

Happy Holidays!



<p><i>In This Issue...</i></p> <p>Tolliver Page 2</p>	<p>Fros and Fashions Page 3</p> <p>NANBPWC New Members Page 5</p>	<p><u>Soulcial Scene</u></p> <p>Beauty and Fashion Expo Page 6</p> <p>Ugly Sweaters and Blue Gill Fishing Page 7</p>	<p>Dr. Bouyer and Sew N So's Page 12</p> <p>Book Review Page 10</p> <p>Classifieds Page 11</p>
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Notes From the Underground

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

For reasons of extreme security, I am unable to tell my dear readers where my exact location is since I have made the drastic choice of going "underground" due to the surreal election of Donald Trump & Company.

I knew something was up when I recently went to the Detroit Metro Airport and tried to flee the country to Cuba but my passport was interdited by Trump's snitches and I was not allowed to leave due to my being put on a "watch list" because of my prior negative columns about Trump & Company.

Luckily, I was only detained for a brief moment and I then quickly drove away from the airport and via my pre-planning with friends in both Toronto and Columbus, I am safely ensconced in a place that Trump can not reach me.

I have plans to start a short wave broadcast from a location yet to be determined and will appear, incognito on certain U-Tube videos, exhorting people to begin to plan resistance to the income presidential administration.

My alarm was further heightened when I learned from some embezzled private documents from Trump Tower that the incoming president plans not only to initiate a Muslim registry but also at the urging of his chief advisor, Steve Bannon, there are plans to register all black people with both their fingerprints and photographs.

The only delay for this black registry is Donald Trump finding a suitable and docile Uncle Tom who will play that turncoat role and head up this agency.

Since black people did not vote in high numbers for Donald Trump, he feels offended by such low voting numbers and is seeking revenge.

When I was reading through the purloined documents, I was aghast to find out that the following proposals are being considered to make sure that black people are thoroughly "contained", chastised and watched for their lack of support for Trump.

PROPOSAL ONE: Have selectively trained black people join black churches across the country and send in weekly reports of who is attending church services and what is the content of the sermons.

These new "members" will blend in with the congregation and are instructed to have socials at their homes so as to ingratiate themselves with the church members in order to learn of the financial assets of their church and who are viewed as the "troublemakers" in the local assemblies.

PROPOSAL TWO: To drastically curb welfare benefits so that people will be desperate enough to "sell out their Momma" if it

means getting benefits restored including Section 8 vouchers and SS disability benefits but...in return for giving up information on certain peoples of interest.

PROPOSAL THREE: To increase the numbers of private school vouchers so as to cripple public education and thus allow, in the private schools, the doctrines of Trump & Company to be taught without inference from public administrators.

PROPOSAL FOUR: To slowly foreclose on any federally funded home mortgages so that black people will be forced to become renters and/or homeless and thus not able to build up equity in their homes, which will drastically reduce their wealth building potential.

PROPOSAL FIVE: To revoke Martin Luther King Jr., as a national holiday under the false premise that he was a communist sympathizer. Also, this revocation will have the effect of demoralizing black people so that they will literally give up and vote Trump in 2020. In its place, Trump will propose Billy Graham birthday becoming a national holiday.

PROPOSAL SIX: Severely restrict the sale of guns and ammo to black people so that any thought of any armed reprisals against an authoritarian government will be crushed in its inception.

PROPOSAL SEVEN: Through the plenary powers of the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) which has regulatory oversight over the airwaves, the Trump presidency plans to take off of the airwaves the following programs or re-runs because they are viewed as aiding and abetting subversive black conduct: Black-ish, Scandal, Bobby Jones Gospel Hour, Oprah Winfrey, Joy Reid on MSNBC, Tavis Smiley, reruns of Soul Train and Good Times, Everybody Hates Chris, The NAACP Image Awards, The Bill Cosby Show, Shaft, It's A Different World, Coming To America, Moving On Up, BET, I Spy; and any film with Denzel Washington in it (especially the film, Glory).

PROPOSAL EIGHT: Limited future federal educational grants and funds to any of the historically black colleges and universities on the basis that such federal funding is being used to perpetuate separate and unequal places of higher education.

When I read the above proposals, I knew the "mess" that black folks were in was deeper than anyone could have hardly imagined. I only then understood that with such draconian measures being meted out to people of color, that systematic opposition was the order of the day.

While being underground, I have had the chance to link up with other opposition leaders both here in the US and abroad and the consensus appears to be that it will be only through protracted litigation and voting organization that the Trump juggernaut will be stopped.

... continued on page 3

The Sojourner's Truth

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Community Calendar

December 26-29

Toledo's 50th Kwanzaa Festival: Frederick Douglass Community Association; Vendors, music, community speakers, drummers; Doors open 5 pm nightly, program starts at 6; Rahwae Shuman will speak on "A Thumbnail Sketch of African History" December 26; Audra Wilson will speak on "Kujichagulia/Self-Determination" December 27; Rahwae Shuman will speak on "The Physiological and Psychological Implication of Melanin" December 28: 419-509-0751 or toledodonald@aol.com

December 31

Cross Church WatchNight Service: 9 pm

January 1

Happy New Year!

