

The
Sojourner's

Truth

Local and
National News

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AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH...

October 24, 2007

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*Actors Danny Ledsinger ("Lincoln")
and Tyree Troutman ("Booth")*

"The play's language is both metaphysical and musical, flush with insight about the human condition that spits form the character's mouths like so many blues notes."

This Strikes Us ...

A Sojourner's Truth Editorial

If you are truly ready for an eye-opening experience, have a chat with a foreign high-school exchange student of which there are dozens in the Toledo area.

There are in fact several foreign exchange students from Thailand, a Southeast Asian nation of 60 million or so people hard by the Equator.

The typical Thai student arrives here in the United States and will offer two things about himself right off the bat. First, he loves hip-hop, he says. Second, when does the NBA season start? he asks.

Just when you are amazed by how small the world has become ... or how flat as Thomas Freidman writes, our exchange student enters one of our public schools and returns home one evening to inform you that he is amazed by how little work he receives in school. Everyone at home, all of his Thai classmates, he explains, want to be either doctors or engineers and they all strive to master math and the sciences.

So much for the world being flat!

Last week we wrote about the importance of the upcoming local elections, particularly those for city council and the school board. Let's look a bit closer at that school board situation.

The school board's influence, unlike that of city council, is a bit difficult to pin down with any sort of exactness. We can get a sense of that already as candidates for the two open seats with the Toledo Board of Education struggle to explain what they propose to do and how they expect to be able to bring their proposals to fruition.

What we do know is this – they select the superintendent, they provide oversight for fiscal matters and, above all, they have a bully pulpit.

Now some candidates for the board will tell you all about the magical educational programs they have uncovered and how this or that process will solve the problem of the lack of educational attainment.

Let's go back to our Thai student for a moment and compare him to his inner-city American counterparts. Anyone out there been in a classroom filled with African-American boys recently? Have you had the opportunity to ask them what they want to be when they grow up? If so, have you gotten any answer other than rap star, football player or basketball player?

That won't happen in a Third World country like Thailand. A Third World country!

What do they have in Thailand that we don't have? Do they have better teachers? Do they have some advanced educational programs that provide the key that unlocks the door leading to a storeroom of unlimited knowledge? Or, have they simply, very simply, fostered a culture that teaches respect for education?

So do we need a bunch of school board members who take it upon themselves to promote particular educational programs? Of what use are such magical programs if students don't want to learn?

How does the process start?

Here's our take on the subject. A student who is inspired to learn, who wants to obtain knowledge will learn and obtain that knowledge no matter the obstacles, no matter the teaching deficiencies, no matter the program presented.

If a student does not want to learn, you can put all of the technology, all of the sophisticated educational programs and all of the great teachers in the world in that classroom and the impact will be negligible. If he does not want to learn, if he has not been inspired to learn before he gets into the classroom, he will not learn.

Our school board members generally are not experts on education. That's just the way it is with elected officials. Frankly, it's not important for them to be experts. The experts are in the school administration and in the schools.

So we really don't need the five elected officials telling us what educational programs we need to place before our students. What we need from our school board members is leadership in terms of changing our culture ... the culture that informs our young black boys that they needn't worry about reading, writing and arithmetic because, after all, what does 50 Cent or Lebron James need with those things?

We need our school board members to lead the charge. We need for them to take the bull by the horns and make sure kids cherish education, appreciate the learning process and, above all, want to excel.

We need our school board members to figure out a way to point our kids in the direction of math and science so that, as time goes by, we don't fall behind Third World nations like Thailand.

Community Calendar

*October 24

Northcoast Behavioral Health Annual Breast Health Awareness Fair: 930 S. Detroit; 11 am to 4 pm; Free to the public: 419-381-1881 ext 1006

*October 25

Candidates' Forum: Toledo Board of Education; 7 pm; DeVeaux Junior High School

*October 26-27

Revival: Youth, young adults and adults; Revival by Trendsetta! Inc; Guest speaker Pastor Weldon Smith IV of New Life Community Church: 419-870-7335

*October 27

Calvary Baptist Women's Ministry: Caregiver Workshop; Noon to 1:30 pm: 419-865-0019

"Make It Last Forever:" Formal evening designed for marriage enrichment; 6 pm; Universal New Beginnings COGIC; Marriage building exercises; Marriage panel comprised of local pastors and first ladies; Registration deadline is Oct 21: 419-470-8451 or 419-508-1210 or 419-259-6086

Mt. Vernon School Basketball Reunion: Former Coach Brian Brinkley and former boys basketball players (A & B teams); Noon; Reynolds Corner Library: 419-810-8153

All Saints Day Celebration Party for Children: Braden United Methodist; Free games, food, prizes and fun; 6 to 8 pm: 419-241-7257

Citywide Christian Trustee Association: 10 am; James B. Simmons Building: 419-380-9477

*October 27-28

Men of Word Gathering: His Spirit Church; Sat. 11 am Financial Freedom Workshop, 7 pm evening service; Sun. 11:45 am service, evening service at 7 pm

*October 28

Center of Hope Annual Women's Day Celebration: "Time to Get Up;" Guest Preacher Rev. April Hearn of Detroit; 11:30 am

Missions Day: New Prospect Baptist Church; 11 am; Speaker Dana Hueston of Friendship and Pastor Bonnie Larkins of Greater Faith Gospel

Men and Women's Day: Mt. Ararat MBC; 11 am women's service features Sister Rosemary Wyatt of Mt. Zion; 4 pm men's service features Rev. Jerome Bush, pastor of Redemption Baptist

Annual Concert: Christian Community Church Adult Choir; 6 pm: 419-902-1444

*October 29

New Fall Assembly: Sponsored by Toledo Area Ministries; Grace Lutheran Church; Installation service for new Executive Director Rev. Steve Anthony; Silent auction, Ministry Fair, assembly, dessert reception: 419-242-7401

*October 29-31

Annual Fall Revival: St. Paul MBC; 7 pm nightly; Guest evangelist Pastor Timothy Brinkley of Mt. Hermon MBC of West Point, MS: 419-246-2886

*November 1

Toledo Smiles Dental Fair: Sponsored by Junior League of Toledo; Leverette Middle School: 419-367-5456

*November 2-4

Christ the King Redemptive Ministries: 4th Annual Women of Prophetic Destiny Conference; Speakers include Elder Joberta Patrick, Co-Pastor Sharon Fisher from PA and Prophetess Crystal McQueen; Service 7 pm nightly and 10 am Sunday: 419-917-5660

*November 3-4

St. Philip Lutheran Church: 70th Anniversary banquet on Saturday at Clarion Hotel (S. Reynolds); 6 pm; Sunday Festival Service Worship; 10:30 am: 419-475-2835

*November 4

Grace Community Center Benefit: Rites and Bids; Silent Auction 3-5 pm; Live Auction 4-4:45 pm; Sylvania United Church of Christ: 419-248-2467

*November 5-9

Annual Fall Revival: Shiloh MBC; Pastor Kenneth Turner of St. James MBC-St. Louis, MO is the guest evangelist: 419-693-6698/419-535-0615

Political Events

October 24 "Molly Gets Things Done" reception honoring Molly McHugh Branyan, District 2 candidate for Council, Maumee River Yacht Club at Walbridge Park, 5:00 to 7:00 pm, donation \$100.

October 25 Lindsay Webb's pre-election Pasta Dinner, to benefit Toledo Council District 6 candidate Lindsay Webb, United Building Trades Group, 4652 Lewis Ave., 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Donation: \$10.00, Contact: Terry Mathias: 419-340-2436.

October 25 League of Women Voters & DeVeaux Junior High School is sponsoring a debate between school board candidates at 7:00 p.m.

October 29 Lisa Sobacki – School Board Candidate Fundraiser. Mancy's Steakhouse on Phillips, 5–7 p.m. Sponsored by County Treasurer Wade Kapszukiewicz and State Rep. Matt Szollosi. Donation: \$50.

October 29 Sen. Teresa Fedor - Ohio Dem Senate Fundraiser, Toledo Club, Madison Ave., 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Donation: \$150.00pp. Governor Ted Strickland - special guest.

October 30 South Toledo Spaghetti Dinner. Lido Lanes, 865 South Ave., 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$10.00. Candidates bring your signs.

October 30 18th Annual Pancake Breakfast, 7:00a.m. to 10:00a.m., East Toledo Senior Activities Center, 1001 White Street.

November 3 Toledo Area AFL-CIO 38th Annual Dinner at Seagate Convention Center at 6:00pm. For tickets call 419.241.1851

November 3 Perry Burroughs Democratic Women's Club - Annual Red, White & Blue Dance Erie Street Market, 8:00 p.m. to 12:45 a.m. Donation: \$15.00, Contact: Yvonne Harper, 419-243-2337

November 3 The Northwest Ohio Black Media Association is sponsoring a debate between school board candidates at the Kent Branch Library at from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

November 3 School Board Candidate Ted Jobe will be having a fundraiser at Goodie's Sports Bar from 2 to 6 pm. Taco dinner is served. Donation: \$10.

November 4 Rep. Peter Ujvagi Annual Fall Chicken Paprikas Dinner. St. Stephen's Church, Consaul St. (across from Tony Packo's). Donation: \$35.00pp.

A Vote for Traynum

A recent article written by Johnny Hildo in The City Paper refers to Ronnell Traynum, candidate for Toledo City Council, as a true political novice. At first blush it seems the writer is being critical of Ronnell Traynum with the "dripping wet" and "fat and sassy" descriptive phrases. Upon further reading it is really a negative assessment of the B Team Democrats.

Although much of the writing seems to be "tongue in cheek" commentary, I agree with the writer that Ronnell believed she would get the endorsement and, in fact, word on the street is that she was promised exactly that. Does anyone remember that her opponent is reported to have signed an affidavit stating that he would never seek the Democratic Party's endorsement? The "word" also is that the Screening Committee recommended the endorsement of Ronnell, but that the Executive Committee did not follow the recommendation. This would not be the first time that the Executive Committee ignored the results and recommendations of the Screening Committee.

Some of us remember when Edna Brown didn't get the party endorsement but went on to win. Many folks would agree that our District 4 hasn't had real and fair representation since Edna left for the Statehouse. As a business and development professional in District 4, I pledge Ronnell my support.

Yes she is new... but new is not naive. New is fresh and clean. Ronnell has a great story to tell, a wealth of good will and good motivation. In the few short months she has been a candidate, we have seen her in the District 4 more than we have seen our current councilman during his entire term. You notice that I didn't say "representative." That is due to the fact that the warehouse district has had no representation from the current council member since he was elected in the district. In fact, he has lobbied hard against most warehouse district initiatives during his entire term. To District 4's benefit, several other council members have been attentive to the needs of business and home owners in the near downtown neighborhoods.

It looks like a tough uphill battle, but let's not count Ronnell Traynum out. There is hope for a strong, sensible Democratic presence and hopefully Ronnell Traynum will be among those who bring it on!

Kathy Steingraber
Manager, St. Clair Village

Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund and Central City Ministries Present Third Annual Celebrity Wait "Tip or Treat"

Special to The Truth

The Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund and Central City Ministry of Toledo present their third annual Celebrity Wait, *Tip or Treat*, 6:30 p.m., Monday, October 29, at Real Seafood located in International Park. Money raised at this event will assist the students of the Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund and the Central City Ministry schools.

"Tip or Treat is a fun evening with your friends and a great way to raise money for children's education in northwest Ohio," said Richard LaValley, Jr., this year's honorary chairman.

Proceeds from this event provide scholarships to students in the area. The Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund has awarded over 5,000 need-based scholarships totaling more than \$5.5 million to students in our community over the past nine years. Currently, over 800 students from Lucas, Wood and Fulton counties are receiving scholarships from the Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund to attend a private school for grades kindergarten through eighth grade for the 2007-2008 school year.

Central City Ministries of Toledo has a 40-year history of supporting the mission of Catholic education to students of the central city, with nearly 700 students currently enrolled at four campuses: Rosary Cathedral, Queen of Apostles, St. Charles Borromeo, and Pope John Paul II.

Tickets are \$40 per person and include choice of four entrees, salad, dessert, coffee or tea. Reservations can be made by calling (419) 244-6711, ext. 217.



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Ted Jobe: Running for School Board Because of His Concern for Children

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

This is Ted Jobe's first time running for political office and as he settles into a chair to talk about his race for the Toledo Board of Education, he voices the dismay and surprise that is so common among those making their first run for elective office.

from what I'm hearing, you might believe that 80 to 80 percent are incompetent and I cannot believe that.

"Where are you going to get a whole bunch of black, male teachers? Where are you going to get black teachers in general?" says Jobe on the issue of the dearth of African-American male teachers.

He runs through the sac-

the womb."

Don't blame the teachers when students come to school so woefully unprepared, says Jobe.

"Charter schools are a scam to steal public tax money," says Jobe displaying a noticeable lack of patience with the alternative option for inner city students. "The 'well-to-do' move to Perrysburg or

"Charter schools are a scam to steal public tax money," ... "The

'well-to-do' move to Perrysburg or Sylvania, to a 'better neighborhood.'

