



The Sojourner's Truth

Volume 15, No.02

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

October 29, 2008

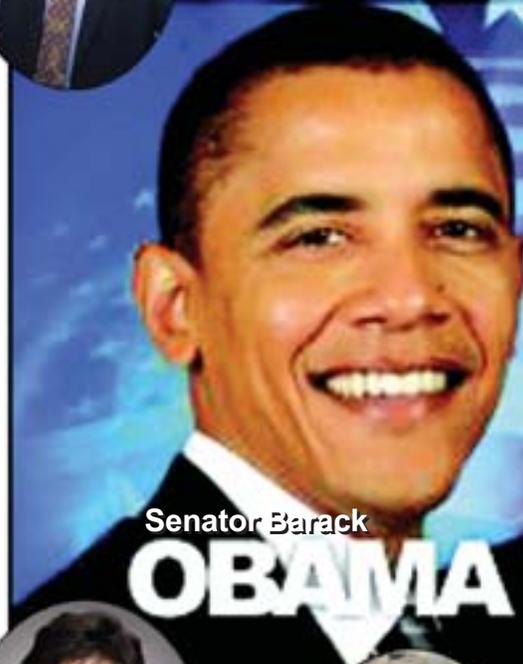
The 2008 Candidates



Richard Cordray

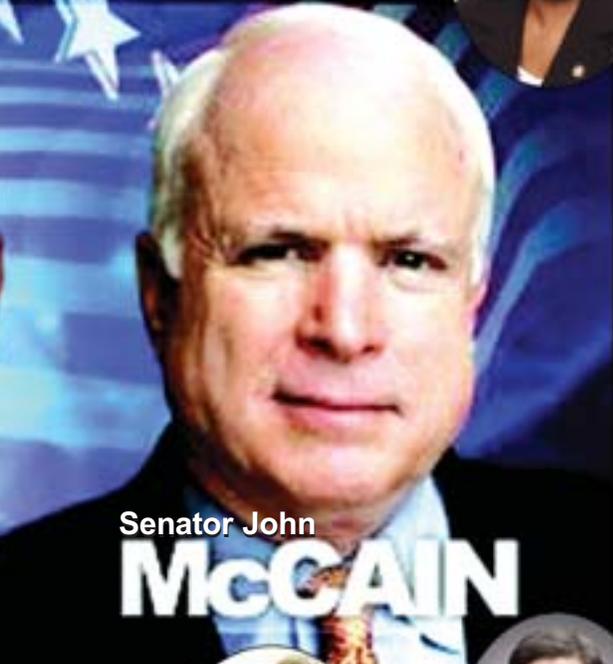


Edna Brown



Senator Barack

OBAMA



Senator John

MCCAIN



Tina Skeldon-Wozniak



Jeanine Perry



Marcy Kaptur



Pete Gerken

Candidates

- Richard Cordray ✓
- Marcy Kaptur ✓
- Jeanine Perry ✓
- Peter Sikora ✓
- Joseph Russo ✓
- Edna Brown ✓
- Tina Skeldon Wozniak ✓
- Pete Gerken ✓
- Wade Kapszukiewicz ✓
- Bernie Quilter ✓

Issues

- NO – Issue 1
- NO – Issue 2
- NO – Issue 3
- NO – Issue 5
- NO – Issue 6
- FOR – Issue 34
- FOR – Issue 35
- FOR – Issue 37
- FOR – Issue 38
- FOR – Issue 39
- FOR – Issue 40
- FOR – Issue 41

This Strikes Us ...

A Sojourner's Truth Editorial

The Truth Endorses Senator Barack Obama for President of the United States

One of the current catch phrases that Republican Senator John McCain has been using in his battle with Democratic Senator Barack Obama is that he has been tested.

"My friends, I've been tested many times," says the Arizonan these days. Tested! Tested when?

He was, to be sure, shot down over North Vietnam 40 years ago. And more recently, in 1989, he managed to survive, relatively unscathed, the Keating Five scandal in which he was reprimanded by his Senate colleagues for inappropriate behavior. Other than that, we have a difficult time trying to pinpoint how and when this candidate for president has been tested. And we have a really difficult time trying to figure out how either of those two episodes translates into meaningful experience for the job of president of the United States.

Se we took a look at some of the most serious issues of the day to figure out where McCain stands – energy, health care, foreign policy. These are the three most critical issues of the day because the new president will have such direct impact in shaping policy in these areas.

While we recognize the fact that the economy stands as the voters' greatest concern during this election cycle, we don't believe the president has such a direct, immediate and singular impact on this issue as on the others. So we are going to focus on those three.

McCain has no coherent energy policy. We need to do everything, he says, without prioritizing anything. Throw everything on the table, says McCain.

McCain's health care policy is one that provides a \$5,000 tax credit to families. He has been obstinately against anything that attempts to ensure that everyone in this country is insured at some point in the future.

We find, in this day and age, McCain's health policy to be virtually non-existent. If he does not want the government to interfere in such matters, why not simply say so without the pretense.

McCain's foreign policy, often called his strong suit, offers more of the same, shopworn approaches that George Bush has pushed for the last eight years. "I am confident we will have victory in Iraq," says McCain without giving his listeners the least bit of a clue as to what a victory in Iraq means.

We were particularly bemused by his response to the Russian invasion of Georgia when he got tough on Russia. The fact is the foreign policy of the U.S. has been to box the Russians into a corner for years now as we sign up neighboring countries for NATO and as we cozy up to former Soviet satellites such as Georgia and tacitly encourage them to take the missteps that led them to invade South Ossetia. That, of course, prompted the Russian counterpunch.

Then faced with an opportunity to display his foreign policy machismo, McCain stuck out his chest, blustered and said the Russians need to back off or else. Or else what? What do you propose to do about it, Johnny boy? We have no forces to spare, we have no resources or money to give to Georgia that could possibly make any difference in their military situation and all because of a war we are engaged in elsewhere that has never made any sense.

McCain touts his call for a surge in Iraq as evidence of his foresight in foreign combat. Yet prior to the invasion that he supported, when Army Chief of Staff Eric Shinseki stated publicly that we would need many more troops to secure the peace than Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld had called for, McCain uttered not a peep.

Eight years ago, McCain was a powerfully attractive candidate. That was back in his maverick days – that period between the Keating Five scandal and his 2000 run for president when he realized that he needed to go it alone during times when both parties could not see past their own noses into the future.

The McCain of 2008 is a pathetic character compared to the 1989-2000 figure.

There are few things that try a person's character more than a national campaign and in this one McCain has made several decisions that point to the fact that he has sold his soul to the political devils.

First, he selected Gov. Sarah Palin to be his running mate. If voters aren't concerned about this cynicism, it's because they have incredibly short memories. He selected someone to help him win a campaign not someone to help him govern.

Had he looked back at the Bush campaign of 2000, he would have had an example of how a wise campaigner selects a wingman who will be there during the dark days of the presidency to help him make the critical decisions. Now, forget about the fact that Dick Cheney's decisions

(Continued on Page 16)

Community Calendar

October 30

Networking Economic Development by Thosefellas LLC: Fusions on St. Clair; 5:30 to 8:30 pm; For business owners, community organizers, gov't employees, artists, etc.