Mt. Nebo Baptist Church Coat Giveaway: Sponsored by Macy's Department Store; After 11:30 am service - must attend service: 419-246-8561

The Soulcial Scene

Fros, Fashions & Finds

Natural Hair for the Holidays: A Local Guide

By Megan Davis

The Truth Contributor

The season of holiday celebrations is in full swing. With Christmas behind us and the New Year ahead, there have been and will be festivities to commemorate the joy of these winter holidays.

From company parties to gift exchanges to family dinners and church services, families will be on the go – sometimes with little time to prepare for it all. While children may be out of school for winter break, parents may still have to work before attending holiday events.

For this reason, people may not have time to be a Do-it-yourself stylist or people may also wish to have a very polished look for their soiree.

Just in time for New Year's Eve, there are some local stylists who are available to provide any number of natural hair care, braiding, locking, and barbering services for the whole family.

Ma'Shalla Bourn is a licensed cosmetologist who also studies cosmetic science and specializes in custom color services. Her eye for detail and passion to create the vision her clients desire is how she is able to create polished looks custom to each individual.

One of her clients, Ayesha B, wrote that "Ma'Shalla is great. Love my hair every time I have been to her. She listens to what you want and delivers. I asked for something new and my husband absolutely loved the new do. Highly recommend."

To schedule a consultation or appointment with Ma'Shalla, she may be contacted at 567-377-7723 or online at <https://www.styleseat.com/m/book/v/>

mashallabourn.

For those who are not looking to color their hair this season and are more interested in protective styling, call Livvia Toms. Protective styles are meant to "hide" one's natural hair into a style that is often braided down in preparation for sew-ins or crochet braids. Protective styles may also be twists or plaits, something that requires little to no manipulation.

Depending on the type of style, they are meant to be temporary and should be taken down within eight weeks to prevent locking, breakage and hair loss. Some must be taken down in less time and some may be able to stay in beyond the eight weeks. Livvia is a licensed stylist at Promises Salon & Spa located in the library plaza at 4903 Dorr St. and offers loc maintenance in addition to protective styles. She may also be contacted at 419.535.6161.

For those with locs who wish to try a new style or color, contact Tyi Turner, owner of SunKissed CosmeTyology located at 1343 Sylvania inside Elegant Beauty Salon. Because locs require a different application process for color, Tyi is someone a lock-haired consumer would want to consult with regarding color options.

If you're looking to start locs, you can also schedule a consultation with her. Tyi also offers crochet-over-locs styles as well as sew ins. This gives one with locs alternative hairstyles that will keep them out of the state of boredom.

If you're natural and you want to wear styles that don't disturb the natural curl pattern or styles that enhance the curl pattern and have high texture, contact Maria Powell, owner of Colour & Style by



... continued on page 8

Tolliver... continued from page 2

I plan to broadcast at various hours so as not to be tracked by the CIA and FBI.

However, I will be devising a hidden code for anyone who wants to follow what is happening in the underground and what role you can play in it.

Stay off of Twitter, Face book and Instagram and other social media because they are currently being bugged by the National Security Agency. But, if you plan to use any social media, make sure you start off any message with: Trump Is Caesar! and that will clear the channel for

you to use it without interference.

When circumstances permit it, I will surface from hiding and will be giving direct instructions of resistance through veiled gospel songs. There will be four verses. Disregard the first and third verses and listen only to the second and fourth verses for updated information.

Well, gotta go for now. I just heard some irregular tapping on my secured phone line.

Stay tuned and stay strong for this too shall pass!

Contact Lafe Tolliver, Attorney in hiding, comments to: deleted for security purposes.

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The Soulcial Scene

Sew N So... continued from page 16

ley.

Sew N So's was established in 1966 by the late Louise Parks who was a home economics teacher with Toledo Public Schools. The club is a non-professional organization comprised of women who exchange ideas and techniques in sewing, crafts and home arts. Members meet monthly, except during the summer. During their meetings they show their latest creations and exchange various techniques. Carline Willis is the current president.



Seated - Pres. Carlene Willis, Hattie Jackson, Jeanette Bradley, Charter Member_ standing Marie Bush, co-chair and Audry Madyn, VP

Since the club's inception, many Toledo women have used membership in the organization as a means of expressing their creative outlet through sewing and crafts. The club has also contributed to the Toledo community by making pillows for Hospice of Northwest Ohio, children's pillowcases and lap quilts for the former Lake Park Rehabilitation Center, blankets for the Veteran Home in Sandusky, "angel Layettees" for local hospitals, pillowcase dresses for Little Girls from Africa.