Now, there are better African-American students whose parents may not have the option to move and they may end up sending their children to a charter school. But those charter schools don't have to have certified teachers." ~ Ted Jobe

"Someone has been taking my signs," he tells us recalling his initial disbelief when he discovered that such things could actually happen in politics.

And, of course, there's that old money thing. He needs more of it to make his final push as Election Day approaches. Running for office is not at all like teaching school, which Jobe did for 36 years at Libbey High School before he retired in 2005.

Even after retirement, teaching was not easy to forsake. Jobe continued to substitute teach in the Toledo Public Schools system for several years.

So why give up teaching for the school board?

"After 38 years of working with kids, I'm concerned about their well-being and their education," says Jobe. "I can't do anything about what happens in the home or the neighborhood, but I can do something about education. I bring a vast, unique knowledge of the operations of the Toledo Public Schools, not necessarily complete but it's more than most have."

And with that we launch into our discussion on the four major issues that The Truth has been having with the school board candidates: teacher competence/diversity, student academic achievement, charter schools/vouchers and the Toledo Plan/Intern Program.

"Teaching is an industry, not unlike any other industry," says Jobe. "Most teachers are competent but as with any other profession there are a few who are not. But

rities he has made because of his dedication to the profession and notes that such a calling, coupled with the financial sacrifices, is not an easy draw for young, black males graduating from college who have opportunities presented to them that an earlier generation did not.

Even more importantly, he is not at all convinced that the call for 'role models who look like the student' is a critical component for educational success. "On the other hand, if a child really wants to learn, he can learn from anybody," says Jobe.

"I'm promoting responsible education," he says. "It starts at the top with the Board of Education, then the administration, the school and the teachers. There is more than one element [involved]."

"African-American students give lip service to the value of education but they don't really see it," says Jobe as we segue into the matter of student achievement. "Education is a time-consuming process and kids today want instant gratification."

"Where does the preparation start? It starts at home," says Jobe. "On the day they were born. So if you only have one parent you are 50 percent behind the eight-ball and if you were born to a young mother, without an education herself, you are even further behind."

Jobe observes that the one sense that has the greatest impact on a child's development is hearing and that impact starts "even in

Sylvania, to a 'better neighborhood.' Now, there are better African-American students whose parents may not have the option to move and they may end up sending their children to a charter school. But those charter schools don't have to have certified teachers."

And as for the Intern Program, Jobe expresses the belief that, as with so many policy decisions in life, the "pendulum will swing back" eventually and more power will transfer back into the hands of principals to make the decision about which teachers should be retained in their schools.

Nevertheless, Jobe reminds his interviewer of just why the Intern Program was implemented in the first place – the notorious abuses of power by certain individuals who held the position of principal.

"I think the Intern Program has merit and perhaps maybe the pendulum has swung so far that collaboration between the principal and others needs to be established," says Jobe. He recommends that the principal, the mentor and a third "disinterested party" be involved in the evaluation process of the first-year teacher.

Jobe may not be the most visible of the seven candidates for the two open school board seats. He tried, but failed, to earn the endorsement of the Lucas County Democratic Party. He doesn't have the resources or the name recognition that most of his opponents have. But he is not without a clear cut



strategy in his pursuit of the seat.

Jobe has reached a lot of young people over the years. He is counting on the fact that he has touched so many lives to carry him to victory.

He is also relying on the fact that many Toledoans will remember his glory days in the backfield for Scott High School when he was the leading rusher and scorer for the Bull Dogs.

"If one half of one half of the students I have impacted come out and vote for me," says Jobe. "I think I have a good chance."



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Ishmael Beah: How War Killed His Soul and Gave It Back

By Alexis Randles
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

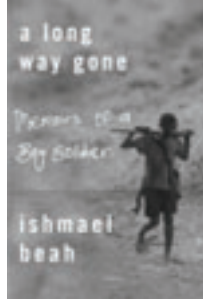
Ishmael Beah, the author of a book on the New York Times' best-selling list titled *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*, was welcomed in Toledo on Friday October 12 at The University of Toledo.

The program, presented in the Student Union auditorium, served as a conclusion to the freshmen summer reading assignment. The attending crowd was estimated at nearly 800. Many freshmen and upper-classmen sat in anticipation to finally put a voice to Beah's biography.

Quite frankly, had it not been for his strong Sierra Leonean accent, you would probably have mistaken him for a typical American hip-hop aficionado. Beah, a West African civil war survivor, grew up like many African-Americans, idolizing and mimicking musicians such as Run DMC, Heavy D and the Sugar Hill Gang. However, what separated him from his American hip-hop counterparts was his tragic story as a child sol-

dier in his native land of Sierra Leone.

"I grew up listening to the same music that people my age were listening to here [in the U.S.] but our lives took different roles," said Beah. "I was rhyming like LL Cool J, 'I need love,' and at that time I really did need love but no one was giving it to me," joked Beah.



At the age of 13, he was introduced to the violent and brutal world of warfare. The civil war that had already been going on for a few years in his country had unexpectedly overtaken his innocent town. After being separated

from his family, whom were later killed by the Sierra Leone rebels, he was forced to trade in his old cassette tapes, which symbolized the remains of his childhood, for AK's and other artillery. He was thrust into a lifestyle that no person would willingly choose.

"People have asked me 'so what do you mean you were forcefully recruited in the war?'" said Beah. "There was no choice... they did not come to you and ask you, 'would you like to join us?' Absolutely not! You were asked to either join or you were killed."

He was forced to become a child soldier or he would have been left for dead. As the war progressed, the Sierra Leonean army had slowly desensitized him and turned him into a killing machine that was addicted to 'brown-brown,' which was a combination of gunpowder and cocaine. Beah, started to believe that he and the soldiers were doing the right thing, "I was surviving...my life de-



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pended upon it," he recalled.

Throughout the evening, 26 year-old Beah, continually pointed out that he is no hero or martyr but simply someone that he hopes others can learn from. He went on to explain to the audience why he felt obligated to share his story.

"I wrote this book really as it came out of frustration of people not knowing where I was from, when I moved to the United States," said Beah. "I felt a bit upset that people not only didn't know about my country or about the war that was going on."

Beah revealed that it was then he realized he could not expect people to have sympathy for him, his country or that culture if they had no clue about what was going on. He wanted to write a book that showed people how the culture,

community, traditions and the value systems collapsed and disintegrated due to violence that had overtaken his country. He further explained why it was so important that the book be written through a child's perspective, which he was during that time. "Violence starves children from ever knowing their own humanity, from knowing themselves and what they are capable of," said Beah.

At the end of the program, before opening up the floor to questions, Beah lastly stressed the importance of education. He spoke about how education is a journey to discover yourself and who you are."

He urged the young students to not take their education for advantage because it is not accessible to everyone. Reminiscing on his encounters with education, "I come from a place

where not many people are privileged with education, to go to school or have school supplies," said Beah. "And I began to realize that people do not appreciate the privilege of being able to have an education in this country sometimes."

He told the students not to go to school because your parents will not let you stay at home or because it is the thing to do when you are a young person. He advised students to think about how education can benefit themselves as well as others. "And when you are in the classroom I want you to think of what you are learning and how you can apply it," said Beah.

He concluded the evening by telling UT students not to limit themselves to their world which is only a tiny microcosm of a greater world. "Think about exposing yourself to the world more... I know how easy it is to forget, that the world exists beyond where we are," he concluded.

To learn more about Sierra Leone and other current issues such as the blood diamond trade, he encouraged his audience to visit the UNICEF website and HRW.org, which advocates for children and human rights.



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Medicine Is Not Just a Calling ... It's Also a Business

Sojourner's Truth Staff

"We should be prepared in medical school to think that we are going into business, not just into a service," said Dr. Hope Mitchell addressing medical students and faculty on The University of Toledo's Health Science Campus on October 11.

Dr. Mitchell, a local dermatologist whose practice has been located in the Perrysburg area since 1998, was part of a three-person panel of medical school graduates who returned to the former Medical College of Ohio to discuss the business of medicine and the range of options for which students should begin preparing themselves.

Joining Dr. Mitchell on the podium were Dr. Bryan Baugh, virology medical liaison with Roche Pharmaceu-

tal she wanted to go eventually into private practice.

The Brooklyn native, who earned an undergraduate degree at the University of Rochester before graduating from MCO in 1994, advised students who want to enter a competitive field to keep their grades up, of course, and to pursue the types of internships during school that would help them stand out from the crowd.

She advised those who want to enter private practice to maintain a good credit record. And, of course, for those finishing a decade or more of higher education, that most often means not defaulting on student loans.

Dr. Mitchell joined a group practice after completing her training and launched her own private practice after six years with the group.



Photo Courtesy of: University of Toledo



Dr. Hope Mitchell

ticals, and Dr. Kevin Douglas, interim associate medical director for inflammation with UCB Pharma, Inc.

"I run my business," said Dr. Mitchell. By that she explained that she handled all of the related aspects, particularly the financial ones, of managing a business herself – the accounting procedures, opening the checks, making the deposits, filing the proper insurance paperwork, and so forth.

Dr. Mitchell described her career's journey for the students' benefits and urged them to start planning immediately for the options they would face in the future. Some such options, which the three physicians were there to address, include – group practice or private practice, getting into a competitive specialty, working in the pharmaceutical industry.

Dr. Mitchell decided early that she wanted to enter dermatology, a very competitive specialty. She also recognized early in the process

related illnesses, Dr. Baugh was director of HIV services at the Whitman-Walker Clinic for five years before joining Roche. At Roche, he continues to work in the HIV field.

"We are all conditioned to think that pharmaceuticals are bad," said Baugh during his presentation. "But the type of company you work for matters. Some are bad, especially when they tweak and manipulate the data. For me, it was important to find a company that aligns itself with my values, that is committed to serving the underserved population."

Dr. Douglas, who graduated in 1998 and earned his bachelor's from the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, iterated the same point during his opportunity to address the audience.

"The key is reputation," he said of pharmaceutical companies, "and making sure the company is distributing data in a fair way."

Both Drs. Baugh and

Douglas noted that one of the typical ethical problems with the way pharmaceuticals handled research staff was tying pay to sales. "There can be a cloudy line between sales and medical affairs," said Dr. Douglas, currently an Indianapolis resident.

"When your pay is dependent on sales – that can be an unethical situation,"

said Dr. Baugh.

Both doctors also echoed the Dr. Mitchell's sentiments about the need to look upon the practice of medicine as a business.

Following the panel discussion and the question and answer session, the MCO alumni attended a meet and greet reception at the Hilton Hotel Faculty Club sponsored by the UT Health Sci-

ence College of Medicine Alumni, the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) and members of the President's Committee of African American Recruitment, Retention and Scholarship Support.

SNMA is a national association of African-American medical students.



Dr. Bryan Baugh

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Toledo Chapter of Jack and Jill Celebrates 55th Anniversary*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

Members of the Toledo Chapter of Jack and Jill of American, Inc. celebrated the group's 55th anniversary on Saturday, October 20 with a Diamonds & Pearls Legends Gospel Brunch at the Bradywine Country Club.

The celebration gave the members an opportunity not only to reflect on the organization's 55 years of service to the community, especially in memory of those legends who founded the chapter, but also to honor a number of present-day leaders – the legends who have contributed so much to the community.

"In the spirit of Oprah's awe-inspiring Legends Ball Gala weekend and Pearl Cleage's memorable poem titled 'We Speak Your Names,' today, we the members of The Toledo Chapter of Jack and Jill of American, Inc., also pay homage to the tremendous path of success laid by our true Legends, the Chapter's founders and today's honorees," wrote Rhonda Sewell, event chairman, of the reason for Saturday's gala.

The "Pearl Legends" hon-

ored were Judi Ellis, Kathy Gregory, Barbie Harrison, WilliAnn Moore and Edna Robertson. The "Diamond

McDuffie, Diana Patton and Celine Kabwasa-Woods.

The program began with a praise dance by the Positive

rector Sheila Gibson, and a musical selection by the Jack and Jill Children, directed by club member Marlene Harris-Taylor.

After an invocation by Associate Chaplain Vera Rice, the chapter and the Pearl and Diamond Legends, received resolutions presented by Lucas County Commissioner Ben Konop and by Toledo City Council President Michael Ashford acknowledging the club's 55 years of service to the area.

Harris-Taylor thrilled the overflow audience with her rendition of "Center of My Joy" as did soloist Alberta Jean Reed who sang "Honor, Honor" and "Were You There."

Sewell then introduced the chapter's president, Cynthia Tetterton Williams, and commended her for her leadership role over the past few years. Citing the chapter's resurgence during Williams' tenure, Sewell noted: "We are back because of this lady here, because of her dedication, because of her leadership."

Then followed the presentations to the afternoon's honorees.

Judi Ellis is a retired vice president of National City Bank and co-founder of the Kevin Ellis Foundation. Ellis started the foundation after the death of her son, Kevin. Her group provides mentoring for youth and parents, financial support for families in need and fills the communication gap between children and parents.