Evening of Rest and Rejuvenation for Women Incest and Child Sexual Abuse Survivors: 5:50 to 8:30 pm; 419-729-0245

October 31

Mt. Pilgrim Church 3rd Annual Holyween Night: 6 to 8 pm; Children from 5-12; Food, games, prizes and treats; Free to the public

October 31

October Fest at Friendship Baptist: Hayrides, Trunk-or-Treat, video games, campfire, Gospel Explosion: 419-917-3440

November 1

Craft Show at All Saints Episcopal: 9:30 am to 4 pm; Deadline for entry is October 15: 419-866-1528

A Journey Through Healing 5th Annual Jazz Brunch: Navy Bistro; Silent auction: 419-531-1336

First Annual Caregiver Expo: SeaGate Centre; Sponsored by Toledo Free Press, 13ABC, Simply EZ Meals and Area Office on Aging; 10 am to 3 pm; 419-725-6957

November 2-7

Shiloh MBC Fall Revival: Services 7 pm nightly; Guest include Pastor Charles Emery of Pilgrim MBC-Gary, IN and Pastor O.J. Hudson New Era MBC of Pontiac MI: 419-693-6698 or 419-535-0615

November 3

Toledo Children's Hospital and National Center for Adoption Law and Policy: Adoption Academy at Children's Hospital: 419-469-3716

November 4

Election Day: Don't forget to vote; Polls are open from 6:30 am to 7:30

November 6-8

COZ Ministries Praise and Worship 2008: 7 pm on 6th and 7th and 10 am on 8th: 419-246-1850

November 7

N.A.O.M.I. Transitional House Gospel Concert: Friendship Baptist Church; Featuring First Creation, Debra Brock, Lisa Price, Nikki "D" and the Browns; 7 pm; Free to the public: 419-254-7819

November 8-9

Women's Day Weekend at Walls Memorial AME Zion Church: Saturday at 11 am – panel discussion on parenting, breast cancer and obesity; Sunday at 11 am – service with speakers Rev. Lashonda Bradley, Sis. Shirley Dodds and Min. Lynette Willis: 419-243-1065 or 419-478-1429

November 9

Jerusalem Mass Choir Concert: "One More Time"; 6 pm; Jerusalem MBC

November 10

Toledo Children's Hospital and National Center for Adoption Law and Policy: Adoption Academy at Children's Hospital: 419-469-3716

November 11

Scott HS Alumni Association Meeting: Kent Branch Library; 6 pm; scottalumni@gmail.com

The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's Truthful African-American Owned and Operated Newspaper

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Our Future
vote for
37

My View



By Jack Ford
The Truth Political
Columnist

I urge you to vote YES on the two Toledo Public School ballot issues – 34 and 35; YES on the Lucas County Mental Retardation issue – 39; YES on the Lucas County Children's Services issue – 38 and YES for the COSI issue – 37.

Vote NO on State Issue 6 – the gambling casino.

And vote for the following candidates: Senator Barack Obama for president of the United States and State Reps. Matt Szollosi, Edna Brown, Darlene Dunn and Peter Ujvagi. Vote for Peter Sikora and Joseph Russo for the Ohio Supreme Court.

Please get out and vote. We are all tired of the election bombast but we are nearing

the end. And if Obama does win, that is when the hard part really starts. The election is relatively easy compared to the actual governing. Won't it be grand to ponder who might be his first Supreme Court nominees? His first trip to Africa as president?

The city's budget woes are less than what Mayor Carty Finkbeiner is making them out to be when he purports to eliminating 200 unfilled positions. Those folks were evidently not needed to begin with. But he does need more police. Certain sectors are almost naked on some shifts.

But the mayor and City Council have no one to blame but themselves for signing that extra labor deal – done in secret – to grant the pension pick up for police and fire when there was no money to pay for it. I believe it was a pre-election deal in order to get police and fire support in 2005. The taxpayers pay the costs and the costs grow each year.

The Frederick Douglass Community Association has essentially gone under. Bill Mangrum, the executive director, has been let go. Staff

are being laid off as are two part-time youth workers on a Children Services Board grant.

The only money on the table right now is \$24,000 that has been offered by a group of black women. Board Chairman Rev. Otis Gordon, pastor of Warren AME, has his hands full in making sure this agency does not fade into oblivion.

But it can be saved. We will need help from many sectors. Bill Kitson, CEO of the Greater Toledo United Way, will be a key figure in garnering support for Frederick Douglass.

Bill Alexander of the YMCA can play a large role as should local YMCA Vice President Michael Ashford. Keith Burwell of the Toledo Foundation should also be ready to step up a little. The center is short \$60,000 to \$80,000 but that is not insurmountable in Toledo. The right 10 men or women can raise that over lunch in Toledo if they have the will to make it happen. The county commissioners and the mayor have to step up as I'm sure they will.

What I hope to see happen in the community is that

this time is used to reconsider and reinvent the Frederick Douglass Community Association. What does it stand for in 2008? We knew what it meant in its prime days under Clarence Walker. We do not know today.

My guess is that there will be a renewal of interest in

Frederick Douglass, the first great black man in American history, as a natural spill off of the election of Barack Obama. Let's not get caught short. Bring in Jim Caldwell and John Jones – they seem to have their ears to the ground and are listening to the people.

If you know someone who has done some outstanding things for Toledo either in public service or as a volunteer, let's nominate him or her for a Jefferson Award. Nominations are due by November 30, 2008 – attention The Blade, 316 Superior St.

Port Authority Levy Is Not a New Tax

These are challenging times in our city, region and country. This makes it all the more important that we continue our efforts in the area of economic development and job creation in Lucas County.

On November 4th the voters of Lucas County will have the opportunity to decide upon the renewal of the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority Levy, Issue 41 on the ballot.

The Port Authority Levy is a five-year 0.4 mill levy. It is NOT A NEW TAX and will NOT increase your taxes. The levy will cost the owner of a \$100,000 home \$6.60 per year. In the past four years over 1,700 jobs have been created or

retained because of the Port's efforts.

The Port Authority works with businesses, large and small, by helping them get to access bonds and loans at low rates.

Whether it's large corporations like GM Powertrain, like Tony Packo's, or Aunt Minnie's, the Port Authority is helping our community help itself by building and investing in businesses and helping to create jobs in all parts of Toledo and the region.

The Port Authority's Community Economic Development Initiative works with community based non-profits like ONYX, to build new or revitalize existing commercial structures that will attract or retain businesses and create

jobs.

Levy dollars have also made big investments in our seaport and our airport.

The levy produces \$2.4 million annually – but over the past five years it has leveraged that funding to bring almost 20 times that amount – \$43 million – back in state and federal grants.

By voting for the Port Levy, Issue 41, we are voting for job creation. It is a small investment for a big return. Vote for Issue 41 – for more Jobs NOW!

Bill Carroll
Chairman, Toledo Lucas
County Port Authority

Vote Yes On School Issues

With these tough economic times that we are now facing the future is in our hands the "Voter". We will be going to the ballot box with our home budgets in our heads about what decisions we will be making. As important as this presidential race all the way to continued support to our schools. Education is not a Democratic or Republican issue it's an Educational Issue. As a board member with Toledo Public Schools I made a sound judgment when casting my vote regarding putting Issues 34 and 35 on the ballot because I understand the importance of an education to our children. While our students are succeeding in these tough times we need to remember they are the future of our great nation. We can all trim from our budgets but when doing so education should be the last thing we trim. With that I ask my fellow Toledo Public Schools families and our community to support Issues 34 and 35 with pride. Just as our students do everyday as they enter our buildings.

Respectfully Yours,
Lisa Sobecki
Toledo Public School Board Member

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Will Affirmative Action Still Be Needed?

By Bishop Stephen Ward
Guest Column



It has been said that Barack Obama's political success might claim an unintended victim: affirmative action, a much-debated policy he supports.

Over the years affirmative action has been weakened by several court rulings and state referenda, and now confronts a challenge to its very reason for existing. If Americans make a black person the president, how can racial prejudice be so prevalent and potent that it justifies special efforts to place minorities in coveted jobs and schools? After all, some political scholars argue that the primary rationale for affirmative action is that America is institutionally racist and institutionally sexist, and that rationale is undercut in a major way when you look at the success of Senator Hillary Clinton and Senator Obama. Some scholars even say that Obama's success is further evidence that the great majority of Americans reject discrimination, reject prejudice.