Bradley, this year's honoree, helped establish Sew N So's in 1966 and has been an active member ever since. Known throughout Toledo for her baking, centerpieces and custom baskets, Bradley is a behind-the-scenes person who has always worked hard to accomplish things.

Bradley taught kindergarten in the TPS district for 40 years, ending her career as a teacher at Kaiser Elementary. She is a member of the Study Hour Group, Warren AME Church, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and Christ Child of Toledo, a non-profit organization united in serving at-risk children in need. She is also an active volunteer ambassador for the Toledo Museum of Art.



Original Charter Member Jeanette Bradley with Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson

"KOOLCOMEDY LIVE"

Wed., January 4, 2017

@Toledo Funnybone, 6140 Levis Commons, Blvd., Perrysburg, OH. 43551

A monthly comedy & variety show, showcasing national headliner and regional Feature Comedians. DJ Big Trav and the WALL Music band are part of the evening with a special musical performance by songstress Anitra Chery.

Doors open at 7pm with the live band. The comedy show begins at 8 pm. Comedian Jay Deep (BET, BadBoys Of Comedy, BarberShop movies 1 and 2) headlines the comedy show and the Featured Comedian is Cleveland's-own Delonte (D.Hawk) Hawkins.

Comedian Kool Keith is your host for the evening. There is a cash bar and the kitchen will be open to serve you. You can purchase \$12 tickets online www.toledofunnybone.com or contact Kool Keith to purchase your tickets 2 for \$20.

Anthony Bouer... continued from page 16

Bouyer's family and friends gathered at the Sullivan Center to honor that accomplishment.

Bouyer, who has spent the past 25 years in the criminal justice system as a licensed counselor specializing in drug and alcohol counseling, earned his bachelor's degree in 1982 from Saginaw Valley State College and his masters' degree from the University of Toledo in 2003 in counseling and education.

His dissertation research was on "African-American Males' Ideas about School Success." Bouyer investigated how a group of African-American males whose success is regularly ignored experienced educational success in high school and life success after graduating high school.

His research focused on how African-American males were able to navigate through the educational; environment; what mattered and motivational factors were influencing them to complete high school; what expectations they had after graduating high school; how they describe academic success and how they perceive graduating high school as changing society's perception of them.

Bouyer's family and friends celebrated his success at dinner on December 10 in formal attire and splendor.

The Soulcial Scene

Local Women's Club Inducts New Members

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The ladies of the National Association of Negro and Professional Women's Club, Inc, Toledo Chapter welcomed four new members with a community holiday party on December 16.

Sophisticated red and yellow decorates lavished the reception room as Club President Denise Black Poon officially welcomed guests and introduced the organization's governor LaTanuya Conley, PhD. The evening continued with games facilitated by Alexii Collins of the membership committee, presentations and closing remarks by club president.

The celebration also included a rededication ceremony for current members and induction of four new members: Sarah Burkes, Mironda Harris, Crystal Harris Darnell and LuCynthia Jones. "I'm excited, truly excited, to be a member of this organization. They are known for serving the community, especially youth," said newly inducted member Mironda Harris.

Harris and Burkes were both sponsored by current club member Cherry Reeds. "I share Mironda's excitement, we're a part of an organization that actively gives back," Sarah Burkes.

The four new members received individual gifts and warm greetings from fellow club members. "Our club is glad to have these four ladies join our group of professional women. Their experiences, skills and passions are valued. They are women that have been selected because of their values and professionalism," said Black Poon.



Toledo NANBPWC



Barbara Tucker and Willie Tucker Jr



Denise Black Poon and LaTanuya Conley



Frances Collins and Alexii Collins



Gilbert Jones and Iris Page Jones



Larry Caldwell and Dennis Jarrett



Paul Chung and David Darnell



Isabelle Carter, James Carlisle, and Mary Savage




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The Soulcial Scene

The Second Annual Midwest Beauty and Fashion Expo

After it was postponed due to a snowstorm on Sunday, December 11, PozitivProMotions.com and Hair Channel TV presented the second annual Midwest Beauty and Fashion Expo. The event took place on the rescheduled date of Monday, December 12 at The Toledo Club.

Businesses from all over Ohio and Michigan and one from as far away as Maryland came to the expo to gain new clientele. Essential Shoes, Fly Junkie Clothing, Michael David Menswear, Sassy and Chic Boutique, AlTiMiRa Books, Santiago Bakery Inc. and Ladies 1st Boutique had a wide selection for patrons seeking gifts for the upcoming holiday.

The event opened with a fashion presentation by the Barbavian Collection by Jacquie Barbavian from Michigan. The line featured designs from African print tunics to a his-and-hers matching blue fur coat set. That was followed by Fly Junkie Clothing by Damar Grier, with the models sporting custom tees, tank tops and hoodies from the up and coming line. Music was played by DJ Jay Roc as the models walked the runway.