Kathy Gregory is an Instructional Planning Consultant for the Toledo Public Schools and a former principal of the Old West End Academy. She works with underperforming schools and helps prepare them for educational changes, testing and grading. She is widely credited with guiding the turnaround of the Old West End Academy.

Barbie Harrison is president/CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Ohio. Harrison has worked with youth for years, starting in the church, as a teacher, mentor, youth leader and motivator. Under her leadership, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Ohio has become



Asha Barnes and Cynthia Tetterton Williams

one of the most effective youth organizations in the area.

WilliAnn Moore is the president of the Toledo Chapter of the NAACP and is a retired teacher. She has been a longtime advocate for social change and has also worked for a community development organization to help enrich the lives of those in need in the central city.

Edna Robertson is a retired Toledo Public Schools principal and administrator who has continued, long after retirement, to remain involved with community advocacy for youth. A member

A graduate of St. Ursula Academy and Bowling Green State University, Boles has worked for Spike Lee, the Billie Holiday Theater and Glamour magazine. She is the author of three published novels.

Sherita Evans is an HIV Risk Reduction Specialist for Planned Parenthood of Northwest Ohio and is a frequent speaker on the subject of HIV/AIDS. She focuses on educating youth to understand the reality of HIV/AIDS and getting tested.

Lisa McDuffie is the executive director of the YWCA of Greater Toledo whose mission is the elimina-



Marlene Harris-Taylor

of several of service organizations, Robertson continues to be a driving force in her commitment and dedication to education and the Toledo public school system.

Diamond Legend Philana Boles is a novelist, playwright, spoken word artist and entertainment promoter.

tion of racism and the empowerment of women. The YWCA is a resource for childcare providers, promotes quality care in homes and centers and helped parents find quality care. McDuffie has overseen the development of the YWCA's annual Milestones Awards, perhaps the premiere event in northwest Ohio that recognizes the achievement of local women.

Diana Patton is an attorney and the founder and creator of Equilibria, LLC, a holistic health business. She is a certified Holistic Health Counselor who is in constant demand as a speaker and presenter in her mission championing the cause of good

(Continued on Page 11)



Diana Patton

Legends" were Philana Marie Boles, Sherita Evans, Lisa Force Dancers, choreographed by founder and di-

Bonita Bead Gives Back

Beadforlife tries to eliminate extreme poverty by creating bridges of understanding between hard working and impoverished African and North Americans who want to create a world that works for all. Ugandan women turn colorful recycled paper, into beautiful beads. This beauty becomes income, food, medicine, school fees, and hope. It is a small miracle. Our members are women with children living on less than two dollars a day. Many have fled the war Northern Uganda. Others live with HIV and other serious health challenges. They are incredibly welcoming, hardworking, resilient, and creative.

North Americans partner with Ugandans by opening hearts, homes, and communities to buy and sell beads. All profits from Beadforlife with the community development projects that generate income and to help people escape extreme poverty. This circle of caring and participating enriches us all.

Bonita Bead Gives Back

Join Bonita Bead Boutique on Saturday, November 3 as we welcome the Beadforlife jewelry. Proceeds from all sales will be sent to the Ugandan women that work hard for their creativity. Ann comments, "in the past 16 years of beading I have heard many stories about beading but, this story is meaningful because North American were the founders for BEADFORLIFE and they wanted to make a difference for these women it is amazing how all of us women can work together and make things happen!"



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Sherita Evans and Lisa McDuffie

Legends Luncheon Features Toledo-Born Poet Mari Evans

By Geneva J. Chapman,
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

"Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us," sang youthful voices full of "the hope that the present has taught us," opening the African American Legacy Project's 2007 "Legends" luncheon, "celebrating the history of Northwest Ohio's African-American contributors," Saturday, October 13, 2007, at the Toledo Riverfront Hotel.

The Scott High School Chorale carried on a tradition of the annual celebration: the singing of James Weldon Johnson's composition, fondly known as 'The National Black Anthem.' Singing *a cappella*, the finely-tuned vocal ensemble, under the direction of Latonya Crawford-Johnson, performed a choral arrangement of the hymn that demonstrated their musical prowess as they used a variance of dynamics, tempos and harmonies to give texture and nuance to a well-known melody.

Crawford-Johnson moved them from consonant to dissonant harmonies effortlessly, with predictable resolution that nevertheless produced rich and moving textures throughout the piece.

Standing solemnly and respectfully, hundreds listened in raptured silence to a work of art and were moved, not only by the famous words that describe a history of a people, but by the joyous and meticulous performance of a beloved piece of music by a generation that is just learning about that history.

The African-American Legacy Project, by inviting those young people to share in that tradition, made them a part of the history it preserves and celebrates.

Chorale members are Dominique Woodard, Brianna Williams, Dynasty Davis, Christal Epps, Ta'tiana Watson, Jazmine Edwards, Laphonso Witcher, Shane Dailey, Drake Forte, Charles Miller, Tyler Thames and Nicholas Williams.

Another tradition of the "Legends" luncheon is the formal presentation of Kente cloth stoles to each of the honorees. This ritual of respect serves to introduce those we revere, as well as to provide them with a symbolic and beautiful token of appreciation. "I've learned a lot about respecting those who came before us," said co-hostess and native Toledoan Kristian Brown, WTVG 13 ABC. "I've also learned a lot about securing and preserving that legacy."

This year's honorees re-

resented the arts, education, law, business and civil service: Mari Evans, Emerson Ross Jr., Judges Robert Franklin and Vernelis Armstrong, Dorothy Day and Frank Goldie. Presenters included some of Toledo's African-American community's emerging leaders: Sandra Rivers, Gina Thompson, Yolanda Gwinn, Esq., Marci Cannon Fisher, Esq., Michael Day and John Jones.

Consummate elegance, another tradition of the "Legends" luncheon, was not only evident in the attire of the 500 plus guests, but in a delectable meal served on beautifully dressed tables. Caught between the last vestiges of summer flowers and the first glimpses of fall foliage, along with climatological changes that had us sweltering in 90 degrees not a week earlier and shivering in temperatures that barely climbed to 60 degrees the day of the luncheon, the genteel set that came to support the worthy cause of preserving our history managed somehow to look stunning in 'fallsummer' haute couture.

They were suited, sweated, sueded, leathered, ruffled, laced, knitted, crocheted, d'colletaged, well heeled and warmly wrapped in early fall/late summer fabrics, colors, textures and prints. Prior to lunch, Dr. S. Amjad Hussain, UT Board of Directors; Mark Butler, Marathon Petroleum and Pete Gerken, Lucas County Commissioner, made remarks.

Mayor of Toledo Carlton S. Finkbeiner gave a proclamation from the city the evening before the luncheon at a reception for the honorees.

Following a fervent and celebratory prayer by Rev. Chester Ricks, pastor of Philip Temple C.M.E., a scrumptious gourmet luncheon was served on tables decorated by towering goblets of rose-colored glass with rose tea lights nestled inside. Placards on each table advertised the new African-American cable channel, TV-One. Wild greens with raspberry salad started a meal that featured as its main dish Chicken Breasts Stuffed with Spinach and Cheese and rice pilaf and crisp wax and green beans

with carrots as side dishes.

The meal ended with a choice of luscious desserts accompanied by hot cups of coffee.

Bill Harris, former local broadcaster, who assumed WTOL's Larry Whatley's co-host duties when the minister left to preside over a wedding, made an important announcement during dinner.

"For the first time, the African-American Legacy Project is seeking community support," said Harris, adding that memberships in the non-profit organization are now being offered to the community. Brown presented the first membership to James Sneed, a volunteer who has been active in the organization for a year. She then introduced the first keynote speaker, Marsha Bonhart, anchor/reporter at WDTN Channel 2 in Dayton and a native Toledoan.

Brown shared that Barnhart has been an inspiration and a mentor to her. "I would not make a move without consulting her," said Brown. "I want to be like her when I grow up!" exclaimed an admiring Barnhart, speaking of Brown's meteoric rise in Toledo's broadcasting ranks.

Barnhart said that whenever she comes 'home,' she makes a point to watch Brown anchoring the weekend news and has marveled at her growth. "Thomas Wolfe was wrong when he said you can't go home again," she said. "You can."

Barnhart bemoaned the loss of the old Robinson Junior High School to make room for a new middle school, recalling her time growing up in the neighborhood around the school.

"It sort of connected all of the people who lived behind it, in front of it, beside it," she said. "I was not connected to the school academically, but there was an emotional tie."

She talked about the social skills children in her neighborhood developed, bartering and bickering, negotiating and strategizing on the playground, explaining that those skills carried forth a whole generation into adulthood.

"Where we take off from our past is up to each and every one of us," she said.

"I've heard many rumors about tearing down my alma mater, Scott High School."

Barnhart described passing by Scott during her recent visit and seeing how "majestic" the building still looks and the leaders and the traditions that have emerged

planning to encourage other cities to start legacy projects like the one in Toledo's African-American community.

"To be reminded of our roots," she said, "to plant our seed firmly in soil that may not always be firm—I ask you to ask yourself what kind of

until 2005.

Crosby opened his oratory with a riveting story about a 16-year-old track star who ran herself into the ground after having already won a distance race by several laps. When asked why she punished herself by running hard the entire race, she said she'd promised her mother to do her best.

"We should not be satisfied with just winning the race," said Crosby. "We just had a young lady stripped of all her honors because she just wanted to win. It's not just about winning. We've got to do the best we can."

Relating the biblical story about the man waiting at the Pool of Bethesda for someone to help him into the healing waters, Crosby said, "We as a people cannot depend on someone else to do everything for us. We've got to do it ourselves."

Having commented at the beginning of the speech that his wife was going to wave at him when he'd talked for 22 minutes, Crosby reached the 20-minute plus mark quickly. "We've got to remember what we're here for and we've got

(Continued on Page 20)



Robert Smith

"from the rich history behind those walls."

Finally, Barnhart lauded the African-American Legacy Project and Robert Smith, who she revealed is

footprints are you leaving?"

Keynote speaker Emerald Alexander Crosby, Ed.D., served as assistant principal and principal in the Detroit School System from 1968

Metroparks of the Toledo Area Announces Open MIC Youth Sessions

The Metroparks of the Toledo Area announced that the Open MIC Youth Sessions and "Artists Meet and Greet" reception will be held on Sunday October 28, 2007 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Manor House located in the Wildwood Preserve, 5100 W. Central Avenue, Toledo, OH.

The event will present performances representing youths and young professionals between the ages 14-25 years to highlight talents in music, poetry and dance. The Community HeARTbeats Program will sponsor an art display featuring works from the Global Youth Parliament Delegates. The Open MIC Youth Sessions are free and open to the general public.

The young professionals performing will be Madd Poets Society Youth from Toledo, Ohio and featured guest artist Tyler Starks from Columbus, Ohio.

Metroparks Open MIC sessions exist to ensure awareness of talented youth and establish their potential in a positive view through multiple disciplines of the arts in non-traditional environment.

Partnerships for this event are made possible with the Madd Poets Society, Jamil Lewis Multicultural Center for the Arts and Human Values for Transformative Action.

For further information please contact Corinthia Parker, Diversity Program coordinator at 419-407-9720.

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Suzan-Lori Parks' Pulitzer Prize Winning Play, "Topdog/Underdog" Plays to SRO Crowds at UT

By Geneva J. Chapman,
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Students with notebooks arrived at the University of Toledo's Studio Theatre early to get good seats, Sunday October 7, 2007. It was a good thing they did, since the small theatre quickly filled up, leaving standing room only.

Firmly grasping pen and paper, the students held on for dear life for two-and-a-half hours that they would never have experienced had it not been for a class assignment.

Their assignment? See a Pulitzer Prize-winning play.

This may not sound like a difficult assignment. It might have been an easy assignment had they been sent to critique some lightweight comedy or witty farce or even the kinds of drama and avant-garde plays typical of so many college theatrical productions.

Always diverse and willing on take on a challenge, UT's Theatre Department doesn't tend to do the expected. So the students who came to the performance October 7, were treated to a theatrical masterpiece, "Topdog/Underdog," written by acclaimed African-American playwright Suzan-Lori Parks.

"Like the title suggests, "Topdog/Underdog" is a play about competition, reversals and mirror images that

reflect the true self" (E-Notes, 10/2/07).

Nothing about Parks, the first African-American woman to receive the Pulitzer Prize in drama in 2002, is typical or expected. There is a bit of the avant-garde, a lot of the dramatic, frequent witti-

plot line – she will alter the mood, change the focus and mess up your head.

"Topdog/Underdog" is no exception, except that, unlike most of Parks' work, it is readily accessible to all audiences, regardless of intellect, education and social

were watching actors and not two actual brothers living in cramped quarters on meager earnings. Michael Eric Dyson, professor of religious studies at DePaul University, observes in a 5/24/02 article posted on the website SeeingBlack.com, "The play's language is both metaphorical and musical, flush with insight about the human condition that spits form the character's mouths like so many blues notes."

In Carter's capable hands, the two-and-a-half-hour-long play seemed neither long nor tedious. Actors Tyree Troutman ("Booth") and Danny Ledsinger ("Lincoln") kept the pace energetic and the action and dialog believable.