To answer the question about affirmative action being needed, you must start with the definition of affirmative action.

Affirmative action is a catchall phrase referring to laws, customs and social policies intended to alleviate the types of discrimination that limit opportunities for a variety of demographic groups in various social institutions. More specifically, it refers to both voluntary and mandatory efforts undertaken by federal, state and local governments; private employers and schools to combat discrimination and to promote equal opportunity in education and employment for all. Affirmative action requires employers to take steps to achieve a balanced representation of workers. However, the meaning and nature of affirmative action have changed over the last 30 or so years as a result of congressional, presidential and court actions.

Looking at the definition of affirmative action, will affirmative action still be needed? Absolutely!

It was not long ago when the House of Representatives passed a resolution apologizing to African-Americans for slavery and the era of Jim Crow. In passing the resolution, the House also acknowledged the injustice, cruelty, brutality and inhumanity of slavery and Jim Crow. The resolution states

that the vestiges of Jim Crow continue to this day. African-Americans continue to suffer from the consequences of slavery and Jim Crow, long after both systems were formally abolished, through enormous damage and loss, both tangible and intangible, including the loss of human dignity and liberty, the frustration of careers and professional lives and the long-term loss of income and opportunity. The House of Representatives also committed itself to stopping the occurrence of human rights violations in the future.

Now, if this is truly the case...affirmative action will still be needed!

Affirmative action is still needed because so many disparities exist between the African American community and the larger American community today that can be traced directly to inequalities passed on from an earlier generation that suffered under the brutal legacy of slavery and Jim Crow. Segregated schools were and are inferior schools. We still haven't fixed them, and the inferior education they provided, then and now, helps explain the pervasive achievement gap between today's black and white students.

Legalized discrimination where blacks were prevented, often through violence, from owning property, or loans were not granted to African

American business owners, or black homeowners could not access FHA mortgages, or blacks were excluded from unions, meant that black families could not amass any meaningful wealth to bequeath to future generations. That history helps explain the wealth and income gap between blacks and whites and the concentrated pockets of poverty that persist in so many of today's urban and rural communities.

Affirmative action will still be needed!

Just because Barack Obama, Oprah Winfrey and other minorities have reached the top of their professions does not mean that ordinary blacks, Hispanics or women are free from day-to-day biases that deny them equal access to top schools or jobs. As affirmative action's power has diminished, minority enrollment has fallen at many prominent colleges. If people get the impression from Obama's success that the racial problems of this country have been solved, that would be very sad. In some ways we have moved back-

wards in recent years.

Exceptions don't make the rule. By any measure, Obama and Clinton are clearly exceptional individuals. When you really examine the masses of Americans, especially women and people of color, you still find incredible disparities. There are disparities in areas such as income, education achievement, health care and incarceration rates.

Therefore, affirmative action will still be needed!

In 1994, women were earning 72 percent of men's salaries, even after having the same experience, education and merit. In 1992, black men with professional degrees earned 79 percent of the salaries of white men holding jobs at comparable levels. Black women with professional degrees earned 60 percent of the salaries of white men at comparable levels.

Based on 1992 data, both white females and black males must work about eight months to earn a salary equal to what white males earn in six months. Black females must work 10 months to earn comparable salaries. Fewer

women and minorities than white males are promoted to senior levels in organizations. Although there have been recent gains in employment participation and income levels among women and black males, the current data suggest that gender and race segregation in employment, as well as discrepancies in earnings, continue to exist even when jobholders hold equivalent qualifications.

Therefore, affirmative action will still be needed!

The ripple effects on black communities and families have been enormous and devastating. Millions of the black poor and permanently stigmatized, excluded from much of the job market and opportunities for training and education, and are sent home to the same resource-poor, de-industrialized communities in which they lived before prison, where there are no services for them, and no societal will to educate or train them.

America's enormous prison system, along with its punitive and exclusionary

(Continued on Page 14)



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November 9
1 - 4 p.m.

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December 6
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Vote NO on Issue 6

Because Issue 6 is a constitutional amendment that all Ohioans will have to live under, it is only fair that the benefits should reach all Ohioans. Unfortunately, this is not the case. Issue 6 doesn't provide any benefit to African-American business owners or minorities located across the state and has several flaws that should make it unacceptable to everyone.

The National Black Chamber of Commerce has chapters in Cleveland, Toledo, Dayton and Cincinnati and a sizeable direct membership of entrepreneurs based in Ohio as part of our 151 chapters in the United States and 52 chapters internationally. We have had an interest in good gaming policy since the mid-1990s. Our advocacy has effected many millions of dollars in contracts for African American firms and an overall economic benefit for our communities.

The most obvious problem with Issue 6 is that it places Ohio's only casino in a location inaccessible to Ohio's urban centers. Located in Clinton County — an hour's drive away from Columbus or Cincinnati — this

casino location wouldn't provide anywhere near the economic opportunities for African-American businesses that a gaming resort located in Cleveland or Dayton might create.

Because of this rural location, all the local economic opportunities and benefits surrounding a casino, such as tourism and infrastructure improvements, won't be felt by the vast majority of Ohio's thousands of minority-owned businesses, most of which are located in the state's urban counties. The primary beneficiaries will be the people and businesses in Wilmington and the immediate surrounding areas.

Previous casino efforts have attempted to benefit all Ohioans by placing casino locations in urban locations across the map, but this proposal gives only one gaming license to one company in the entire state. How is this fair to the majority of Ohioans?

No one can deny that Ohio is going through tough economic times. Jobs are leaving the state in droves and the unemployment rate in some areas is close to reaching double digits. Large busi-

nesses are relocating overseas and the poverty rate for citizens in urban areas is on the rise.

Clearly we need some sort of action, but does anyone truly think that the magic pill to cure our economic woes is to build one casino in Clinton County? Tough economic times call for programs that expand and create opportunities for all Ohioans, not tired and overused ideas that benefit a few while ignoring the many.

If Issue 6 supporters were interested in helping the majority of Ohioans, they'd have crafted a plan that allows all Ohioans to share in the benefits. Instead, they've taken a casino plan that benefits few Ohioans and painted it as an oasis for the economic troubles of Cleveland, Youngstown, and the rest of the state.

In uncertain economic times it's tempting to support the first plan that looks like a silver bullet, but Issue 6 is no silver bullet. It promises everything but guarantees nothing. It claims to benefit Ohioans across the state, yet it is difficult to see how anyone outside of Clinton County stands to gain anything.

This is not to say that casinos are bad for the state. When done properly, these businesses can provide added benefits and opportunity. But Issue 6 is flawed at its very core, leaving most Ohioans, especially its disadvantaged populations,

with nothing more than a glimpse of economic help. Never has an Ohio ballot issue claimed to mean so much to so many when it actually means so little to so few. Ohio deserves a better casino plan that benefits all Ohioans, no matter where

they live on a map.

Harry C. Alford
HARRY C. ALFORD
 President/CEO
 National Black Chamber of Commerce
 Washington, D.C.

VOTING REMINDERS

November 4, 2008 is approaching very fast now that the count down to voting day is less than 30 days in the future. A lot of first time voters out there have to know these things.