The Midwest Make-Up Battle was the main highlight of the evening. Celebrity judge Joscynthia Mason, flew in from Atlanta; Master Makeup Artist, Angeleah Speights joined the panel from Michigan; and Transform My Beauty Salon owner, Keisha McCoy (who missed a flight to Atlanta to be stand in judge for international model Runa Lucienne). Their job was to decide, based on skill, who would be the chosen as the best MUAs in the Midwest.

The competing make-up artists were Taleah, Jayvia Badgett, Walter Lucas, Terricka Mathis and Char Smith. They pushed their skills to the limit by working on models who they had never met before, to win the Natural, Glamour and Fantasy categories. The audience looked on as they spent 30 minutes on the first two challenges and 45 minutes on the final one.

... continued on page 8



Midwest Make-Up Battle 3rd Place Winner, Char Smith_ Celebrity Judge, Angeleah Speights_ 1st Place Winner, Taleah_ 3rd Place Winner, Walter Lucas_ Celebrity Judge, Joscynthia



Event Co-Founder, Corvette Derden; Celebrity Judge, Joscynthia Mason; Model featuring Fantasy Makeup by Walter Lucas (pictured) next to Fannie Ragland; Makeup model, Alisha Turski; Event Co-Founder, Monique Ward; Judge, Angeleah Speights; Judge Keisha McCoy



Terricka Mathis poses with model, Charmeka Jenkins, after completing a natural look



Judge Angeleah Speights looks on as Midwest Make-Up Battle Contestant, Taleah, applies makeup on model.

Photos courtesy Adonis Lavale Photography

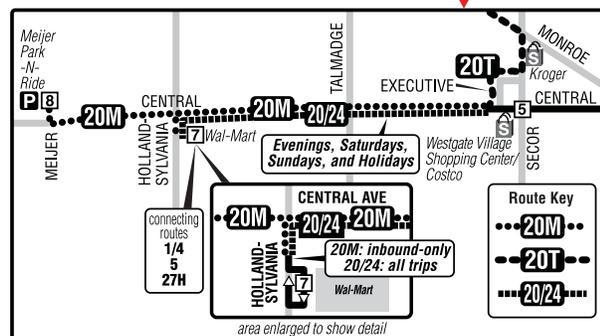
Winter 2017 updates effective January 1.



On Sunday, January 1, 2017, the TARTA winter route schedule will begin. As some routes will be affected by routing and time changes, new timetables and maps are available at TARTA.com/Winter2017



- **1/4 Ottawa Hills/Sylvania/Sylvania Twp Call-A-Ride**
- weekday Franklin Park Mall scheduled times reduced for improved service flexibility
- Spencer Twp service discontinuation
- **20/24 Central/Westgate**
- service extended to Wal-Mart bus shelters off N Holland Sylvania Rd just south of W Central Ave;
- new connection with routes 5 and 27H
- will no longer serve Executive Pkwy
- **20M Central/Meijer Drive**
- inbound-only service extended to Wal-Mart bus shelters off N Holland Sylvania Rd just south of W Central Ave; new connection with routes 5 and 27H
- **27N Nebraska/Airport-Wenz**
- timepoint moved from Angola Rd and Wenz Rd to Airport Hwy and Wenz Rd
- **28 Indiana/Smead**
- schedule adjustments
- **30 Oakwood/Smead**
- schedule adjustments
- **39M Monroe/Centennial-Sylvania**
- two inbound morning trips and one outbound afternoon trip are to be discontinued



The Soulcial Scene

“Tis The Season To Be Tacky!”

The Toledo Young Black Professionals gathered at the Truth Art Gallery on Friday, December 16 from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. Refreshments were served and DJ Uncle Duane provided the soundtrack for the evening! Prizes were awarded for the ugliest three sweaters.

Admission was free but the group did accept donations of hats, gloves for the Family House.



L.J. Hamilton, Alissa Gafaney



Luci Moye, Alissa Gafaney



Alissa Gafeny, winner of the Ugly Sweater contest, and Keenen Fisher



Keenen Fisher, Karah Woodard



DJ Uncle Duane, Shawn Campbell



Brittany Moore, Janae Garrett, Clerissa Criswell



Stephanie Blanchard, Floyd Showers



Melody Anderson, Nikyle Fitzgerald



Nikyle Fitzgerald, Terra Pettaway



Rob Pasker, Jennifer Boyd

Local Social Club Awards Scholarship

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The Blue Gill Fishing Club awarded their annual scholarship on December 18 to recipient Tamara Young, who was surrounded by family and friends.

Young attends American University in Washington, D.C. but was born and raised in Toledo, Ohio. She is majoring in political science and public relations with aspirations of finding meaningful employment in New York or Washington D.C. "This \$500 scholarship will definitely help me continue my studies, college is expensive. I appreciate their support. I want to thank the Blue Gill for this scholarship and my family for their support," said Young.