Troutman is a senior at UT and a theatre major while Ledsinger is a 2006 alumni with a B.A. in communications. They had a natural chemistry that made their scenes together memorable, but were strong enough, particularly Ledsinger, in their solo scenes to keep the audience engaged.

Ledsinger performed particularly well in one scene that Jim Carey would envy.

Knowing her audience, Carter took advantage of every opportunity to use humor to sustain interest and reel in Toledo's African-American community, which supported the production in fairly large numbers, but which has been inoculated against legitimate theatre by the comic romps that regularly pass through the Stranahan, passing themselves off as plays when they're often nothing more than updated minstrel shows and melodramatic morality plays.

Carter successfully reeled the "Madeah" crowd into the story thanks to the two talented actors she was smart enough to cast in the roles of brothers, Lincoln and Booth.

Ledsinger and Troutman had large shoes to fill following in the footsteps of Jeffrey Wright and Don Cheadle who originated the roles on Broadway, and Mos Def who later replaced Cheadle and won an Obie for his role, along with Wright.

Under Carter's direction, Troutman and Ledsinger cap-

tured the true-to-life camaraderie that can quickly turn to tension between men, especially brothers with a history of betrayal and distrust living together in a one-room efficiency.

Issues of abandonment define the characters of "Lincoln" and "Booth," so named by their father as a joke. Having been left by their parents at the ages of 16 and 11, they've been fending for themselves as hustlers, boosters and buffoons for years with little to show for it.

Lincoln has a failed marriage to add to his truckload of emotional baggage and Booth has the guilt of having slept with his brother's wife.

Manipulating her audience adroitly, rather than heavy-handedly like the writers of the melodramatic plots in those "gospel" plays at the Stranahan, Carter had the audience laughing hilariously moments before listening quietly and intensely to Lincoln describe how he feels playing Abraham Lincoln in a shooting arcade.

The intensity of the moment was partially due to the absurdity of people paying to shoot a black man in white face pretending to be an assassinated president. In the midst of what sounds like a tasteless joke instead of "gainful employment," we hear Lincoln's confusion and pathos.

More laughter erupted when brother Booth helped Lincoln rehearse, but only for a moment. In the blink of an eye, the tension between the two brothers boiled to the surface and the audience was left with a dire feeling of doom as the first half of the play ended.

Audiences and critics alike have marveled at Parks' grasp of the male psyche in "Topdog/Underdog." Parks' characters, Lincoln and Booth are the Everymen of relationships between brothers, regardless of race, culture or ethnic group. They capture all of the closeness, rage, love, resentment and emotional bonds, shared hurts and estrangements entailed in such familial relationships.

As played by Ledsinger, Lincoln was as complex a

character as Willie Lomax in Arthur Miller's "Death of a Salesman." Ledsinger's urban, 21st Century African-American male in his 20's is as tortured as Lomax's 1949 white, working-class male approaching retirement.

Seemingly more optimistic than Lomax's character, Lincoln's character still senses the futility of his efforts to earn a decent living. As written by Parks, the role of Booth is as complex as that of Shakespeare's "Hamlet."

However, despite obvious talent, Troutman's portrayal did not bring the complexity and intensity needed in the role until the very end of the play.

While Ledsinger's performance was layered and multi-dimensional, bringing all of Lincoln's many facets to the surface, Troutman performed on a two-dimensional level – angry and not angry – throughout the play until the last moments when he finally rose to his level of talent and showed the audience the actor he will some day become.

Although Booth's hopelessness and vacillation was in his dialog and in the plot of the play, the audience did not see either until the last riveting moments of the production.

However, to his credit, Troutman did a fine job of mastering half of a two-person, two-and-a-half hour drama, a feat usually only accomplished by such actors as Wright, Cheadle and Mos Def.

Perhaps that is why Ledsinger is such a revelation. Maybe he's not completely at the level of those pros yet, but he is so close, he is within arm's reach of a professional career.

Equally at home with dramatic and comedic dialog, Ledsinger is totally at ease on stage, despite not being very adept at Three Card Monte (who outside of New York is?) His strength is the ease with which he puts on his character, as easily as Lincoln puts on his Abraham Lincoln face, beard, suit and hat – that is until the last time when he is moving out of Booth's room.

Ledsinger's antics left the
(Continued on Page 12)



Photo by: Terry Fell

cisms, occasional farcical moments and even comedy in Parks' plays.

But even with all of the usual theatrical devices, Parks manages to take her audience places they've never been before. Just when you think you know what's going on, see the punch line coming, can telescope the

class.

Directed by Sylvia Carter with the skill gleaned from her twenty years of professional experience, UT's production did justice to Parks' most celebrated work.

The play is consummate theatre with dialog that sounds so natural the audience seemed to forget they



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The Study Hour Club Showcases — The Anosike Artistry

Special to The Truth

The Study Hour Club, a group of community women dedicated to enhancing the lives of others and encouraging young people to excel, will showcase the musical talents of local "child prodigies." Jane and Phil Anosike, during a special concert—free to all—scheduled Sunday, October 28, 2007, beginning at 4:00 PM at All Saint's Episcopal Church, located at 563 Pinewood Avenue, Toledo, Ohio. This dynamic brother and sister duo promises to delight those in attendance with an hour-long vocal and piano showcase of classical and traditional African-American music.

What has become known as The Anosike Artistry began as a new father's attempt to keep his young, precocious daughter—not only quiet, but busy as well. On the days his wife worked nights as a nurse, Phil, Sr., then an undergrad at Texas Southern University in Houston, Texas, somehow managed to successfully multi-task baby-sitting with practicing his piano and vocal music assignments—all to the delight of his daughter.

Phil Anosike, Sr., an accomplished musician and composer in his own right, started young Jane with the usual kiddie tunes of *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star* and *Mary Had a Little Lamb*, but soon realized that besides being a "quick study," his daughter had "quite a set of pipes for such a young girl," he said with obvious pride during a recent interview.

"Jane and Phil, Jr. got into music by copying me," said the proud papa. "I made sure Jane stayed in her singing range, but by the time she was four, even her day care director was beginning to notice just how much she enjoyed singing," he related.

"At night, I used to lie down on a blanket on the floor," Jane recalled, "listening to my father practice his music." The young woman went on to say, "Singing and playing music just came naturally to me; it has always been my passion."

Jane Anosike's first "big appearance" came in 1991 when she was just five-years old. She'd practiced *The Lord's Prayer* with her dad and was encouraged to sing the gospel standard one day during services, at the Seventh Day Adventist Church the Anosike's attended in Houston. By all accounts,

when Jane finished, the astounded congregation roared to their feet, giving the young "child star" her first standing ovation. "How could such a little girl have such a big voice," they exclaimed. It was, undoubtedly, a sign of things to come...

Phil, Jr. joined the family in 1989, to the utter dismay of his sister, Jane. "I don't want a naughty little brother," her parents remember her wailing in the hospital ward. But thankfully, that initial jealous streak, has long-since faded into a bond of mutual respect that's very evident when the two siblings perform together center stage.

Was Phil, Jr. a "natural musician" as well? "No, no, no!" Phil, Sr. stressed with a chuckle. "It was quite a struggle at first, to get my son oriented toward music," he admitted. "But, as time went on, Phil, Jr. got used to it and is now critically-acclaimed for his energetic and versatile style of piano playing," said their dad. "I've learned to embrace all forms of music," said Phil, Jr. recently. "I always want to get a piece correct. I want to be precise, to be accurate," he shared with a maturity beyond his years.

Jane started her formal music training with her dad in 1995, the same year Phil, Sr. opened his own music studio—Music Pro—in Houston, where he taught not only his children, but other promising young students—the fine art of becoming classically-trained pianists and musicians.

By 2001, the young family had moved to northwest Ohio thanks to the opportunity their dad had to pursue his doctorate in Foundations of Education at The University of Toledo, where Jane, now a 21-year-old piano performance major, also attends. Phil, Jr., 18, is a senior at Rogers High School and even though he's made a name for himself as a master pianist, like most teenagers his age, he maintains an appreciation for all types of music—including rock and hip-hop.

To make sure Jane and Phil, Jr.'s piano skills advance to the next level, their dad with the help of Dorothy McKenzie Price, sought out the best piano scholar they could find in the area. As a result, both Jane and Phil Anosike, Jr. are piano students of Michael Boyd, Ph.D., a well-known and highly-respected piano professor and performer at The University of Toledo. What's

more for the past two years, Jane has been a vocal student of George Shirley, a retired African-American professor of music at The University of Michigan—Ann Arbor, who is considered by many to be a "living legend" in metropolitan opera circles.

Even though Phil Anosike, Sr. manages the day-to-day aspects of his children's budding professional careers, it is their mom, Chinaza Anosike, a registered nurse, who has steadfastly encouraged and supported the brother and sister duo "to reach for the stars." Stated Phil, Sr. recently, "Without my wife, there would be no Anosike Artistry." The two met as "high school sweethearts" in Nigeria. Later, once the young couple moved to Houston, Texas—in pursuit of the proverbial "American Dream"—they became U.S. citizens. Both of their children were born in Houston and thrived in the supportive art scene there.

The Study Hour Club was founded in 1933 by Bessie M. Marsh, a pioneering Toledo-area community and church leader. The first meeting of the 11-member group was held October 2, 1933 at the home of the late Elizabeth English. Initial meetings were held in members' homes or at the Frederick Douglas Community Center. Given the size of today's Study Hour Club, meetings are held at various public libraries and other venues which can accommodate members and their guests in a relaxed, inviting environment.

The Anosike's are not the first musical or literary sensations The Study Hour Club has showcased in its 74-year history. Others featured by the group in the past include: 1) Philippa Schuyler—noted 12-year-old child prodigy, pianist and composer, whose recital was held April 3, 1945, at the Frederick Douglas Community Center; 2) Camilla Williams—lead soprano for the New York City Opera, the first African-American named as an operatic soprano with the famed troupe; 3) Langston Hughes, recognized as one of the leading poets America has produced; and more recently, 4) Derrick Thomas, locally-renown tenor who also attended UT as a music major. Recent SHC meetings include a well-attended Political Forum held October 28, 2006, at the Sanger Branch Library, featuring nine of the 11 candidates vying for political office,



Jane and Phil Anosike, Jr.

during last November's hotly-contested mid-term elections.

The motto of The Study Hour Club is: To Enrich the Lives of the Community. In addition, Study Hour has sought to enhance the lives of the community by showcasing minority business entrepreneurs, up-and-coming students, as well as, sponsoring public meetings, debates, and presentations featuring politicians, business and community lead-

ers, authors, educators, and other notables.

Current Study Hour Club Members are: Elizabeth Banister, Jeanette Bradley, Vivian Bush, Shirley Clay (Vice-Pres.), Judi Copeland, Phyllis Crockrel, Zenobia Faulkner, Kathryn Franklin, Joyce Frost (Recording Sec.), Edith Gholston, Mattie Hamilton, Paula Hicks-Hudson, Anne Johnson, Gwen James, Marjory Jones, Patsy Kiros, Marcella Livisay, Tamara

Mickler, Laura Palmer, Marianne Payne (Keeper-of-Records), Wanda Penn, Ruby Peoples, Equilla Roach, Genie Ross (Treasurer), Odessa Rowan (Pres.), Jettie Sansbury, Dorothy Smith, Lillian Spaulding, Phyllis Stephens (Corresponding Sec.), Barbara Tucker, Denise Usher, Ethel Walden, and Linnie Willis. The chairman of this year's Special Project: *Jane and Phil Anosike In Concert* is Patsy Kiros.

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THE TATUM BASH

Birthday Celebration for the Late Jazz Pianist Art Tatum

It's a birthday celebration for the late legendary jazz pianist Art Tatum scheduled from noon to 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 27 at the Kent Branch Library, 3101 Collingwood Boulevard. The Kent Branch houses the Art Tatum African American Resource Center.

Despite being blind in one eye and only partially sighted in the other, Art Tatum, who was born in 1909 in Toledo, Ohio, became arguably one of the greatest jazz piano players who ever lived. His work has been noted to have a great impact on the world of jazz music.

Tatum died in 1956 and would have been 98-years-old this year. Jazz musicians, historians, and institutions around the world are planning 100th birthday events for Tatum in 2009, including the Kent Branch Library and the Art Tatum African American Resource Center.

Kent's upcoming festivities will include games, music, speakers, and cake and ice cream. Participants will also sing "Happy Birthday" in honor of Mr. Tatum. This celebration is FREE!

For more details and to RSVP, please call Melissa Jeter at 419.259.5392.

Mt. Nebo Celebrates 77th Anniversary



Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church's Choir opens the service on Sunday afternoon commemorating the church's 77th Anniversary. Rev. Cedric Brock is the pastor at Mt. Nebo.

Pastor Brock and his flock were joined by the congregation of Mt. Zion MBC.

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Jack and Jill Celebrates

(Continued from Page 7)

health among youth and families.

Celine Kabwasa-Woods recruits foster and adoptive families on behalf of Lucas County Children Services and focuses much of her attention on targeting loving African-American parents.