If you have not cast your vote already, there are some things you should remember when going to the polls any time between 6:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

- 1.) Get a good night sleep on November 3, 2008 as you will be standing in long lines as this is predicted to be one of the most busiest voting days in the history of the United States.
- 2.) Eat a good meal before you go to the polls so that you will not be hungry while standing in line. Being hungry and tired makes for an angry or grumpy soul. *And, we be not having no violence on the day we vote the first African American man as president of these here United States.*
- 3.) Take a snack with you just in case you did not eat a good meal before going to the polls or you have to stick around longer than the 30 minutes you expected it to take to cast your ballot on that day.
- 4.) Be sure to use good hygiene as you will be laughing and talking in the presence of many a folks that day.
- 5.) Call all of your kinsfolk, friends, or the enemy and asked them if they received an 'I Voted Today' sticker. If they say not yet, gently but firmly tell them to get to it and put their two cents in by casting their vote or you will not listen to all their jive talk *they be speaking on November 5, 2008 and any time soon thereafter.* Remind them if they did not speak on November 4th, there is nothing they have to say on November 5th after all the talking has been done in the voting booth. They especially do not care to hear your soap box version of why they should have voted the day before.
- 6.) Check with those same folks to see if they need a ride to the polls as that may be why they have not voted yet.
- 7.) When you get to the polls **do not** be showing off any of your Obama/Biden or McCain/Palin gear. *This be against the law* unless you are at least 100 feet away from the polling place. It would not be nice to twist somebody's arm to vote for your choice of candidates on the ballot. You will not be turned away, but you may be asked to remove the gear or cover it up. Remember to be nice if approached about it.
- 8.) Bring current and valid identification with you when you go to vote, such as a bank statement, paycheck, or utility bill with your name and current address, Ohio driver's license, state ID, government or military ID card (you can not use a notice from the Board of Elections for identification that was mailed to you.) Voters who do not provide one of these documents will still be able to vote by provisional ballot.
- 9.) If you have trouble reading, writing, or do not understand one of the issues on the ballot, be sure to ask for assistance.
- 10.) May sure you show up at the right precinct polling place. If you do not know, check the card sent to you where to vote or contact your county board of elections before going to vote.

Issue 6 is a bad deal for Toledo.



NO jobs for Toledo under Issue 6. Just empty promises.
 Issue 6 locks in a casino monopoly for one out-of-state company and one Southwest Ohio county. Toledo would be locked out — and would get NO jobs or any other real benefits.

Out-of-state owner gets millions. Toledo gets NOTHING.
 There are loopholes in Issue 6 that could let the out-of-state owner avoid paying any casino taxes to Ohio. That means that Toledo gets NO jobs and NO guaranteed revenues from Issue 6.

Vote NO on Issue 6

www.NoIssue6.com

NO on 6
 Stop the Deceptive
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Paid for by: NO on Issue 6 Committee Andy Bowers, Treasurer
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With your vote, COSI can begin
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Don't Forget the Other Candidates

Sojourner's Truth Endorsements

This election is not just about the presidency. It has been a quite year locally because so few incumbents have any opposition.

However, there are some important statewide races that need our attention.

Judges typically do not receive a lot of attention but this year we have some critically important choices for the Ohio Supreme Court. Incumbent Republicans Maureen O'Connor and Evelyn Stratton are running for re-election in order to keep the Court solidly Republican ... all Republican.

Since 2006, the Ohio Supreme Court has been 100 percent Republican.

Clearly, we need some balance on the state's highest court.

We urge our readers to vote for Democratic candi-

dates Peter Sikora and Joseph Russo. But don't vote for these two candidates simply because they are Democrats. Both are long-time jurists - Russo has eight years of experience on the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas and Sikora has been on the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court bench for 19 years.

Another statewide candidate who deserves consider-



ation is Democratic candidate Rich Cordray who is running for attorney general. Currently the Ohio Treasurer, Cordray served as the Ohio Solicitor General for a number of years and has also been a member of the Ohio House of Representatives.



Vote for Cordray. On the local scene, Democrat Jeanine Perry is running against Republican Mary Roshong to retain her post as Lucas County Recorder. Perry was appointed to the position when Anita Lopez moved won election to Lucas



County Auditor. Perry has done an admirable job as Recorder and deserves to be elected in her own right.

State Rep. Edna Brown, Commissioners Pete Gerken and Tina Skeldon Wozniak, Treasurer Wade Kapszukiewicz and a host of other folks are running unopposed. We like their chances.

As we wrote last week, vote YES on all of the local funding issues. We need to retain all of those services - none of which, except the COSI Issue 37 - will increase taxes for homeowners. The

COSI tax, however, is minimal and really worth the pennies spent to have such a presence in Toledo.



Vote NO on all of the constitutional amendments. Let's keep the Ohio Constitution at its present length of

72 pages. In particular, neither State Issue 5 nor 6 makes any sense as written.



Thank You, Barack Obama

This week Barack Obama is giving what his campaign calls the 'closing argument' of his presidential bid in Ohio. In one week, God willing, we can put an end to the politics of division and fear at a time when we need hope and to come together as one people.

The longest presidential contest in history is coming down to the finished line. And I am reminded of a verse in the Bible that sums up much of what I have seen in the type of campaign Barack Obama has run... and in much of what he has exemplified to me. It says "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (II Timothy 1:7).

I've learned so much from this campaign this year thanks to Obama. I've learned much about our politics and the issues. And I will confess that there were times when I was getting weak... like in the first debate when I wanted to kick McCain in his shinbone (forgive me, Lord); and in the second debate where I wanted Barack to just not be so polite and tell him off. I was wrong.

It has really been amazing to watch my candidate stand boldly and consistently on principles and ethics throughout this campaign. He's reminded us that we can have the audacity to hope and refuse to succumb to the same-ole politics of fear and division. Obama did not engage in political smear tactics and, from what I've read on McCain, there was a lot of fear-smear ammunition that he could have used. But... he didn't.

Obama has been true to his call for a new kind of politics that involves truth, respect, and an overall goal of unifying people. He reminded us the God has not given us a spirit of fear and that when we keep a sound mind and operate in Love... the best will prevail.

I have a confident hope that Obama will prevail after November 4, 2008. But regardless I have seen a sermon in action and learned sooo much simply by the example of Barack Obama. I've seen him demonstrate on our national stage how to have the power to win through using a sound mind and walking in love.

Thank you Mr. Obama!
Sincerely,
Tina Lawrence

Jeanine Perry

Lucas County Recorder



ELECT

Trustworthy

Honest

Dedicated
Long Time Public Servant

Paid for by the Perry Committee Kathleen Beach, Treasurer, 2656 Overbrook Drive, Toledo, Ohio 43616

VOTE FOR ISSUE 41 - NOT A NEW TAX



A vote FOR Issue 41 will bring continued economic development and jobs programs to Lucas County. And it's a renewal - NOT A NEW TAX, not a tax increase.

- Will help maintain existing jobs and attract MORE JOBS to Lucas County through continued investment in economic development projects.
- Remediation of riverfront property suited for transportation and shipping-related development, including integration of intermodal shipping, trucking and rail transit.
- Helps provide grants and loans for neighborhood economic development projects led by organizations like ONYX, Adelante and Lagrange Development.
- Costs the owner of a \$100,000 home \$6.60 per year.

On November 4th, vote FOR the Port Authority and More Jobs Now.

VOTE FOR ISSUE 41: NOT A NEW TAX

MORE JOBS NOW!

www.portlevy.com

Paid for by Committee for Jobs, Kristen Nicholson, Treasurer, 405 Madison Ave., Suite 1550, Toledo, OH 43604

Jeff Johnson Enlivens 2008 Ohio Young Professionals Conference

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Jeff Johnson – Cleveland native, University of Toledo graduate and host of BET Network's *The Truth* with Jeff Johnson – lived up to his billing on Saturday and thrilled a lunchtime audience at the 2008 Ohio Young Professionals Conference.

The conference, hosted by the Greater Toledo Urban League and the Ohio Urban League Young Professionals, brought together young professionals from around the state to focus on the theme "Bridging the Gap in Health and Healthcare."