John Chapman, Nate Greene, Al Chapman, Perry Ham, Frederick Tisdale FRONT Nate Taylor, Mayor Paula Hicks Hudson, Tamara Young, and Allen Robertson



Dale Richardson, Alisha McDonald, and Jean Davis



Bill Harmon, Nate Greene, John Chapman, and Selena Conley



Jerry and Perry James

... continued on page 8

Sheree Robinson
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Projected Change: +17.02%
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Owens Degree: Insurance Studies, AAB

Source: Career Coach and Bureau of Labor Statistics Buckeye Top 50

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The Soulcial Scene

Social Club... continued from page 7

Toledo Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson was present to award the scholarship. "Blue Gill is another great example of an organization in our city that supports our youth. This is awesome. Blue Gill progressively provides opportunities annually and I'm honored to be here for this special occasion," said the mayor.

Blue Gill Fishing Club was organized in 1992 by five community men. "It was first a social club, we would take fishing trips together at least once a year. We still fish once a year, but we've grown in the services we provide to the community. We provide hot dogs for youth during the summer at the nearby park," said Al Chapman one of the original club members.

The annual scholarship is reviewed by club members who assist in raising funds. "We look for promising young people who deserve this scholarship. Applicants need to know a member to apply. We also donate to Kitchen for the Poor, Cherry Street Mission and other local charities," said Willie Harmon, club recording secretary.



Scholarship winner with Mayor Hicks Hudson and family



Toni and Freddy Tisdale



LA and Sherry Frost



Rhonda and Pete Coates



Thomas Walker and Gwen Moore

Beauty/Fashion Expo... continued from page 6

By the conclusion of the battle, Taleah (a first-time competitor) had garnered the first place "Golden Brush Award" much to her surprise. She also received the grand prize which included a two-day/one-on-one Master Make-Up Class with Angeleah, a day to shadow Joscyntia at the Bronner Bros Hair Show 2017, as well as a photo shoot with celebrity director Diego Cruz.

Char Smith won 3rd place and received a \$150 gift bag from Bare Minerals. Walter Lucas won 2nd place along with a \$200 Sephora gift box. Lucas also walked away with the coveted, Vivian Turski People's Choice Award, for the second year in a row. Vivian Turski, was a Master Stylist and beloved woman, who passed away in 2015. Turski's daughters, Fannie Ragland and Alicia Turski, presented the award to Lucas in honor of their mother's memory.

Special thanks to the event sponsors: The Toledo Club, The Models of QM•IT Agency Sephora, Bare Minerals, Lillie Mae Candles, Glam Candi Beauté Bar and Boutique, Lance Self at Taylor Hyundai, Kristy Dutton at iHeartMedia, White Knight Limousine, Elements of Style, Adonis Lavale Photography, Her Walk In Closet Boutique, Priceless Designs, Donn Cuttz, The Sojourner's Truth, The Spot Mart, Lee's Beauty Supply, John Huntley, The Cut and Style Studio Make-Up Boutique

The third annual Midwest Beauty and Fashion Expo and Midwest Make-Up Battle will be held in June 2017. The date will be announced in January 2017. For more information or to be a part of the next event as a sponsor, vendor or competing MUA, call 419.333.1272 or email pozativpromo@gmail.com for more details.

Fros, Fashions and Finds... continued from page 3

Powell's. Her steam treatments and curl elongation services are trending this season. This is an alternative to trying a wash and go in these frigid temperatures. Maria also specializes in haircutting and color. While many people have natural hair, many prefer to wear their hair straightened. For those who don't like it that way, and wish to try to embrace their natural curls, Maria will help you determine which products work best as well as which styles can be achieved based on your ideas or vision for your hair.

Colour & Style by Powell's is located at 2463 Nebraska Ave. near Westwood. The Powell family owns Toledo's only African-American owned beauty supply store, Powell's, and is located at 901 Nebraska Ave. 419-535-9478.

This time of year can bring some of the most harsh weather. Sub zero temperatures and windy days will make hair dry and brittle and prone to

breakage. Sometimes a person may experience temporary hair loss due to the conditions and possibly, the lack of proper maintenance, however, there are many who suffer with hair loss because of neglect, illness, stress and other conditions. When this is the case, it is often hard for someone with hair loss to find styles for their own hair.

Holiday parties and other festivities will continue

on whether invitees attend or not, but some people don't want to stay home because they are having a hard time styling their hair or finding wigs and other hair extensions. This is why Keisha, The Beauty Transformer, is the person to contact. A cancer survivor herself, she understands the importance of looking good even if she didn't feel good. Keisha specializes in custom hair units, sew ins, and looks for those transitioning out of haircuts, such as shaved sides. She may be reached at 419-491-3485 or thebeauty.transformer@gmail.com.