Following the presentations to the honorees and another selection by Reed ("You Can Tell the World"), the chapter passed the torch from Williams, who has served as vice president and president for five years, to incoming president Asha Barnes.

Jack and Jill of America, Inc. was founded in 1938 in Philadelphia during a meeting of 20 mothers under the leadership of Marion Stubbs Thomas with the idea of bringing together children in a quality social and cultural environment.

The Toledo Chapter was

formed in 1952 under the leadership of Catherine Holland who served as the first president. Of the charter members, three are still alive – Cleo Goldie, Thelma Wells Adams and Thelma Jones and were acknowledged by Williams during her address.



Judi Ellis and Kathy Gregory

Making The Band 4 Comes to Toledo: The Good, Bad Boys & Definitely Not Ugly

By Monique Ward
Special to The Truth

It was midnight Saturday, September 27, at the Maumee Indoor Theatre. You could hear music pulsating in background by Toledo's own DJ E.M.P.R.E.S.S. in the 500-plus capacity space. This is where the 'Dancing FOR the Stars' competition was about to take place. In an effort to raise money for the Findlay flood victims, Ahluve Consulting (along with other major sponsors) partnered with The Hancock County Red Cross in Findlay, Ohio.

Everyone in the audience was in anticipation for the show to commence. There were several groups scheduled to compete for the coveted prize – a dinner with the members of MTV's Making the Band 4! Excitement and angst filled the room as the big screen began to play popular scenes from

the hit show. Footage of the new band members – Lucky, Mike, Brian, Robert and Qwe – flashed across the canvas, highlighting clips of their trials and challenges on the show.

A few moments later that the mistress of ceremonies was announced, 13 ABC News anchor, Kristian Brown. She welcomed the crowd for coming and introduced the members of the band to the stage. For those who have watched Showtime at the Apollo and have seen what happens when a celebrity guest performs, they would be able to picture how the females in the audience reacted when the group came onto the stage. After giving their names during loud audience screams of joy, the group began to sing their hot new single "I Want You Exclusive." Most in the audience were completely blown away! Even though there weren't as many people as the



Apollo, the impact was still the same.

When their performance was over they descended the stage to their American Idol-style judge panel. It was now time to start the competition. The first group to perform would be the 'Lil Souljah Girls,' Jada Boles and Ali Reed. They danced to Soulja Boy (what a coincidence) and even though their performance was short, it was sweet. The guys gave them a nice and encouraging comment then it was on to the next contestant Mike Polk.

I personally nicknamed this guy M.J. Incarnate because he moved so much like him. As the instrumentals to Jam, Thriller and Billy Jean boomed throughout the theatre, 'Mini Mike' moon-walked across the stage as if he was the legend himself in his prime. At one point he even pulled out the shiny silver glove! His performance ended up being longer than everyone expected but he still received great comments from the band because they admitted to being big M.J. fans themselves.

The next performers were

'What's Hot Times Three,' an energetic group comprised of three young ladies by the names of Monique Allison, Mickya McGhee and Mo'essa Allen. Those girls criss-crossed, pop-locked, harlem-shaked and stepped to the Soulja Boy anthem as well. They walked off the stage gracefully with the judges admiring their spunky style and dance form.

High Voltage Dance Company followed them with a well-choreographed routine featuring eight dancers. After they were finished the band told them that they were concise.

Then came House of Adonis dancer, KeKe Go-Getter. This young man danced to a unique music mix, opened on a hand-stand and did a couple of back-flips across the stage. It wasn't until he did the moon-walk mixed with a little belly-rolling motion (in which he lifted up his white tank to show some skin) that the females in the audience lost their composure.

One wouldn't have expected the crowd to be any more pleased but then Hajera

came on. The 10-female dance troupe wore red-themed outfits and danced to "Get Me Bodied." When the song began, they started to shift in and out of various poses like models until the end of a 10-numbered countdown. When Beyonce got down to the number one on the track, they began to step and dance their hearts out. That was when everyone realized that this was undoubtedly going to be a close competition.

Hajera was the last group to perform and the judges also loved them. The Band's kindness towards the contestants led Kristian Brown to make a smart comment on how the judges were "too nice." The band laughed and politely mentioned how they weren't here to be as hard as P. Diddy was on them. Brown laughed and said "Thank God, Diddy isn't here!" which garnered a couple of "boos" from the crowd (another Apollo moment) but she quickly corrected herself and said, "You know what I mean, he can be harsh sometimes."

The judges deliberated but before the number one finalist

was announced, they gave away custom-made MTB4 jackets (with the event sponsor logos on the back) to raffle prize winners. There was also a special performance by local Christian dance group "Positive Forces." They came onstage in black jackets which they took off during the middle of their performance, revealing shirts that were colored blue, green, white and pink. Each color group danced together during their solo. Positive Forces rocked the house with their electrifying stage presence.

When The Band returned to the stage, it was time to announce the winner of the contest. Will, Mike, Brian, Robert & Qwe told the audience that it was tough but their decision was based on good choreography and well put together. The group that would win a private lunch with The Band sponsored by the Spaghetti Warehouse would be... High Voltage Dance Company.

The girls rushed onto the stage and danced with them while music by The Band played in the background. The show was over and The Band took pictures with fans backstage before they all left with the winners to go to enjoy big bowls of spaghetti with their fans.

Editors Note: Monique Ward is a graduate of the world renowned Institute of Integrative Nutrition and a nationally Certified Holistic Health Counselor who specializes in Wellness Events & Promotions. If you are looking to plan a unique event that involves promoting good health please call 419.908.0964 or go to www.ProMoWholistics.com for more info.

"Topdog/Underdog"

(Continued from Page 9)

audience in stitches, making them forget what happened to the real Abraham Lincoln at the hands of a man named Booth.

Sure, the plot was predictable, but Carter still managed to catch her audience off guard by lulling them into the warm familiarity of laughter.

But before the laughter settled, the tension returned as Booth relived his betrayal of his brother with his brother's wife. The intent was to hurt and it worked. An argument ensued and just as Lincoln was about to walk out of the door, suitcase and broken guitar in hand, he is challenged to a game of Three Card Monte by his brother, who had been urging him to return to the street hustle all along.

Unable to resist, Lincoln, who has secretly returned to his street hustle after being fired from his arcade job, reels his brother into the con game just as skillfully as Carter reeled the audience into the mind game of Parks' play.

A showdown between the two brothers brings up feelings of hurt and regret, finally accompanying anger in Troutman's Booth. The last 15 minutes of the play involves the brothers in a life and death struggle for purpose and meaning in lives that have been filled with far too much pain.

Showing a callous and heartless disregard for his brother's obvious pain, Lincoln tricks him and takes the money Booth got from their mother and has been saving for years. Lincoln taunts

Booth, making his story of love and loss a little more than a joke.

The taunts continue as Lincoln schools Booth in the art of the Three Card Monte con, telling him he's played him. They both laugh, seeming to find humor in Booth's failure to learn the game. However, the tension quickly returns as Booth confesses that he has shot Grace, the elusive, uncaring girlfriend he has placed on a pedestal.

Shocked by his rage and the end that they many have seen coming, but which still stunned and disconcerted them, the audience let out a collective gasp as Troutman added more layers to his climatic performance.

Parks' play keeps history and our expectations intact, symbolizing, in Faiver's view, our belief "that blacks have no one to blame but themselves for black on black violence."

Sociological and psychological analysis notwithstanding, this remains a phenomenal play and UT's production was phenomenally staged by Carter and her two talented actors.

The lights came up on audience members whose faces were wet with tears as each stood a moment to recover from the emotional roller coaster ride of "Topdog/Underdog."

One weeping young student said, "I've seen this play three times!" Asked if it was as good as it was October 7, the other two times she saw it, she nodded "yes" as she wiped tears from her eyes.

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America's War on Well ... America.

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

War on Terror, War on Drugs – blah, blah, blah.

You know who is really under attack?

Working men and women who live in these United States, that's who is under attack.

Look at everything that is going around us.

Manor Care, our city's fourth largest corporation, is bought by a conservative business conglomerate. Protesters from all across the nation came to Toledo to take their complaints to the streets, and the powers that be basically told the union of SEIU that their cries didn't make a difference.

Take a glance at the UAW issues with the Big 3 automakers ... yet another example.

Currently, an alarmingly high percentage of "American/domestic" cars are full of parts that come from places nowhere near Detroit, Mi. The whole idea of "buying American" is ridiculous. The cars we drive may have names we recognize, but most of them are being built far, far away from our shores. Mexico is producing American automobiles at a rate comparable to the United States.

And Mexico, that's an issue in itself.

The idea of "illegal immigration" ... honestly people, honestly.

I don't know what type of crack these conservative idiots are smoking these days.

I saw on a news program where this pastor in a small town was leading a crusade acting as if it was God's work for him to unify his congregation in protest against Mexi-

cans working in the United States without documentation.

Let me get this straight, these brain-dead right wingers see nothing wrong with George Bush sending hundreds of thousands of jobs overseas, but they instead choose to pick a fight with a bunch of Mexican immigrants who toil in fields all day long doing work they wouldn't dare come out of their suburban ranch homes to do.

How about that, let's just put it out there like that.

IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH MEXICANS COMING TO OUR COUNTRY DOING MENIAL JOBS... THEN WHY DON'T YOU GO AND DO THOSE JOBS YOURSELF?

See, that's beneath them.

You won't see any Fox News-watching, Republican-fundraiser-attending-conservative out in the hot sun picking bushels of ANYTHING.

But when someone else does it, they scream "Their taking all our jobs!"

Shut the hell up!

They call Toledo a union town. That makes us powerful in a way.

Which is why heads of state visit our city, which is why more advertising dollars for presidential campaigns are spent here than most places in the country – swaying our judgment is important.

But more and more it seems that the unions that protect workers rights find themselves without a position of power to bargain from.

The way I see it, Big Business will always feel at odds with workers' unions.

But there's really no need for the division.

Back in the day, workers

were treated like garbage, and big business was happy.

Maybe you got paid, maybe you didn't.

Maybe you could show up the next day, maybe you were let go after your shift.

Lunch breaks hadn't been thought of yet.

Benefits? Please.

Workers went to work at factories and plants and fields and the owners of those establishments grew richer and richer from back breaking work of everyday citizens.

People need to work.

In a society like ours, you have to have some type of income coming in.

My mom and dad talk about the days when you could just go to some place with a hiring sign in the window and go to work.

In my day there's always been personality tests, online applications etc. – so I don't know much about just walking in somewhere and getting a job.

But it's a fact of life in our society – people need to earn a living.

For the majority of people, that means finding a job.

The problem lies in the philosophy of those providing the jobs and how it differs from those depending on the jobs.

In essence, most big businesses feel as though their workforce is expendable.

In other words "I can treat you any way I feel like treating you because if you choose not to take it, I can simply replace you."

Sounds like a pimp/ho relationship doesn't it?

Hey, I'm just being real.

So unions became a way to protect workers from exploitation.

And it wasn't just a scare

tactic, there was widespread exploitation of workers still happening in our country in the early to mid 20th Century.

Having an eight hour workday, getting paid for overtime, having sick time...

If it were up to most big businesses, we would not have ever known such things.

What we would see as a right we are owed, others would feel is a privilege they can deny.

And that is how I've always viewed worker relations in this country.

Why is there always talk of strikes, walkouts and picket lines?

Because once a balance is achieved, and businesses feel a pinch in their bottom line the first thing they want to do is bully their workers in some way.

There are even some schools of thought that advise creating an atmosphere of hostility and fear among workers actually boosts morale.

Which isn't true in my opinion but ... hey!

Unions have elected leaders who stay abreast of all the policy changes occurring in a particular corporation that may disrupt that balance.

The system of having unions act as a liaison between big business and little Eddie Punchclock could be a sustainable, working system with checks and balances.

The only problem is, when all is said and done – business still holds most of the power. And they know it.

Now add to that the growing scarcity of jobs and people who once would stand up for their rights and fight with their union now have to just stay quiet so they don't lose much needed money.

I mean, when it comes down to it all – people might have to take some crap just so they can stay employed because the jobs are harder to come by.

But disaster could be waiting around the corner even for the most loyal of American workers.

Baby boomers are about to suck up all the Social Security.

And most people collecting Social Security can't get by on it so they mix it with retirement income and whatever else they can scrape together just so they can eek out an existence in their twilight. Hell, many people over 60 are finding themselves back looking for work because if they don't, vital prescriptions, medical bills and/or rent payments will have to go unpaid.

But since Social Security won't be around for Gen X and Gen Y, and most blue collar companies are doing away with their retirement plans... what do you think

will happen?

Okay, add this to the equation.

Since our government won't give us universal health care (go see *SiCKO!*), multi-billion dollar companies like Ford will always claim that paying for health insurance is driving them into bankruptcy. Which will allow them to slash benefits or wages down until all everyone has left to fight over is scraps.

And since we will all be in the same boat, we might find ourselves too weak to fight back.

And then they'll really stick it to us.

By 2010, the majority of the auto industry jobs for American automakers will be in foreign countries where they pay workers fractions of what they would pay us.

