper cash handling procedures. Monitor physical plant of facility, develop menu items, calculate costs and retail prices, develop and implement training programs. Bakes and oversees the full cycle of all wedding cake and special event baked goods production. Primary contact for all bakery orders and will develop and train bakery staff. Conduct timely inventory of materials and merchandise related to cost analyses and monitors the inventory control. Supervise and assist the cleaning of the Bakery and maintenance of equipment to ensure proper sanitation and health and safety guidelines are met. This position is full time non-exempt under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Prefer cake decorating certification and a minimum of 2 years' experience in a lead baker or similar role, or have the equivalent combination of culinary training and experience which provides the required skills, knowledge and abilities. This includes a proficiency in utilizing a variety of decorating techniques such as fondant, royal icing, buttercream and the use of airbrushing. Food Safety and Handling certification is required or must be obtained within 60 days of hiring. Must have a valid drivers' license and be insurable by the fleet insurance carrier.

The Toledo Zoo is an Equal Opportunity Employer and a drug and alcohol free workplace and offers a competitive salary and benefits package. Submit resume to [resume@toledozoo.org](mailto:resume@toledozoo.org) by February 3, 2016.

## Registered Nurse

Lucas County Children Services is seeking candidates for a Registered Nurse. Education, experience and deadline requirements can be viewed at [www.lucaskids.net](http://www.lucaskids.net). EOE Valuing Diversity. No phone calls please.

## MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Braden United Methodist Church has a position open for a Director of Music. The candidate must have a high school and some formal musical education and/or training. Must be able to read music, have excellent keyboard skills namely piano, organ, etc., have experience in directing a choir, and be able to work with the pastor, staff and ministries and church members to maintain a smooth flow of worship services and other activities.

Please send your resume by **February 1, 2016 to Braden United Methodist Church, 4725 Dorr Street, Toledo, Ohio 43615, Attention: Elbert Stewart.**

## Café Assistant Manager

### The Toledo Zoo

Assists in planning, supervising, and coordinating the activities and operations of the Carnivore Café. Supervise and assist in the preparation of food, maintenance of facilities, and Cafe sales. Supervise the operations and activities of the Café which involves instructing; assigning and reviewing work; maintaining standards; coordinating activities; allocating personnel; acting on employee problems; hiring and interviewing potential new employees; recommending discipline and terminations; and recommending transfers, promotions. Will monitor food services provided to customers to promote and ensure that the highest standards of customer service, food safety, quality and cleanliness are met and ensure all line speeds meet expectations. This position is full time non-exempt under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

High School Diploma or GED and two years of food service management and/or supervisory experience. Prefer technical degree in food service or any equivalent combination of training and experience which provides the required skills, knowledge and abilities. Has thorough knowledge of food sanitation standards and DHEC regulations for food service establishments Food Safety and Handling certification is required or must be obtained within 60 days of hiring.

The Toledo Zoo is an Equal Opportunity Employer and a drug and alcohol free workplace and offers a competitive salary and benefits package. Submit resume to [resume@toledozoo.org](mailto:resume@toledozoo.org) by February 3, 2016.

**Call to place your ad**

**419-243-0007**

**[www.TheTruthToledo.com](http://www.TheTruthToledo.com)**



# 15th Annual MLK Unity Celebration Devoted to Social Justice and Activism

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

This year's annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Celebration, held as always at the University of Toledo's Savage Arena, brought together speakers and activists intent on focusing the audience's attention on the recent spate of police killings of unarmed African Americans.

The centerpiece of this year's event was the keynote address by Pastor Cori Bush, of Kingdom Embassy International, a St. Louis, Missouri area minister, activist and organizer with Ferguson Frontline, formed in the aftermath of

*... continued on page 14*



Carmen Miller



Photos courtesy Johnnie Early, PhD

## Winter 2016 updates effective January 3.

On Sunday, January 3, 2016, TARTA's winter route schedules will begin. As most routes will be affected by time changes, new timetables and maps are available at [TARTA.com/Winter2016](http://TARTA.com/Winter2016)



- **2C Sylvania-Centennial/Franklin Park Mall**
  - interlined with Route 3 at Franklin Park Mall;
  - schedule adjustments
- **3 North/South Crosstown**
  - interlined with Route 2C at Franklin Park Mall;
  - schedule adjustments
- **11/12/13/14 East Toledo**
  - Sunday and holiday schedule adjustments
- **17B Lagrange/Bennett via Miracle Mile**
  - all 17B trips will stop at New Towne Square Drive;
  - schedule adjustments
- **17E Lagrange/Eleanor via Miracle Mile**
  - schedule adjustments
- **26D Berdan/Douglas/Miracle Mile**
  - schedule adjustments
- **26L Lewis/Alexis-Miracle Mile**
  - all 26L trips will no longer stop at New Towne Square Drive;
  - schedule adjustments
- **27A/B/C Reynolds Road Crosstown**
  - schedule adjustments
- **34A/B/C Airport Highway Crosstown**
  - 34A morning schedule adjustments