Men are not to be overlooked during the festivities either. Working long shifts may make it difficult to get to a barber, but to avoid the "stay at home buzz cut" look, there is still time to book a barber before the New Year's festivities begin! James, Corry or Andre at Barber Brothers located at 2110 N. Holland-Sylvania Rd. will have a chair open for you. Book in advance to ensure a spot and you'll be fresh and clean before the clock strikes midnight on New Year's Day 2017.



OLBC President Reece Reflects on Tenure, Progress as She Prepares to Pass Torch

Special to The Truth

As current Ohio Legislative Black Caucus (OLBC) President and state Rep. Alicia Reece (D-Cincinnati) readies to step down from the helm of the nation's oldest and largest black legislative organization, the state lawmaker and vocal justice reform and voting rights advocate reflected on the accomplishments achieved over the past four years in the Buckeye State.

Under Reece, the caucus has grown to a historic level of black representation – 18 legislators – at the Ohio Statehouse by adding three new African American legislators to their roster, Tom West (D-Canton), Glenn Holmes (D-Warren) and Vernon Sykes (D-Akron).

"I am very proud of our work to increase the representation of African Americans in Ohio while raising the profile of issues in our communities, state and nation," said Reece.

Amidst challenging economic times and fierce legislative battles over voting restrictions, access to healthcare, and police-community relations, the OLBC's spirited advocacy gave a voice to the interests of Ohio's more than 1.6 million African American citizens.

"Not only were we able to be a voice for communities of people who felt left behind, but – for our constituents – we helped produce tangible results that helped to improve the quality of life for African Americans in Ohio," Reece said.

While Reece was president the state hit an unprecedented benchmark in meeting Minority Business Enterprise goals two years in a row. The caucus also successfully advocated for, among other issues and accomplishments:

- \$2.7 million for additional state summer job-youth slots.

- \$1 million for on-the-job training with ODOT and the Cincinnati Urban League.

- \$330,000 for minority business assistance programs through the African American Chamber of Commerce.

- An end to juvenile courtroom shackling.

- A statewide community-police relations taskforce.

- African American membership on Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy.

- Annual re-entry job fair.

- \$3.5 million for Central State University, leveraging \$10 million in federal funding and federal land grant status.

With Reece at the helm, the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus was a vocal and high-profile organization that made its views known on the important issues facing Ohio's African American community. Reece took a new approach to advocacy during her tenure, creating an annual "OLBC Day of Action" that brought hundreds of civic leaders, faith leaders, business leaders and citizens from all over the state to the capitol for a lobby

day each year.

"As a group, we not only spoke out about the important issues and challenges in our communities and throughout our state, but we also demanded action," Reece said. "Columbus is littered with special interest groups and lobbyists, but regular citizens deserve to have their voices heard too. It is up to us to speak up with our collective voice to demand action from our state leaders, and I feel confident we did just that."

Reece and state Rep. Christie Kuhns (D-Cincinnati) also took an approach similar to the innovative Day of Action in organizing the OLBC's quadrennial state-wide convention in 2016, a day-long event that drew hundreds of participants for workshops, seminars and briefings on voting rights, jobs and economic opportunities, criminal justice reform and healthcare. For the 2016 convention Reece brought in outspoken Texas Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee for a women's empowerment luncheon and ended the evening with a keynote speech from prominent civil rights and business leader Vernon Jordan.

Events aside, Reece and the OLBC confronted Ohio tragedies that mirrored national police-led deaths of unarmed African American men and women. The outcry and civil unrest that followed several high-profile cases spurred a public dialogue surrounding police-community relations and the need for justice reform immediately in Ohio and throughout the nation. With the urging of the OLBC, Gov. Kasich issued an executive order on December 12, 2014, forming the Ohio Task Force on Community-Police Relations, on which Reece served as a founding member.

The Cincinnati lawmaker also introduced her own justice reform measures in the House, including HB 380, bipartisan legislation to create a more transparent investigative process with deaths that result from a law enforcement officer's use of a firearm; and John Crawford's law, named in memory of the Beavercreek teen who was shot to death in a Wal-Mart while holding an air gun he picked up off a store shelf.

Pres. Reece also played an integral role in stabilizing Central State University, Ohio's historically black university, by working across the aisle to secure the school's land-grant status and attached funding. Her bipartisan work resulted in a joint Republican leadership visit to the school and a working relationship that brought about this month's House passage of legislation to automatically erase arrest records of individuals who were never criminally charged, HB 618.

The caucus and Reece also led an initiative to place a Voter's Bill of Rights constitutional amendment on Ohio's ballot to permanently enshrine voting rights in Ohio. Together, they gathered over 100,000 signatures from all 88 counties. Reece says she will continue working on the initiative and fighting for voting rights in the legislature.

Reece is term-limited from serving as OLBC president according to the group's bylaws, but will continue to be active within the organization while serving out her final term as state representative for Ohio's 33rd House District.