I'm sure most of you remember Convergys right?

Used to have a call center right there on Byrne Rd. at Southland Plaza. Then it up and left taking a thousand decent-paying customer service jobs to some far off land on the other side of the world.

When you call Sprint, AOL or Dell and you find a person with an Indian accent ... that usually means your call was just directed to somewhere in India.

Where that person is working a job that you could've had if that company had kept their operations in the States.

Which brings me to George W. Bush and his part in this whole attack.

Tax incentives to wealthy companies are part of what allows them to relocate overseas.

That's right.

The same government who will give you grief over your measly taxes will give tax breaks to billion-dollar companies who will use that break to rob Americans of jobs they need by giving it to people who will work for lower wages.

They even have classes that teach customer service reps in India how to use American expressions to disarm that natural aversion most of us have when speaking on the phone with a person who has a thick cultural accent.

So don't be surprised if Sanjaya or somebody delivers his best "howdy dude" when you get on the phone to handle a technical support issue with your laptop, cell phone or plasma TV.

Mexicans aren't stealing jobs.

Washington is stealing jobs and selling them to the lowest bidder in the farthest reaches of the world.

Terrorists aren't out to ruin your way of life.

When you look up and your healthcare costs are so high you have to self your

home just to stay among the living.

When you look up and find your education is so expensive that none of the jobs in the shrinking job market could ever make a dent in repayment.

When you look up and you find yourself boxed in by the very laws you were told would "protect" you, ask yourself, who was it that really ruined your way of life.

For those of us in the artistic world – our whole goal is to leave that J-O-B and get on the road to being supported by the fruits of our true labor.

But anyone who knows how the typical recording contract is worded, you understand why workers of all kinds need to have their rights protected.

As for this nation of ours, all we can do is stay informed and plan a way to fight back.

Until then, just know there is a deliberate attempt being made to send us all back to the plantation. Even those of us who are just recently removed from it.

Employment should make someone feel empowered.

Your life's work should make you proud.

Stay aware, y'all.
glasscitytruth@yahoo.com

REMINDER!!

If you want to win four free tickets to Soulja Boy's Concert at Coyote Joe's...

If you know how to do the Soulja Boy dance and you can make up your own three to five minute routine while incorporating your own moves with your two to four person group.

If you get the point, then get at me.

Once again, my mom is celebrating her grand-re-opening of Hajami Fashion & Dance studio with a "Crank Dat Soulja Boy" dance contest for 10-17 year olds.

The GRAND PRIZE will be four free tickets to Soulja Boy's concert.

Contest is Friday November 2 – Doors @ 6pm – Competition starts @ 8 p.m.

Hajami Fashions in Parkway Plaza across from Value City at S. Detroit & Ant Wayne Trail in the back parking lot near the water tower.

Call 419.870.6722 for details.

Entry fee is \$15. Contestants under 15 need adult present. Entry forms are available at

Dee's Printing Shop on Reynolds Rd. next to Rose City Motors.

glasscitytruth@yahoo.com or mercuryuge@gmail.com hit me up to support.

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Mrs. Dorothy E. Day, President

Mrs. Dorothy E. Day and four other honorees, Vernelis Armstrong, Mari Evans, Robert W. Franklin, Frank Goldie, and Emerson Ross, Jr., also, the family of the late Lemaxie Glover are to be honored at this 3rd luncheon, on Saturday, October 13, 2007, at the Wyndham Hotel, Two Seagate - Toledo, OH, downtown, at 1 p.m.

Tickets are available at African American Legacy Project
2321 Upton Ave., Phone 419.720.4369

and
Toledo Credit Union, 1339 Dorr St., Phone 419.255.8876

Beyond the Bruises into the Soul

By Vickie Shurelds
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Nicole Brown-Simpson had a dirty little secret. For the past 12 years, Denise Brown has relived the story of the brutal end to the closest friend in her life. Her sister's death was a landmark case that even now continues to make headlines. Nicole Brown-Simpson is now the pivotal example of what domestic violence "doesn't" look like.

"It's the dirty little secret that victims hide from their families. The secret these women don't want to tell and their families don't really want to hear." In town for the annual fundraising dinner for Findlay's Open Arms Domestic Violence and Rape Crises Services, Brown explains how she once physically took her sister out of the volatile situation, only to have her return home the next day to "pick up a few things" straight into the "honeymoon" stage of the domestic violence cycle.

"I called her after waiting for hours at the hotel and she said, 'I'm OK, everything's OK now, we've worked it out,'" says Brown. Thinking her sister knew what she was doing, Brown accepted the explanation and went home.

"I feel her violent death was her destiny. It's hard for me to say that, but she lived that way for 18 years, she believed she could never get out; it had to end this way."

Through the Brown Foundation, which grew out of the devastating pain of the loss of her sister, Denise Brown has created a way to use her status as a nationally recognized figure to educate the public, the legislature and corporations about the cycle of violence that happens in every community every day.

There are four stages of domestic violence: denial, shame, acceptance, honeymoon. Too many victims take on the full responsibility for their situation. They believe the treatment they're receiving is based on something they are doing, or are not doing, for the approval of the other person.

Here are some other statistics of which you should

be aware:

Women age 16 to 24 are most likely to be victimized by an intimate partner

African-American women experience more domestic violence than white women in the age

courtship, places them in the abysmal optimism that never materializes.

Staying for the sake of the children can also be a choice that results in traumatic experiences that cause a lifetime of unex-



group of 20-24. (They experience the same level of violence in all other age categories)

Hispanic women are less likely to be victimized than non-Hispanic women in every age group.

Intimate partner violence is primarily a crime against women. In fact: 85 percent of those crimes reported are against women.

Women are five times more likely to be murdered by an intimate partner

According to the FBI, between 1976 and 1996 domestic violence claimed the lives of more than four women each day

Twenty tables in the room that night were set for nine, with an empty chair reserved for a woman who had lost her life due to domestic violence in the state of Ohio. The photograph and story were at easy reach, reminding each dinner guest how close they are to a victim whenever they enter a room.

The mental anguish of the victim plays a major role in the 'decision' to stay in the throws of a volatile relationship. Believing that they can figure out the anger expressed by their partner and somehow "win" his or her favor, in the hopes of getting back to the treatment that was experienced in the beginning of the

Atkins.

Both Lima's Samaritan House and Crossroads Crises Center's offer counseling programs that speak to a lot of the issues faced by women in particular who have been living in domestic violence situations. It's a major factor in dealing with the past and preparing to move on with the future.

Kari Ricketts is director of the Crossroads Crises Center, a center that specifically targets female victims of domestic violence. The staff helps them through all the processes they are ready to face: court, the need for shelter, crises intervention and more. They understand the women are without a support system because the abuser has usually been successful in isolating his or her victim to exercise more control – they want to be sure the victim has NO OTHER OPTION but to stay and accept the abuse.

"For a lot of women, it takes leaving the situation seven times or more before the move becomes permanent," says Ricketts. "We understand that more than friends or family members can; often, they give up after the woman returns to the situation time and again. We make sure they know

we'll never give up on them, and that we're here when they need us."

The Samaritan House has seen a similar trend. Marilyn Cipollone, the director, says about 30 percent of the people they serve come to them as a result of domestic violence. That translates to about 150 women. "Women don't demand respect," says Cipollone. "They've been raised to accept passive roles and, after so long, they think they deserve the treatment. It's so sad. For family members, try to pick up on little things because there may be no physical evidence at first – if the person is nervous, acts subdued, is cautious of everything they say."

Janelle is one of the case managers, after close to five years in that position, she has noticed two constant factors: there's nothing anyone can say until the woman is ready to change their situation and that, for younger women, it seems to be all about "love." For older women the deciding dynamic is financial. "

They feel it's their responsibility to make sure the family is not placed in a homeless or poverty situation. They decide they will endure whatever they have

[to live through] to make sure their children have the best financial situation," says Janelle.

Getting to the victims early is a key factor in breaking the cycle of violence. Denise Brown says one of the reasons her sister couldn't be saved was the length of time she had been in the relationship.

"It was 17 years later by the time the family was aware of the destructiveness; the reality of the extent of the violence didn't make itself clear until it was too late," says Brown. "After Nicole was gone I learned that most abusers commit 32 chargeable offenses against their victims before the first call is made to police. They've committed 40 acts of violence before their first appearance before a judge. We have to start with the girls when they're young; before high school and college, we must open the door to their thoughts and have discussions about what is acceptable and what is not; and tell them the reality of the loss of my best friend. My sister, Nicole Brown-Simpson."

Contact Vickie Shurelds at vickie@sojournerstruth.com

Vickie Shurelds

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The Lima Truth

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The Sojourner's Truth

October 24, 2007

John Upshaw: How Does He Find the Time?

By Sharon Guice
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Do you know anyone with a nine-page resume, is currently serving on more committees than the law allows, has continued to seek educational and professional development opportunities and has a presence in numerous organizations in the City of Lima?

Well, such an individual actually exists.

His name is John A. Upshaw, an assistant professor since 1997 (Rhodes State College), who is currently employed as the Student Judicial Officer and director of Student Life and Multicultural Affairs at The Ohio State University at Lima. Upshaw also serves as director of Multicultural Affairs at Rhodes State College.

With over 19 years of higher education experience, Upshaw has continued to make an impact on the lives of students and those around him.

In his current position, he reports to Dean and Director John R. Snyder of OSU at Lima. As Student Judicial Officer, Upshaw investigates and conducts all non-academic student proceedings, ensures compliance to the Ohio Board of Regents State-wide Articulation Transfer Policy and Procedures Initiative as the transfer expert on the Lima Campus, provides leadership in developing and implementing a transfer articulation system with its shared campus partner via CAS (Course Applicability System) as the transfer liaison with its shared partner.

Upshaw also serves as

supervisor for Student Activities and Student Athletics and Recreation. And he directs multicultural events on the Lima campus of OSU and Rhodes State College, and serves as adjunct faculty in the area of Arts and Sciences at Rhodes State College.

Upshaw's past assignments have included stints as assistant professor in arts and sciences and adjunct faculty contact for sensitivity and cultural diversity instruction from July 1988 – August 2004.

From July 1995 – November 2001 he was the Chief Records and Registration Officer and as such was responsible for the entire operational areas of records and registration relative to institutional policy, protocol, compliance, and records retention. He served as gatekeeper for all aspects of International Student Affairs.

In addition, Upshaw worked as the coordinator of Health Admissions and coordinator of Placement Testing being responsible for all aspects of the admissions and acceptance process pertaining to all nursing and Allied Health areas, maintaining records and compiling all data relative to the admissions and qualifying process and administering the College's placement tests.

Serving young people is a passion for Upshaw. He works with youth from elementary through college years. He is always looking for ways to serve them better through continuing his education and connecting with the community.

Upshaw currently is a committee member of numerous committees for OSU,

including being the co-chairman for the Diversity Council and Retention Committee, chairman of the Subcommittee on Student Life. He loves to plan so of course he is on the Strategic Planning Committee. Wherever you see the words strategic planning, you can be sure that Upshaw is holding up his hand to be involved in that committee. Once he sees the vision of the committee, his mind starts clicking planning out strategies to see the vision come to fruition. He has also served on numerous committees at Rhodes State College during his 16 years of tenure there.

From 1997 to the present, Upshaw has participated in over 42 continuing education and professionally development trainings such as, "Making Welfare Reform Work in Our Communities," Guest lecturer for Healthy Lifestyles, Instructor for Kid's, Police Academy Instructor for Sensitivity/Cultural Diversity Training, National Organization for Victim Assistance Conference, Domestic Violence Training, and New Faces, New Allies, New Leaders: Engaging Men to name a few.

Upshaw continues to stay current with trends and technologies by networking and collaborating with many organizations.

Some additional things to acknowledge him for are writing the introduction for Mr. Malcolm McCoy, keynote speaker for the Multicultural Graduates Recognition Banquet – 1998; securing nationally recognized keynote speakers for the 2002-2006 Multicultural Career Day event hosted by Rhodes State College and

OSU at Lima, writing the College's Registration and Tuition Appeal Policy – March 2004, writing the College's Transfer Appeal Policy – April 2004 and being a presenter at the 2005 Scholar Athlete Banquet – May 2005 and the Men Against Domestic Violence – October 2006. This is just a short list of the many projects that fill Upshaw's life.

Upshaw continues to find ways to impact the lives of individuals. He seems to be driven to make a lasting difference in the lives of those who want to change and move to a higher level of understanding and life in general. So, his community involvement continues to soar.

Upshaw was recognized as an outstanding employee in 1994 for Rhodes State College (formerly known as Lima Technical College LTC) by the Lima Family YMCA Black Achievers Program. He continues to serve this program in the current capacity as Steering Committee Treasurer (past chairman and vice-chairman). His dedication and compassion to see youth reach their educational and career goals are an impetus to keep seeking ways to get youth actively involved in their lives and the lives of others.

Wow, can you imagine going from this meeting to that meeting and keeping it all together, day in and day out? Upshaw does. He is never seen without a smile or a word of encouragement. He is a man with a passion and a desire so strong and powerful that he does not allow anything to stand in his way.