Panel discussions included topics such as: "Creating Effective Outcomes – The State of Minority Health in Ohio," "Are You Covered," "Holistic Health with Fititudes," Exercise Programs for Busy Professionals."

The conference – the third annual one and the first hosted by the Toledo YP group – was intended to present both networking and learning opportunities for minority young professionals.

The highlight of the conference, however, was Johnson's presentation in which he ad-



John Jones, Jamilah Jones, Jeff Johnson

ressed head-on the issues of the health disparities facing the African-American community and society's ineffectiveness in solving such issues.

"[The health care issue] speaks prophetically to where we are when we look at the movement. The African-American movement is dealing with the same things," said Johnson at the onset of his speech. "We have to deal with the health of the movement

because somewhere there is a disconnect.

"When African American HIV rates are higher than those in Zimbabwe, something is wrong. When 20 percent of the black population [of Washington D.C.] is infected, something is wrong!"

Johnson also assailed black groups and leaders for their failure to speak to mental health issues. "As a community we are not aggressive in dealing

with mental health issues," said Johnson. "Parents are not involved enough with their children who are in these institutions that are more interested in discipline than in development. Our organizations are suffering from mental illness. We allow leaders to talk about issues and not do anything about them.

"I want to see some black-on-black crime," said Johnson with a chuckle. "There are some

black people I want to fight. We need to fight them by removing them from positions that require someone who has a vision."

Johnson reserved his sharpest comments for the issue of obesity in the black community and the failure of so many to address health concerns relating to obesity in the privacy of their homes.

Schools and institutions can do a better job in letting contracts to purveyors of healthy food products, he noted. "But if people are not talking about what we are doing at home – all we are doing is putting a band-aid on a bullet wound – we eat like slaves. We are the freest slave-eating people I know."

Again, he related the black community's struggle to lose weight with the need for bloated black organizations to lose their own excess baggage.

"There's some fat that we have to shed and there's some fat we gotta shed in our organizations. Gone are the days when we need a Wal-Mart organization, we need boutique organizations but the ego denies the process and we get

fat."

Organizations, said Johnson, cannot be all things to all people.

Health insurance did not escape Johnson's scrutiny. "I don't like either candidate's proposals," he said. He assailed Senator John McCain's \$5,000 tax credit as totally wrong and Senator Barack Obama's less than universal coverage scheme as insufficient.

And again, he took organizations to task for not dealing with complex issues with sophisticated strategies.

"It's checkers not chess," he said. "When was the last time you took your organization to the doctor? Is the Urban League healthy?"

As for the upcoming election, Johnson closed his remarks, as he opened, by cautioning his audience from expecting too much from a President Obama, especially if Americans unwilling to work hard to ensure the success of the administration.

"If you love Barack Obama, that much you know," said Johnson. "He's going to need help."



**Working together,
on Tuesday,
November 4th,
President Obama
and the Democrats
in Congress
will bring the
change we need
to America.**

**Vote early now through November 3
or on Election Day, November 4
Go to Ohio.VoteforChange.com
Or 1-877-OBAMA-OH (877-622-6264)**

NAACP's 93rd Annual Freedom Fund Banquet

Sojourner's Truth Staff

"Power, Justice, Freedom. VOTE!" was the theme of this year's 93rd Annual NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet held at the Pinnacle on Friday, October 24.

Keynote speaker Rev. John E. Roberts, pastor of Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church, closed his address with an update on his usual words of encouragement for people to get to the polls: "Much vote, much power, little vote, little power, no vote, no power." Roberts added the words justice and freedom to that refrain.

Dreyon Wynn, a minis-

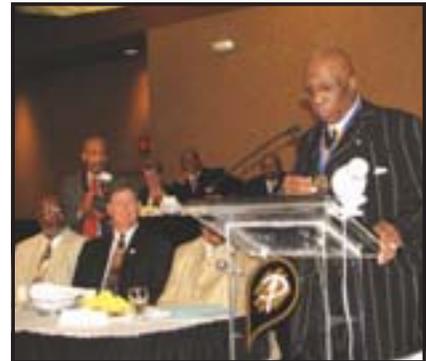


Reverends Robert Wormley and I.J. Johnson



Jackie Brown, Jonathan and Angelita Bridges

ter honored several local residents for their community service. The honorees were Roberts, who has served as pastor of Indiana Avenue MBC for 43 years; Rev. Robert P. Wormely, who has been the pastor of Southern Missionary Baptist since 1985; I.J. Johnson, the dean of Toledo pastors with over 50 years of service at St. Mark's Missionary Baptist Church and Fletcher Word, publisher of The Truth.



Photos Courtesy of Johnnie Early, Ph.D.

ter at the Greater Bible Way Temple of Bay City, MI served as the event's master of ceremony and guest commentary was provided by Tyrone Bledsoe, Ph. D., founder and director of the Student African American Brotherhood (SAAB), a group that brings male college students together to inspire and encourage their development at their institutions of higher learning.

Nate Gurley's rendition of "The Impossible Theme" was dedicated to the campaign of Senator Barack Obama and his quest to win the presidency of the United States.

As usual, this premiere NAACP event brought together numerous elected officials including Congress-

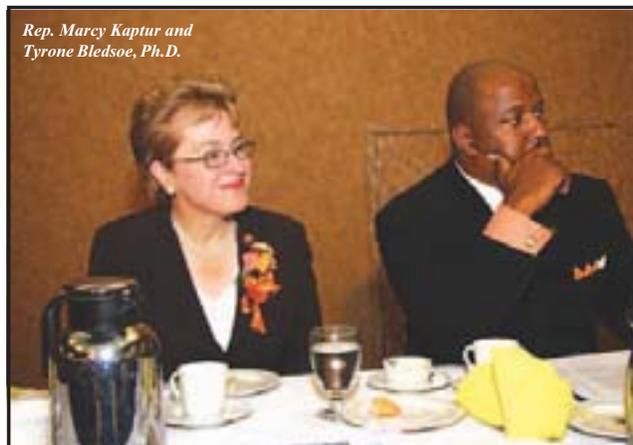


Rev. John Roberts

woman Marcy Kaptur, State Representative Edna Brown, City Councilmen Michael Ashford, Wilma Brown, Joe McNamara, George Sarantou, Mark

Sobezak, Lucas County Commissioner Ben Konop, Judge C. Allen McConnell, among others.

The Toledo Chapter's President WilliAnn Moore



Rep. Marcy Kaptur and Tyrone Bledsoe, Ph.D.

Church's Chicken



12 tender strips & 4 biscuits
and choice of any large side order

\$12.99

50 pieces of dark (original or spicy)
only **\$35.00**

Offer good for Church's Chicken at
2124 Franklin Avenue, Toledo

Medical Professionals Receive Special Blessing

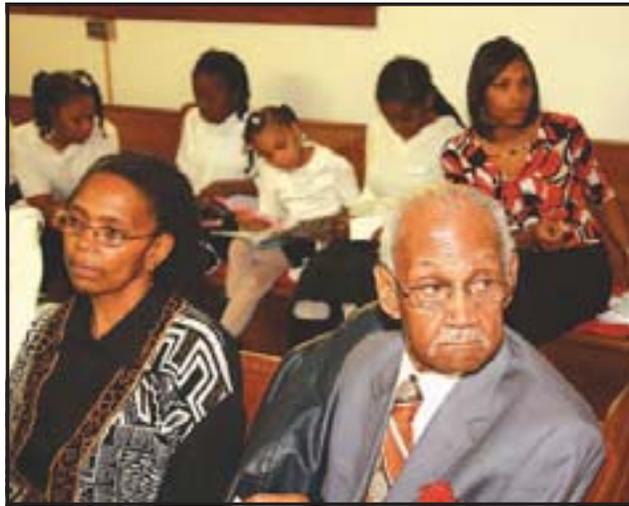
By Artisha S. Lawson
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Third Baptist Church on Pinewood opened its doors on Sunday, October 19 for its first annual Blessing of the Hands Ceremony, where over 75 individuals were blessed and thanked for the care rendered to others.