State Rep. Alicia Reece

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Believing in Magic by Cookie Johnson with Denene Millner

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

For richer or poorer. For better or for worse.

If you've ever said those vows, you understand the solemnity and the promise they make; namely, that you're in it for the long-haul, come what may, no matter what shakes. You promise to be there for good but, as in **Believing in Magic by Cookie Johnson (with Denene Millner)**, it's also in sickness and in health.

Earleatha "Cookie" Kelly "had no clue" who Earvin Johnson was when she sent off her application to Michigan State University. Her then-boyfriend, who was the jealous sort, mentioned "Magic" Johnson, but she was undeterred. Seriously, how would a girl from Detroit meet up with a college basketball star like that?

But that's exactly what happened. Like most MSU coeds, Kelly's roommate had a crush on Johnson. It was inevitable that while the roommate chased after a chance to be in the presence of the b-baller, Kelly would meet him and catch his eye.

Thus started a dozen-year, on-again, off-again relationship in which Kelly often didn't know where she stood. They both hated to be controlled, which led to arguments, splits, and reconciliations. He asked her to marry him three times and then broke the first two engagements; he tried to break the third but she called his bluff, they were married quick in a beautiful wedding he insisted on having, and she took his name.

Less than two months after their nuptials, Magic called his new bride while on the road. She was pregnant with their first child; he told her they needed to talk. Her mind raced, but it couldn't prepare her for the truth: Magic Johnson was HIV-positive.

Back in 1991, Johnson says, HIV was a "death sentence," but Magic

c. 2016
Howard Books
\$26.00 / \$35.00 Canada
272 pages

decided that he wouldn't hide it; as a straight man, he wanted people to know that AIDS was not a "gay person's disease." The Johnsons feared for their unborn baby, endured rumors, shunned paparazzi, and lost friends. Still, Johnson took her vows seriously and relied on her faith in God to keep her calm then, and in the days to come...

As memoirs go, *Believing in Magic* is okay. Not horrid. Not stellar.

Author Cookie Johnson's book (with Denene Millner) starts out with a bang and an announcement that no newlywed dreams of hearing. It then reverts to a long, looong story of a relationship that surely took enormous patience to endure, but it's a tale that could have used a heavier editorial pen and fewer recreated conversations.

Fortunately, it gets better: the winning part of this book is in its latter half. There, Johnson shares a bit about life with an HIV-positive spouse and his ongoing health issues, she writes about learning of their son's sexuality, and accepting their daughter's search for her birth family.

I could have used more like that half of the book, and less of the over-told early years, but that's just me. Overall, I think *Believing in Magic* is at least worth a try; you've probably read better, you've probably read worse.



Believing in Magic Author

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BELIEVING IN MAGIC

My Story of Love, Overcoming Adversity, and Keeping the Faith

Cookie Johnson

Wife of NBA Legend Earvin "Magic" Johnson
32 With Denene Millner

CLASSIFIEDS

December 28, 2016

Page 11

SPECIAL NOTICE

RE: Examinations for Journeyman Wireman

Applications for the Journeyman Inside Wireman test will be accepted January 3-6, 2017 at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 8, 807 Lime City Road, Rossford, Ohio between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. The qualifications to be eligible for this examination are:

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

CARE MANAGER

Openings for experienced professionals who will be accountable for overall care management and care coordination including physical health, behavioral health and social service needs and goals. May provide health home services as needed.

Qualified candidates must have at least a Bachelor's degree in Social Work, a Master's degree in Counseling or an Associate's degree in Nursing and current Ohio licensure as an LSW, LPC or RN. Independent licensure preferred.

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

EOE

COMMUNITY PSYCHIATRIC SUPPORTIVE TREATMENT CLINICIAN

Unison Behavioral Health Group, Inc. is seeking a full-time Community Psychiatric Supportive Treatment Clinician to provide community support services to adults with serious and persistent mental illness. Duties will include assessment of client needs, assisting in the development of the treatment plan, coordination of the treatment plan, crisis management and stabilization, advocacy and outreach, education and mental health interventions addressing the mental illness.

Bachelor's degree in social work or psychology and a valid driver's license required. Master's degree preferred. Current Ohio LSW or PC license and experience preferred. Premium pay rate is provided to compensate for the additional responsibility of working as a CPST on this team.

Unison Behavioral Health Group, Inc.
2310 Jefferson Ave.
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GIS ANALYST

Metroparks of the Toledo Area is looking for a GIS Analyst for our natural resources department. Bachelor's degree in Geography, Global Information Systems or related field, or equivalent combination of education and work experience required. Master's degree preferred. Two years' experience applying Esri-based GIS technology. \$17.45/hr. 35 hour workweek and may include weekend and evening hours as needed. Go to www.metroparkstoledo.com for complete list of position requirements and duties; must submit online application and resume by December 27. EOE

PROGRAM MANAGER, NURSING SERVICES

Full-time

This is a management position responsible for planning, directing, supervising and evaluating all psychiatric and physical health nursing services provided at all sites. Primary duties will include insuring quality nursing care is provided in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations, standards and practices, developing and implementing nursing policies and procedures, insuring compliance with certification standards, overseeing the infection control program and monitoring the budget to insure department fiscal goals are met.