Upshaw is also a very passionate family man. When he lost his father earlier this year he was right there by his father's side all along, but also managed to see to any commitments he had made were followed through on.

And as he moves from meeting to meeting, from committee to committee, he does nothing for self-acknowledgement or recognition. He just lives the passion he has in order to see others being all they can be and to give his assistance in whatever capacity he can give.

Contact Sharon Guice at
Sharon@thetruthtoledo.com



Lima's Churches

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Rev. Arnold Manley Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church 1251 Union Street Lima, Ohio 45804419-224-6006
Rev. Dennis Ward Second Baptist Church 520 West Spring Street Lima, Ohio 45804419-229-6666

*Rev. Melvin Woodard, II Lima Community Baptist Church 550 S. Collett Street
Rev. David Roberts Cornerstone Harvest Church 2000 N. Cole Street Lima, Ohio 45804419-228-3007
Rev. Ronald Fails Grace Church World Wide Ministries 2945 Wells Drive Lima, Ohio 45804419-228-0618

*Elder Ed Tibbs New Life Christian Center 202 W. Kibby St. Lima, Ohio 45804419-227-3997
John Barcus, Minister Kibby Street Church of Christ 428 E. Kibby St. Lima, Ohio 45804419-224-1251
Minister Robert Horton Southeast Church of Christ 1830 Reese Ave. Lima, Ohio 45804419-229-3590

*Elder Clarence McGriff Mt. Olive Church of God in Christ 705 E. Catalpa Lima, Ohio 45804419-223-1451
Rev. Darnell Williams New Life Church
Innat 1180 West High St. Lima, Ohio 45804419-999-1615
Rev. Phillip Battle, Jr. Bethel F.B.H. Church 1312 Norval Ave. Lima, Ohio 45804419-227-6133

*Rev. Kenny Dennard New Beginning
MBC 562 Spring St. Pastor Dianna Shurelds Church of the Living God 130 N. Elizabeth St. Lima, Ohio 45804419-225-8288
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CLASSIFIEDS

October 24, 2007

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DIRECTOR, CAREER SERVICES

Owens Community College invites you to learn more about this exciting job opportunity at <https://jobs.owens.edu>.

Become part of our inclusive culture that embraces and celebrates diversity.

AA/EOE

First or Second Shift

Preschool teacher and assistant. Mature individual. H.S. diploma, first aid, CPR, Communicable Disease ECE majors. Trainings required. 2 years experience needed.

Fax resume to 419.385.6478

NETWORK SPECIALIST II

Owens Community College invites you to learn more about this exciting job opportunity at <https://jobs.owens.edu>.

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AA/EOE

The University of Toledo Job #GOVERN Government Relations Specialist, Government Relations:

The Office of Governmental Relations seeks a Governmental Relations Specialist to do research on federal, state, local, and university policies as assigned by the Vice President of Governmental Relations. Will help identify policy initiatives at all levels of government that may impact the university. Will particularly focus on policy and other initiatives originating from the Ohio Board of Regents. The successful candidate will summarize policy issues and be prepared to make recommendations on how the university should act concerning these policies. Will also coordinate policy issues between the university's main campus and health science campus. Will also establish an Internet Governmental Relations Web site under the University of Toledo banner and will make available relevant policy issues on the Web site.

Applicants must possess a Bachelors degree, preferably in Political Science, Government, or related field. They must have excellent research, writing, and communication skills. Must have demonstrated the ability to organize projects and stakeholder groups. Culturally appropriate communication skills required. Must possess the ability to handle multiple priorities and multiple deadlines with ease. Ability to use graphics design, illustration, and data base management software. Ability to use Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook).

Travel required. Full Time. Salary to commensurate with education and experience.

To apply, submit a cover letter (include position title and job # GOVERN), a resume, as well as the names and contact information for three professional references to: The University of Toledo, Human Resources Department, Toledo, Ohio 43606-3390; Fax (419) 530-1490; or email recruit@utoledo.edu, which is preferred. Use only one method of application. Resumes must be received by Friday, November 2, 2007. The University of Toledo is an Equal Access, Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer and Educator

LMHA ACTION ALERT!

This Public Notice is to inform all interested persons of a change in the process for taking applications for the LMHA CONVENTIONAL PUBLIC HOUSING programs. The Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority will be taking walk-in applications for CONVENTIONAL PUBLIC HOUSING.

THIS APPLICATION SOLICITATION IS FOR CONVENTIONAL PUBLIC HOUSING ONLY

Applications will be accepted two days per week if you are:

- o A family household
- o Near-Elderly (at least 50 years or older)
- o Handicapped or Disabled

Location: 211 S. Byrne Road

Days/Time (s): Monday and Wednesday 9:00 a.m. – 12 p.m.

You must have ALL of the following information in order to place an application:

- o Picture ID's for all adults in the household
- o Social Security cards for all members of the household
- o Birth Certificates for all members of the household
- o Proof of pregnancy with due date if applicable

Applications will be accepted five days per week if you are elderly:

- o Elderly (62 years or older) applications will be taken

Monday thru Friday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Elderly applicants should bring in the following information in order to place an application.

- o Picture ID's for all adults in the household
- o Social Security cards for all members of the household
- o Birth Certificates for all members of the household

Equal Housing Opportunity

The LMHA does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, ancestry, disability or nation origin in the admission or access to its federally assisted programs or activities.



SYSTEMS ANALYST

Consulting firm has opening for a conscientious, detail oriented team player. Position involves use of programming skills, database administration, and maintenance, as well as general IT duties. Seeking candidates with strong problem-solving and analytical skills with the ability to quickly learn new technologies and concepts. Proficient in Microsoft concepts, various programming languages, and data manipulation. Excellent communication skills required.

Send resume with salary expectations to:

Findley Davies, Inc.
Attn: Human Resources
300 Madison Ave., Suite 1000
Toledo, OH 43604
or email to resumes@findleydavies.com

Visit us @ www.findleydavies.com

SALES

If you work in sales, management or field service and need a career boost, consider movin' up to WIMX and WJZE, URBAN RADIO BROADCASTING. Mix 95.7 and Hot 97.3 are recruiting professionals who want the lifestyle, compensation and professional rewards you earn in radio advertising sales. E-mail your resume to davidharrison@urbanradio.com or fax to 419-868-8765. Mix 95.7 and Hot 97.3 is URBAN RADIO BROADCASTING in Toledo and is an equal opportunity employer.

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University of Toledo Physicians, LLC a 150 physician multi-specialty group seeks an experienced hands-on professional with demonstrated problem solving ability, CPA preferred. The successful candidate, reporting to the CFO, will establish economic strategies and objectives; prepare reports which summarize business activity and financial position in areas of income, expenses and earnings. Directs the preparation of budgets. Provide high level oversight of revenue cycle policy and operations. Responsibilities include payroll, AP, financial reporting, general ledger, cash management, and physician compensation /incentive calculation. Excellent communications and professional demeanor are a must. Please send resume and salary requirements to: University of Toledo Physicians 3355 Glendale Ave., 3rd Flr. Toledo, Ohio 43614 Attn: Human Resources Buffy.fauver@utoledo.edu 419-383-2012 Fax

CLASSIFIEDS

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October 24, 2007

The University of Toledo

Job # 996595

Creative Director, Office of University Marketing

The creative director provides consistent and effective management of the graphic design and photography teams and creative direction for print, broadcast and online marketing communications vehicles to support the strategic direction of the institution and individual assignments from our customer base. The Creative Director will work closely with the senior director of university marketing and client representatives to assure that the creative strategies support marketing objectives and strategies of the client and the institution. This person assures consistency, quality and accuracy in the development and implementation of all marketing and advertising materials, ensures that brand integrity is maintained and customer service expectations are met and exceeded. All marketing communications materials to be produced will be reviewed by this person with the designer prior to client review and production and provide the appropriate direction for continuous improvement in the creative product. Additionally, the creative director is responsible for the fiscal management of costs related to this area including operational, capital and personnel expenses.

Qualifications include a Bachelor's degree in graphic design, creative writing or related field. A minimum of five years experience as a creative director, graphic designer or advertising copywriter and proof of proficiency leading the development and implementation of the creative product. Budget and personnel management experience. Strong work ethic and the ability to adapt to rapidly changing environment and demands. Must be able to work with a diverse range of people, including clients and members of marketing and communications teams. Excellent organizational, written and verbal communications skills. Computer literate in hardware and graphic design software applications, especially InDesign, Photoshop, Illustrator or Freehand and MS Publisher as well as MS Office Suite. Knowledge of digital asset management systems and digital photographic technology. Full Time. Wage to commensurate with education and experience.

To apply, submit a cover letter (include position title and job # 996595), a resume, samples of your work as well as the names and contact information for three professional references to: The University of Toledo, Human Resources Department, Toledo, Ohio 43606-3390; Fax (419) 530-1490; or email recruit@utoledo.edu, which is preferred. Use only one method of application. **Review of applications will begin immediately and the position will remain open until filled.**

The University of Toledo is an Equal Access, Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer and Educator.

University of Toledo

PCN 999799 - Direct Service Provider – Rocket Solution Central

PCN 999799 Direct Service Provider – Rocket Solution Central:

This part-time, 20 hour position is highly complex requiring detailed knowledge of a multitude of disciplines including, but not limited to Student Accounts, Financial Aid, Registrar, Dining Services, and Parking Services. The primary function of this position is to promote and provide direct quality customer service to students of the University. The individual in this position is responsible for: Answering and responding to incoming phone calls and emails; Processing course registrations, seminars, drops, withdrawals, transcript requests, and enrollment certifications; Financial Aid processing and advising; Processing meal plan changes, cancellations, and responding to inquiries about account information; Providing Rocket ID Card replacement, deactivation and cancellations; Providing parking permits and stickers; Providing appropriate referrals. This position will require significant decision making skills. Individuals will be called upon to use discretion when making decisions that fall outside established procedures. Independent judgment will be needed to resolve issues that have created barriers to student success. This position requires a Bachelor's degree or five years of experience in bursar, registrar or financial aid related fields. Excellent communication and customer service skills are required as well as strong organizational skills and attention to detail. Ability to work independently and as a member of the team is required. A candidate must have a strong work ethic and a history of exceptional customer service. CWA Position Hourly Rate \$13.78

To apply, submit a cover letter (include position title and job # 999799), a resume, as well as the names and contact information for three professional references to: The University of Toledo, Human Resources Department, Toledo, Ohio 43606-3390; Fax (419) 530-1490; or email recruit@utoledo.edu, which is preferred. Use only one method of application. **Resumes must be received by Friday, October 26th, 2007.**

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The University of Toledo

Job #997780 Guidance Counselor– Upward Bound Program

The primary responsibilities of the Guidance Coordinator are recruitment of program participants, providing academic and career advising and/or services to program participants (i.e., conducting standardized testing; coordinating academic year, field and socio-cultural events/activities; monitoring weekly tutoring; classroom instruction and program workshops; liaison between university departments, the Toledo community, students, parents and target schools). Evening and weekend work is required as well as travel and other duties as assigned by director.

Bachelor's degree required in Education or any other related field, Master's degree preferred, with excellent oral and written communication skills; exceptional presentation and organizational skills as well as computer literacy; two or more years experience with programs or projects serving the needs of low income, minority and/or disadvantaged students; and the ability to interpret test results and work successfully with high school students, parents, teachers and target school personnel. Full Time. Salary to commensurate with education and experience.

To apply, submit a cover letter (include position title and job # 997780), a resume, as well as the names and contact information for three professional references to: The University of Toledo, Human Resources Department, Toledo, Ohio 43606-3390; Fax (419) 530-1490; or email recruit@utoledo.edu, which is preferred. Use only one method of application. **Resumes must be received by Friday, November 2, 2007.**

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The University of Toledo

Coordinator for High School Science and Mathematics Program

Job #998708 Coordinator for High School Science and Mathematics Program, College of Education:

This part-time position is working for a grant program at The University of Toledo recruiting urban high school students to participate in a year long program to explore science and mathematics teaching. Duties include recruiting high school students, working with UT faculty and staff to plan and implement an engaging hands-on science and mathematics math on-campus summer experience and yearlong program, recruiting college students as mentors, and managing a budget for this program.

A minimum of a Bachelor's degree is required with a background in management, college admissions, and/or communications. Experience working with science or mathematics educators is desirable. The successful candidate will also be able to provide evidence of success in managing some type of program including fiscal management for at least 2 years as well as the ability to work productively both independently and in collaboration with others. Some experience working with schools in science or mathematics is recommended. Expected commitment is 20 hours per week. This is a one-year contract with the opportunity to renew for an additional year.

To apply, submit a cover letter (include position title and job # 998708), a resume, as well as the names and contact information for three professional references to: The University of Toledo, Human Resources Department, Toledo, Ohio 43606-3390; Fax (419) 530-1490; or email recruit@utoledo.edu, which is preferred. Use only one method of application. **Resumes must be received by Friday, November 2, 2007.**

The University of Toledo is an Equal Access, Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer and Educator

CLINICAL THERAPIST - JOINT VENTURE PROGRAM

Opportunity is available for experienced Clinical Therapist to work in a Joint Venture Program providing individual, family and group counseling and case management services.