"Today our role is to say thank you. Whether you're a medical researcher, or physician, we pause today to say thank you. You may say, 'pastor, I don't know what my role is?' God has called all of us for the right purpose. Your skills are from a loving God, who challenges you in faith while you still have this opportunity to help in life," said Rev. Kevin J. Bedford, Sr, senior pastor of Third Baptist Church

The church's service began with a greeting from Robert Smith, the CEO of African American Legacy Project, and later featured a sermon by Dr. Theodore B. Jones, MD.

Dr. Jones, the current associate professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and interim chairman at Wayne State University School of Medi-



cine in Detroit, wanted the congregation to understand that there is a connection in the medical field to Christianity.

"We as physicians have spiritual journeys of our own," said Dr. Jones. "When we're

in touch with God, it makes us better care providers. My spirituality is just as important as my physical well being."

Special recognition was given to the six African American Legacy Project honorees from the project's luncheon the previous day on Saturday, October 18. Honors were given to: Dr. Franklyn V. Duffy, D.D.S.; Mary Gregory, RN; Dr. Herbert Stockard, M.D.; Daisy Smith, RN; Donna Todd, RN, and Dr. John Williams, D.D.S. Along with those honorees, over 70 other individuals in attendance lined-up and participated in the ceremony. These included physicians, nurses, medical researchers, pharmacists, healthcare staff and adminis-

trators, social workers and home care providers.

Bedford felt that all areas of health and medicine should participate in the ceremony. "You might be a food server, but whatever your role is - just come. Because whatever it is that you might do, provides service to those in need.

We forget sometimes about those providing care at home. You too are a part of the healthcare team. Whether it's caring for mom, dad, aunt or uncle, because you carry on the care," said Bedford.

One participant, Silema Crowley, a social worker and member of Third Baptist Church felt that participating in the ceremony will help her at work. She received her inspiration from her grandmother who cared for others. "My grandma was my example, she was a member here and gave to the community

when needed," said Crowley. "In my profession, the way I walk, speak words, and work cause a reaction. I pray that the words come from the Lord that I may be an example."

Throughout the service, the choir of Third Baptist Church - Voices in Unity - sang several selections under the direction of Glenn Jones, pastor of Music. Their selections included: 'Let everything that hath breathe praise the Lord,' 'Spirit of the living God,' 'Holy is He,' and 'I am thine, O Lord.'



Rev. Kevin Bedford greets Legends honorees



OBAMA WAS AN AWESOME SPEAKER IN TOLEDO!!



Michael K. Day, Alison Day & Sen. Barack Obama
Michael & Alison were elated to talk with Sen. Obama at the Maumee Bay Hotel in Oregon, Ohio on October 11, 2008



Dorothy E. Day

The House of Day Funeral Service
2550 Nebraska Avenue

Sen. Obama urged us to vote early	Oct. 25 th	8:00 am - 4:30 pm
for our next president!	Oct. 26 th	1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Vote on	Nov. 1 st	8:00 am - 4:30 pm
	Nov 2 nd	1:00 pm - 5:00 pm



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Darrick Beckwith
Community Relations
Asst. Executive Director

The Dr. Morton Goldberg Community Service Awards

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Rabbi Morton Goldberg, Ph. D., advocate and leader, was one of the original board members of the Board of Community Relations (BCR) and chairman emeritus of the BCR in 1996. In his honor, every five years or so, the BCR sponsors the Goldberg Community Service Awards.

Last week, the BCR presented the 2008 Goldberg Community Service Awards to five Toledoans at a ceremony held in the City Council Chambers.

This year's recipients were Mansour Bey, Morlon Harris, Jewel Lightner, Rhonda Sewell and Fletcher Word.

Mansour Bey was a com-



Juanita Greene, Jewel Lightner, Councilman Mark Sobczak, Morlon Harris, Fletcher Word, Rhonda Sewell, Councilman Tom Waniewski, Nazaarah Bay, Mayor Carty Finkbeiner



Rabbi Morton Goldberg, Ph. D.

munity activist for many years, serving as a minister at First Church of God, a political activist and a missionary. Bey passed away on April 18 of this year and his award was accepted by his widow, Nazaarah, and other members of his family.

Harris is the executive director of the Friendly Cen-

ter and prior to that was executive director of Chance for Change. He is also the chairman of "Man UP," an outreach program for young men.

Harris provides bible studies to those in the community, he has been a facilitator for United North and has provide college tours for economically disadvantaged

youth.

Lightner is the corporate director of Diversity for ProMedica Health System. She founded and serves as chairman of the ProMedica Diversity Community Advisory Council which is a microcosm of the Toledo community in its range of racial, ethnic, gender, religious, socio-economic, age, educational participants.

Lightner also created and serves as chairman of the

Multicultural Language Assistance Council.

Sewell is coordinator of media and public relations for the Toledo Lucas County Library and prior to that was a staff reporter at The Blade for 18 years.

Her community activities are numerous including membership in The Links, Inc., Jack and Jill, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

She serves on the board of directors for organizations such as The Independent Collegian at The University of Toledo, the local

Children's Defense Fund affiliate Freedom School - Center of Hope and Madd Poets Society. She has, in the past, served on a multitude of other community organizations' boards.

Word is the publisher/editor of The Truth and serves on the boards of the Toledo Press Club, the Freedom School - Center of Hope, the Greater Toledo Urban League, the Northwest Ohio Black Media Association and Toledo Museum of Art Cultural Diversity Committee.

Tour Seats Still Available

The Maumee Bay Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club would like to inform the community that there are still seats available for high school students on our 6th Annual Historical Black College Tour.

For additional information please contact Gwen Banks @ (419) 944-5912 or Trevor Black @ (419) 478-7844.

Lucas County Children Services Celebrates "Adoption Weekend"

Special to The Truth

18 Local Children to be Adopted on Saturday; 30 Area Churches Participate on Sunday

More than 129,000 children nationwide and more than three dozen children in Lucas County are in foster care, awaiting "forever families" to adopt them. To generate awareness of the need for adoptive families, Lucas County Children Services (LCCS) is planning a weekend of activities, November 1 and 2, as part of its recognition of National Adoption Month.

As many as 18 Lucas County children will have their adoptions finalized as LCCS and the Lucas County Probate Court hold their annual "Adoption Day" ceremony, Saturday, November 1. The event takes place at the Northwest Ohio Regional Training Center, 711 Adams Street (at Ontario Street) in downtown Toledo, beginning at 9 a.m. The children, who were previously in the custody of LCCS, range in age from infants to teens and will become permanent members of area families.

"These children are so fortunate," says Dean

Sparks, LCCS executive director. "They can move forward with their lives, knowing that they can count on the comfort and stability of a permanent family. These children will know that they are wanted, and can grow up with that important sense of security," he adds.

In 2007, LCCS facilitated the adoption of 183 children. LCCS adoptions represent approximately half of all adoptions finalized by the Lucas County Probate Court. "Without a doubt, meeting the children and families on Adoption Day is a remarkable experience," says Lucas County Probate Judge Jack Puffenberger who will officiate. "These are families who are willing to give of themselves to change a child's life by giving them a permanent home. It is truly heartwarming."

Adoption Sunday

In partnership with 30 Lucas County houses of worship, LCCS will, for the first time, celebrate "Adoption Sunday," Sunday, November 2.

Participating churches will include information about adoption in their worship in an effort to make

families more aware of the need for adoptive homes in our area. "Church, family and love' are three words that are intrinsically connected," says Marjorie Holt, Ph.D., Minority Affairs and Inclusion coordinator for Lucas County Children Services. "What better place than in the church to spread the word that children in our community need their love and to be part of a family?" she continues.