Must have current Ohio licensure as a RN. Must have Med/Surg experience as well as Psychiatric Nursing experience. Position must be able to work a flexible schedule and will travel to various locations where services are provided.

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Toledo, OH 43604
Fax: 419-936-7574
Visit our website: unisonbhg.org

EOE



REFINERY PROCESS OPERATOR

Overview

Toledo Refining Company LLC is located in Oregon, Ohio and is owned by PBF Energy LLC. The refinery has a crude oil processing capacity of 170,000 barrels per day. **The refinery is currently accepting applications for Refinery Process Operator positions.**

Description

Process Operators operate, maintain and repair units and equipment. A Process Operator works 12 hour rotating shifts on various units within the refinery which process crude oil as a feed stock in order to produce gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, various chemicals and other products. Process Operators are trained in the operation of plant processing equipment, including pumps, compressors, furnaces, heat exchangers, valves, distillation columns and other equipment common to refinery operations. Our Company is committed to a foundation of safe and environmentally compliant operations so Operators must follow all procedures and safe work practices. New hires will be required to complete a 36 month apprenticeship program. Starting pay is \$28.02 per hour.

Responsibilities

An Operator may be responsible for: maintaining equipment and operations; climbing ladders, tanks and towers up to 250 ft.; taking samples/readings of various process streams; initiating work orders and permitting for work related to the assigned unit; maintaining proper and safe process operations of the operating equipment; and communicating effectively during the shift and at shift relief regarding key process unit and equipment information.

Basic/Required Qualifications

Must be at least 18 years of age; be legally authorized to work in the United States without restrictions; hold a High school diploma or equivalent; and hold a current driver's license.

Must be willing to perform/comply with the following: working overtime; working on holidays and weekends; working in enclosed/confined spaces, such as tanks and towers; working with large, hot, high-speed machines; lifting a minimum of 50 pounds; working around chemicals; wearing fire retardant clothing and personal protective equipment; maintaining/shaving your face daily so that a respirator/face mask can seal properly; performing fire fighting duties; working outside in harsh weather conditions; and working with petroleum products and support systems that are under high pressure and heat.

Conditions of Employment

Written tests and assessments; meeting physical criteria for the job; a physical skills demonstration test; ability to demonstrate basic computer skills; pass a background check and drug screening; be eligible to qualify or hold a Transportation Workers Identification Credential (TWIC card); and be eligible to qualify or hold a State of Ohio 3rd Class Steam Engineer License (SEL) within 24 months of employment.

In order to be considered for this position, applicants must submit their resume in Microsoft Word or .pdf format per the following process on or before 11:59 P.M. of January 2, 2017. All interested candidates may apply by going to www.pbfenergy.com/careers and select "Refinery Process Operator" (Oregon, OH). **All applicants must provide a valid e-mail address where they can be contacted regarding updates on the recruiting process.** Applicants will receive an email containing a link for a supplemental screening that must be completed for further consideration. Should an applicant be selected for testing after completion of the screening, contact will be made via email. All contact information must be accurate and up to date. There will be 4 stages of the hiring process. Phase 1 consists of 4 tests. Relocation is not available for this position. Phone calls will not be accepted.

EOE/M/F/D/V



Sew N So's Sewing Club Celebrates 50th, Honors Jeannette Bradley

Sojourner's Truth Staff

On December 10 at the Garden Lake Hall, the members of the Sew N So's Sewing Club celebrated the club's 50th anniversary and also honored the remaining charter member, Jeannette Brad-

... continued on page 4



Althea Baldwin and Jacquelyn Cook



Carlene Willis, Pres., Hattie Jackson and Jeanette Bradley, Charter Member



Helen Tuggle and Odell Chancy



Irma Porter, Jacquelyn Cook and Michelle Hollie mingle with guest



Mr. and Mrs. Roy and Dee Jones



Natalie Edwards, Irma Porter with Michelle Hollie and Serena Rayford

Family and Friends Honor Anthony Bouyer, PhD

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Anthony Bouyer, Ph.D. defended his dissertation at the University of Toledo in November 2016 and has earned his doctorate in philosophy of education in Social Foundation and Leadership. In December,

... continued on page 4



Dr. Anthony Bouyer and Family



Dr. Anthony Bouyer with mother and father in-law Eddie and Sammie Dixon



Ever Bouyer and Yvonne Hopson



Jeff and Marie Anderson



Kim Govan with Kenya Dixon-Jones and Teri Boatman



Shaun and Kellie Gross



Tom and Michelle Wognowski



Wilma, Mary, Donna and Warnie Huddleston