Candidate must possess a Master's degree, a minimum of two years experience working with individuals with chemical dependency issues and one of the following Ohio licenses LSW, LISW, PC, PCC, LCDC III or LICDC. Valid driver's license required. Send or fax resume to:



Human Resources - CT-JV

1425 Starr Avenue

Toledo, OH 43605

Fax 419.936.7574

Email: HR@UNISONBHGROUP.COM

EOE

CLASSIFIEDS

October 24, 2007

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The University of Toledo Job #999696 Stenographer 2, Provost Office

This part time nine month position provides all clerical support for the university Committee on Academic Personnel (UCAP). This position prepares reports, maintains all files and records, maintains and logs dossiers, sets up meetings, takes notes and minutes, answers or forwards questions as appropriate, staffs the UCAP office and answers the office phone, and other duties as assigned.

The position requires the ability to add and subtract, multiply and divide whole numbers and to read and write common vocabulary. 72 weeks training at high school level or 4 courses at college level in shorthand and or speedwriting (or 2 years experience); 72 weeks training at high school level or 4 courses at college level in typing (or 2 years experience); 1 course in office practices and procedures (or 1 month experience) or equivalent (example: speedwriting or shorthand speed of 78 words per minute.) CWA Position Part Time, up to 30 hours a week, August to May. Hourly Rate \$ 11.93

To apply, submit a cover letter (include position title and job # 999696), a resume, as well as the names and contact information for three professional references to: The University of Toledo, Human Resources Department, Toledo, Ohio 43606-3390; Fax (419) 530-1490; or email recruit@utoledo.edu, which is preferred. Use only one method of application. **Resumes must be received by Friday, October 26th, 2007.**

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The University of Toledo - CWA Position

Job # 999741, Public Inquiries Assistant, Career Services: Responsible for processing Student Employment Personnel Action (SEPA) forms to meet strict deadlines, responding to inquiries from Payroll and University Offices, and supporting the Job Location and Development function. Critical thinking skills are a strong component of this position. This position will be responsible for other duties as assigned.

High school diploma and excellent customer service skills required. Associate or bachelor's degree a plus. Strong critical thinking and accurate proofreading skills are also required. Student centeredness attitude necessary for success. Interest in data entry preferred. Banner and SIS experience a plus, but will train the right person. Full-time. Wage starts at \$13.11/hr.

To apply, submit a cover letter (include position title and job # 999741), a resume, as well as the names and contact information for three professional references to: The University of Toledo, Human Resources Department, Toledo, Ohio 43606-3390; Fax (419) 530-1490; or email recruit@utoledo.edu, which is preferred. Use only one method of application. Resumes must be received by Friday, November 2, 2007. **The University of Toledo is an Equal Access, Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer and Educator**

CLINICAL THERAPIST - HOME-BASED/CHILDREN

Clinical Therapist needed to provide in-home short-term therapy to children and families. Qualified candidates must have strong clinical skills including the ability to make clinical decisions and assessments along with knowledge of therapeutic principles and practices and strong group process skills. LSW or LPC required. Valid driver's license required. Masters degree and independent license strongly preferred. Send or fax resume to:



Human Resources - CT-HB
1425 Starr Avenue
Toledo, OH 43605
Fax 419.936.7574
Email: HR@UNISONBH.ORG
EOE

CASE MANAGER

Unison is seeking Case Managers to provide community support services to adults with serious mental illness. Responsibilities will include providing assistance with the social, vocational, economic, and environmental needs of assigned clients and assisting in their ability to live in the community. Valid driver's license required. Ohio counselor or social worker license and experience preferred. Consideration will be given to candidates with four-year degrees in fields related to social work. Excellent salary and benefits package. Send or fax resume to:

Human Resources - CSP 1425 Starr Avenue Toledo, OH 43605
Fax 419.936.7574
Email: HR@UNISONBH.ORG

The University of Toledo Job #996517 Institutional Research Specialist, Institutional Research:

This full time position will provide overall support to the operation and functions of the IR office. Major responsibilities include providing data gathering assistance via research associates and staff from other offices. Managing and organizing the reporting portfolio for the office, monitoring the implementation of a reporting taxonomy. Responding to requests by submitting reports, web surveys including but not limited to NCA, HLC, and US News. Communicating data and critical information used for decision making in a timely manner by posting enrollment and other information reports on the Institutional Research website. Serving as an information liaison to work with the administration and collective bargaining units of the University in the processes of data collection and dissemination for collective bargaining. Promoting initiative and creativity to enhance customer service. Participating in teambuilding and cooperative attitude promotion in order to meet Institutional Research goals. Managing office and committee meetings. Providing critical assistance to ensure a smooth operation of the IR office. Organizing and maintaining confidential office files. This position will also assume other duties assigned by the Director and Associate Director.

Applicants must possess an Associates Degree, Bachelors Degree preferred. Experience with MS Office Suite. Experience creating, updating and managing web pages. Ability to multitask and work with detailed report content. Ability to coordinate schedules and reporting deadlines. Must be able to perform with or without supervision in a demanding environment. Excellent communication and writing skills are desirable. A strong sense of confidentiality is a must. Full Time. Annual starting salary range \$32,000-\$35,000.

To apply, submit a cover letter (include position title and job # 996517), a resume, as well as the names and contact information for three professional references to: The University of Toledo, Human Resources Department, Toledo, Ohio 43606-3390; Fax (419) 530-1490; or email recruit@utoledo.edu, which is preferred. Use only one method of application. The search will remain open until filled. Review of resumes will begin November 2, 2007. Start date is as soon as possible. **The University of Toledo is an Equal Access, Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer and Educator**

Center for Innovation

The Community Partnership and United Way of Greater Toledo are seeking individuals to act as Director and Technical Assistance Manager for a new program, Center for Innovation. The Center will provide technical assistance and consultation to local non-profits in order to enhance their capacity to effectively operate programs.

Director (DIR) – Primary responsibilities as the Director include: management of large projects, staff, training coordination, budgetary and grant reporting. This position will staff and work with Advisory Council to identify criteria for conducting assessments, providing assistance, developing a sub-award process and evaluation. In addition, this position will be working with the community to address capacity training needs including but not limited to Leadership and Organizational Development, Program Development, Revenue Development, and Community Engagement. Applicants must possess a bachelor's degree in non-profit management, business or related field with a minimum of 10 years progressive responsibility in the non-profit sector. Extensive grant writing is a must.

Technical Assistance Manager (TAM) – Primary responsibilities include: conducting assessments of potential clients, provide one-on-one mentoring to non-profit organizations, provide leadership mentoring and tailored work sessions with staff and board members of client agencies and provide intensive assistance and/or seek other resources in specific key focus areas of agency management, ie: strategic planning, board development. Applicants must possess a bachelor's degree in non-profit management, business or related field with a minimum of 5 years progressive responsibility in the non-profit sector. Extensive grant writing is a must.

Qualified candidates should submit a cover letter with salary requirements along with a resume to:



United Way of Greater Toledo
One Stranahan Square
Toledo, Ohio 43604
Attn: Human Resources

Or
E-mail to karri.anthony@unitedwaytoledo.org – subject: DIR or TAM
Visit us at www.unitedwaytoledo.org
EOE

Legends Luncheon

(Continued from Page 8)

to be able to help each other," he said. "I see my wife waving, but I've got one more thing to tell you."

Sharing yet another track story about a fast runner who never got a chance to run a relay race because the runner before him would not pass him the baton, Crosby gave a word of advice to every adult present, honorees and audience alike.

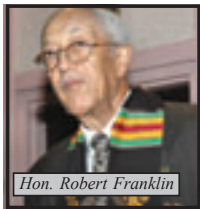
"The people we're honoring here today must pass the baton," he said. "We have kids today that have talent and skills, but we won't pass the baton."

Following the keynote addresses, Rev. Ricks talked about his church's efforts to preserve its legacy. "We're grateful to Brother Smith for his assistance," said Ricks, promising to donate a CD made recording the church's history to the African-American Legacy Project.

Each honoree was presented with an exquisite glass commemorative by African-American Legacy founder/director Robert Smith.

"I'd like to congratulate the award-winners for their significant contributions," said Honorable Vernelis K. Armstrong, U.S. Magistrate Judge, accepting her award. "I accept this award on behalf of all the trailblazers, the Harriet Tubmans, the Thurgood Marshalls who went before me."

She also thanked those who've supported her, including Judge Penn, Keith Mitchell, Richard Mitchell, the Bar Association and most of all her mother and deceased father.



Armstrong challenged her fellow litigators to make a difference. "American has two million citizens behind bars and one-half of them are African-American," she said. "I know that we must join together to change this picture."

Dorothy Day, owner and co-founder of the House of

Day Funeral Service thanked Smith and his staff, but she also thanked a higher power.



"I thank God for so many things today," she said. Talking about her origins in the Mississippi Delta, Day marveled at all of the blessings she has enjoyed in her life. She then introduced her sister who came from Mississippi to witness her being honored.

"The two of us were brought up in a little town," she said. "I went to college, of course, and my economics professor at Tennessee State asked me how many people were in my town—Sunflower. And I said, '500!'"

Smith's presentation to Toledo's gift to the world of literature, Mari Evans, included a description of her as "holy mother of the written word." Evans is a major figure in African-American literature and the Black Arts Movement.

An educator, writer and musician, she has published five books for children, five volumes of poetry, including "I Am A Black Woman," five theatre pieces, including the musical "Eyes," an anthology of black women writers and two volumes of essays, both of which she sold after the luncheon, donating the proceeds to the African-American Legacy Project.

Humble and soft-spoken, the award-winning poet, writer and scholar recalled her roots in Toledo. "My dearest memories are of my childhood in Toledo," she said. "My crowd hung out in the Toledo Mu-

seum of Art the way kids today hang out in the malls. We were there every Sunday. My time in

Toledo was so wonderful."

Smith described Honorable Robert V. Franklin, retired judge, by saying to him, "You are Toledo." After introducing his wife of 57 years, Judge Franklin, who proclaimed he didn't know what to say, merely said, "Thank-you."

Not quite as brief in his comments, Frank C. Goldie, former manager/postmaster of Toledo and retired field division general manager/postmaster of the Chicago division was nevertheless succinct and circumspect in his remarks.

"I am convinced that contributing to the community and society is a continuing affair," he said, cautioning those present not to rest on their laurels, but to continue giving back to their community. "I wish Mr. Smith and his staff continued success in their endeavors. Thank you."

At Large Ohio Board of Education member Emerson J. Ross, Jr., said he was last to receive his award because he is "still a work in progress."

Actually, the last award was presented to the organization's 2007 artist-in-residence LeMaxie Glover's family. "The African-American Legacy Project would like to present its Trailblazer Award posthumously to LeMaxie Glover," said Harris, introducing the presenter, his former cameraman who Harris said "made me look good" – Robert Smith.

After presenting the award to Glover's daughter, Smith also presented awards to each of the keynote speakers, making Crosby an honorary "Legend" and having flowers presented to his wife, the "time-keeper."

Carrying on yet another "Legends" tradition Smith eschewed giving his speech at the end of the three-hour luncheon due to the lateness of the hour. However, he did invite organizations in the community to post their upcoming events on the African-American Legacy Project's online calendar. "That way we will have a fully accurate community calendar," he said.

Heeding Crosby's advice to pass the baton and carrying on an African-American Legacy Project tradition of showcasing the future while preserving the past, Smith introduced Valerie Thompson, who is leaving Toledo for Columbus to launch a graphics arts career. Her mother in an emotional and heartfelt tribute gave flowers to the future "Legend" on behalf of the African-American Legacy Project.

Committee members who planned the luncheon included: Jone Catchings, Monica Edwards, Sarah Swan, Nadine Smith, Shawanana Smith, Shirley Ware, Belinda Wheeler and Essie Wiggins plus associates Ron Jackson, Avalyn Pitts and Wendy Robinson.

Student African-American Brotherhood (SAAB) members Gerald Lipsey, Jordan Johnson, Arindus Humphrey, Carl Nelson, Nate Austin and Oli J. Shaheers served as Gentleman Ushers. Carolyn Jones

and Crawford-Johnson provided entertainment throughout the program.

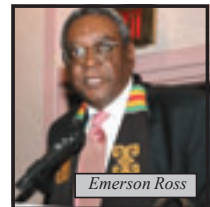
Their vocal stylings awed



the audience, generating bursts of spontaneous applause. Crawford-Johnson's rendition of "I Won't Complain" brought the house down and the wait staff out of the kitchen to marvel at one of Toledo's amazingly talented performers.

It is just part of the "Legends" luncheon tradition to celebrate Toledo's own, whether it's talent, education, service or just plain perseverance.

In the words of founder/director Smith, "Our Legend's Luncheon is a celebration of those persons who have left indelible impressions upon our lives. We reflect on the words of our keynote speaker during our October 16, 2004, unveiling. 'We take pride in our history because our history reflects our values. If we don't preserve our history, then who will?'"



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