LCCS is currently seeking permanent adoptive homes for about three dozen children. The greatest need is for families willing to adopt teens or groups of brothers and sisters. Any adult, single or married, can adopt provided they complete a background check, training and a home study. Adoptive families can work outside the home, and need not own their home to qualify. They also receive financial support based on the adoptive child(ren)'s needs.

To learn more about adopting a child through LCCS, please call 419-213-3336 or visit www.lucaskids.net.

Help build on the progress Toledo Public Schools has achieved in our community. Vote FOR Issues 34 and 35.

Progress We Can Build On

VOTE FOR ISSUES

34 & 35

TOLEDO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Please join us in supporting Toledo Public Schools this November.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAAACP, Toledo Branch ARI-OO American Postal Workers Union Local 170 Northwest Ohio Building Trade Council Teamsters Local 20 Toledo Association of Administrative Personnel Toledo Federation of Teachers Toledo Fire Fighters Local 92 Chase Elementary School PTO Fulton Elementary School PTO Hawkins Elementary School PTO Larchmont Elementary School PTO Laverette Middle School Boosters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lucas County Democratic Party McTigue Middle School Parent Group Robinson Middle School FTA Rogers High School Athletic Boosters Rogers High School RAAP Scott High School Boosters Start High School Hall of Fame Toledo Technology Academy Parent Partners Waite High School Alumni Association Walbridge Elementary School PTO Woodward High School Athletic Boosters Parent Congress of Toledo Public Schools
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Paid for by the Committee for Schools, 420 E. Washington Blvd., Toledo, OH 43608, Angela Jordan, Treasurer

Issue 6 is a bad deal for Toledo.



NO jobs for Toledo under Issue 6. Just empty promises.

Issue 6 locks in a casino monopoly for one out-of-state company and one Southwest Ohio county. Toledo would be locked out – and would get NO jobs or any other real benefits.

Out-of-state owner gets millions. Toledo gets NOTHING.

There are loopholes in Issue 6 that could let the out-of-state owner avoid paying any casino taxes to Ohio. That means that Toledo gets NO jobs and NO guaranteed revenues from Issue 6.

www.NoIssue6.com

Vote No on Issue 6

Paid for by: NO on 6 Committee | Andy Bowers, Treasurer | 612 North Park Street, Suite 200 | Columbus, OH 43215

NO on 6
It's a bad deal for Ohio.

Commentary: Support Lima City Schools

By Sharon Guice
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Lima, it must be done. The kids in the Lima City Schools must have your help by voting yes to the renewal levy. The school board heard you when you said no at the polls to new taxes. However, they are begging, pleading, praying for a renewal to keep things operating in the Lima City School district.

Food, gas for the car and the house is costing more. You say to yourself where the money is going to come from. I desire more money, not less. It is unfair for only the home owner to bear the burden for the schools while every other cost are increasing too.

Be that as it may, the youth of Lima must have a yes vote on November 4, 2008 to get the opportunities all homeowners have experienced in the past, and that is an education.

The Lima City School District celebrated 150 years of public education during the 2006-2007 school year. First known as the Lima Union Schools in 1856, the school district has played an important role in the rich history of Lima.

The Lima City Schools have a strong history of producing citizens who have made outstanding contributions to society. In 1987, the Lima City Schools began formally recognizing the accomplishments of its outstanding alumni through the Lima Senior High School Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame. In 1990, the program expanded to include all Lima City School gradu-

ates and became the Lima City Schools Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame. Presently 87 outstanding alumni have received this distinction. A few of those so honored include: Phyllis Diller, Gary Moeller, Joe Henderson, Dr. William Alfred Fowler, Maidie Norman, Harrison Shutt, Dr. David B. Steiner and Scott Clark.

2008 inductees include Bill Jackson and the late Anthony "A.T." Thompson and the late Rev. Franklin Uphthegrove.

The Lima City Schools Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame honors alumni who have received local, state or national recognition for achievements in their occupational fields, made significant contributions to society, or performed meritorious service for our country.

The Hall of Fame also serves as a living example of accomplishment and excellence for our community and current students in the Lima City Schools.

At its meeting Aug. 21, 2008, the Lima City Board of Education approved placing a 1.89 mill **renewal levy** on the Nov. 4, 2008, ballot. **This is a renewal levy so there are no new taxes.**

This levy was first passed in 1974. Voters have renewed it every five years since. If approved by voters, this renewal levy will raise \$625,780 a year for the next five years. The renewal levy raises the same amount as when it was first passed in 1974.

To see how the levy will

affect you, see the examples below.

Home Value \$20,000 - Annual cost is \$11.58 or 3 cents a day. *with 65 & older reduction the cost is \$0.00

Home Value \$50,000 - Annual cost \$28.94 or 8 cents a day

*with 65 & older reduction the cost is \$14.47 or 4 cents a day

Home Value \$75,000 - Annual cost \$43.41 or 12 cents a day

*with 65 & older reduction the cost is \$28.49 or 8 cents a day

Home Value \$100,000 - Annual cost \$57.88 or 16 cents a day

*with 65 & older reduction the cost is \$43.41 or 12 cents a day

*Persons 65 or older or disabled may apply for this Homestead Exemption Reduction at the Allen County Auditor's office. For residents of the Lima City School District, this is approximately a \$300 per year savings.

If passed, the levy will pay for operating expenses of the district including supplies, equipment, wages, benefits, utilities and maintenance.

Currently, local residents provide 19 cents of each dollar to educate a student in the district. The State of Ohio provides 76 cents of each dollar, fees and investments four cents, and Federal Government one cent.

All of the employees of the Lima City Schools District have agreed to a zero percent raise for the 2008-2009 school year. This will

save the district \$644,196 during the term of the contracts.

The teachers' union, LEA, was the first group to offer and approve a 0% raise for next year. Then the three OAPSE locals agreed to the same and the administrators' association followed. All other employees, including the superintendent, treasurer and assistant superintendent, have also agreed forego any raises.

The State Report Cards are out and the news is fantastic as Lima City Schools continue working towards providing an awesome educational experience for the kids.

Eight schools now rated Excellent, Effective or

Continuous Improvement Heritage Elementary School moves up to Excellent.

Freedom and Independence Elementary move up to Effective. Lima South Middle School moves up to Continuous Improvement. Liberty, Unity, Lima Senior High Performance Based School and the Lima Senior High School of Multiple Intelligences maintain their ratings of Continuous Improvement.

Freedom, Heritage, Independence, Unity and South are five schools that meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) which is part of the federal No Child Left Behind Act. AYP goals are set for reading, math, attendance, and

graduation. To meet AYP, a school must meet the goals in all of its student subgroups.

The teachers and students are working very hard and deserve your Yes Vote to Renew Lima City Schools Levy to continue their education.

Hear updates from Superintendent, Karel Oxley, on GTV2 the first week of each month and on WLIO's Noon Edition the first Friday of each month.

You can also visit the Lima City Schools website to get updates of all school activities, State Report Card, school board meetings date, minutes, agenda, events, and much more.

Vote
for Attorney General
CORDRAY
www.CordrayForOhio.com



Join Barack Obama in supporting Richard Cordray

Richard Cordray was there when Barack Obama needed help in Ohio.
Richard Cordray will be there for all of us as Attorney General.
So when you vote, remember to cast your vote for
Richard Cordray for Ohio Attorney General.

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For Ohio Attorney General

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**Free Checking
Savings & Loans
Pay All Utility Bills
Free Tax Service**



**1339 Derr Street
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Kemba Smith: Crime and Disproportionate Punishment

By Faith A. McGlown
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Locked up, seven-months pregnant and the drug-dealing boyfriend that you've been protecting is dead. Now, you are left holding the bag for a \$4 million drug-ring facing a 24 and a half-year sentence in federal prison—hard time.

It could happen. It happened to Kemba Niambi Smith.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and The University of Toledo Africana Studies Program presented Kemba Smith and her profound story to a full auditorium at UT Law School on Sunday, October 26. The presentation was followed by a panel discussion and audience questions and answers session.

It began 1989 when the naïve, college-sophomore Kemba hooked up with big-time, drug dealer Peter Hall at Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia at a campus party. Kemba admitted that she was attracted to his 'swag' and status on campus. She was flattered that he noticed her.

Growing up in a predominantly white suburb, Kemba was raised by strict parents,



Gus and Odessa Smith, and she was their only child. Hitting the all-black college campus was like culture shock. She had self-esteem issues and wanted badly to fit-in. She started hanging with the wrong crowd who were smoking weed and having sex.

"I thought I knew everything," Kemba told the audience about rebelling against

her parents' protective upbringing.

With Hall, Kemba was enjoying the ghetto-fabulous lifestyle—shopping sprees, cars, bling—but as she pointed out, "nothing in life is free."

The relationship turned mentally and physically abusive. Hall became controlling, began to threaten and beat her and isolated her from

her family.

Still Kemba didn't leave Hall; even after law officials began to question her. She feared for her and her family's life. She didn't snitch, not a word, not even for immunity. Hall had already killed his best friend, Derrick "D" Taylor, because he thought he had cooperated with federal agents.

"I thought I was protecting my family," Kemba said. "Cooperation [with police] wasn't an option."

After turning herself in to police, Kemba finally told officials about Hall's dealings and whereabouts hoping for a lighter sentence but it was too late. He was dead by a single gunshot to the head.

She gave birth to her son, William Armani Smith, two months later in jail.

Kemba will be the first to admit that she was guilty. She admits to carrying a gun in her purse for him and even strapping drug money to her body in an airport. She accepts full responsibility for the choices she made.

"I did not traffic in drugs, but I knew my boyfriend did. I knew that while living with him that he did not have a job and we were living off of the proceeds of his drug crimes. I never claimed total innocence and this is the reason why I pled guilty," testified Kemba before the Inter American Commission on Human Rights in 2006.

Although she never sold or used drugs, Kemba pleaded guilty to conspiracy to traffic 225 kilograms of crack cocaine and powder cocaine, money laundering and making false statements to federal agents. The first-time, nonviolent offender was sent to the Danbury Correctional Facility for Women to serve her 24 ½-year sentence.

Kemba's harsh sentence was mostly due to the result of an unbendable combina-

tion of mandatory minimums and federal sentencing guidelines.

As crack cocaine was exploding in America, Congress established mandatory minimum sentences with the 1986 Anti-Drug Abuse Act after President Ronald Reagan's proclamation of the War on Drugs.

Then, in 1988, the Omnibus Anti-Drug Act went further, adding mandatory sentences for simple possession of crack cocaine and changing the drug conspiracy penalties include that a co-conspirator faces the same penalties as the person who actually commits the offense.

For example, a woman whose husband or boyfriend deals drugs, conspiracy may consist of having drugs in the house, taking phone messages from drug associates or driving the husband or boyfriend to the bank to make a deposit

The result – Kemba was sentenced to about four years more than the average state's sentence for murder or voluntary manslaughter.

Three days before Christmas in 2000, President Bill

Kemba suffered by Hall during their three-year, turbulent relationship were not considered during her conviction or sentencing.

In May 2002, Kemba graduated from Virginia Union University with a bachelor's degree in Social Work. She completed her first year of law school at Howard University. She is an author and recently signed a deal for a major movie based on her life.

It is her hope to uplift youth and inspire them to become educated about certain injustices within the criminal justice system while continuing the legacy of women leaders in the struggle for the betterment of our communities.

Kemba's story ignited the paneled discussion and audience Q&A that followed. The panel included Morris Jenkins, Ph.D., Esq., UT Professor of Criminal Justice; Ian English, Esq. Lucas Co. Prosecutor's Office; Professor Charlene Gilbert, Director of The Catherine S. Eberly Center of Women at UT and Smith.

The discussion was mod-



Charlene Gilbert and Kemba Smith

Clinton granted Kemba clemency before leaving office. However, she still has a criminal record and she is unable to vote in Virginia because of the felony conviction.

After spending six and a half in prison, it wouldn't have been surprising to find a young woman hardened by her experience but she is not. This petite, lovely young woman used her ordeal as an opportunity to help others in the same situation.

"It's not just about poor little Kemba," she said, referring to the many others imprisoned by harsh mandatory-minimum sentencing.

Under mandatory sentencing, if you are found to have possessed or distributed a specific amount of a particular substance, you will serve a legislatively-mandated number of years, regardless of the circumstances of your crime, your character or any other mitigating factors.

The abuse and fear that

erated by The Sojourners Truth's editor, Fletcher Word, who navigated and presented topics for the panelists including mandatory minimum sentencing, the legalization of drugs, and the explosion of the prison population.

"As a country, we saw drugs as a criminal justice issue," Jenkins said, when asked how society went wrong with mandatory minimum sentencing. "It is a social, political and medical issue as well."

Jenkins said the criminal justice system has had a negative impact on blacks and the system is inheritedly racist. He said the system is not established to rehabilitate but to punish building an industrial prison complex.

Gilbert suggested that other country's models of criminal justice systems be examined. She said that funding should be provided for treatment and rehabilitation.

Gilbert said that there is a
(Continued on Page 16)

Vote FOR Issue 40 – Not a new tax.



"The services supported by Issue 40 have given me a better quality life that is productive and rewarding."
-Vicki Hill - A Face of Recovery

Endorsing Issue 40:

- Lucas County Family and Children First Council
- Democratic Party
- Teamsters Local 20
- Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur
- Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Toledo Area Small Business Association
- Toledo City Council
- UAW Region 28
- Northwest Ohio Building Trades Council
- Sandra Frisch, Superintendent, Lucas County Educational Service Center
- Northwest Ohio Carpenters Union
- UAW Local 12
- Ohio Association of Public Schools Employees
- Toledo Police Command Officers Association
- Bill Brennan, President, Associated General Contractors of Northwest Ohio
- Laborers Local 500
- Ironworkers Local 55
- IBEW Local 8

Support Mental Health and Recovery Services in Lucas County.

Vote FOR Issue 40.



Paid for by: Citizens for Mental Health, David Schlaudecker, Treasurer, 701 Adams St., Suite 800, Toledo, OH 43604.

STRONG MINDS • STRONG FAMILIES • STRONG COMMUNITY

Affirmative Action

(Continued from Page 4)

attitude toward the class of people from which prisoners originate is freezing the black poor in place for generations to come.

If you don't believe affirmative action will still be needed...

You certainly don't count the black businesses or the black elected officials. You

count the black prisoners, and the former prisoners, and the ruined communities they come from and are discharged into.

Affirmative action is essential for combating the effects of subtle forms of racism for a number of reasons. Affirmative action is outcome-based. Issues of in-

attention are not central to the issue. Affirmative action involves systematic monitoring of disparities in employment practices toward different groups. When they are successful, affirmative action programs lead to the establishment of clear norms by organizations and institutions regarding the impor-

ance of full equality for everyone in the workplace.

Lastly, in going to the polls to vote...

Please remember that Senator John McCain endorsed a proposal to scrap affirmative action in his home state of Arizona. When McCain was asked the question that aired on ABC's

"This Week" whether he supports a ballot referendum that would eliminate affirmative action, McCain replied, "Yes, I do."

Affirmative action is a policy that must be maintained to assure that the progress made by women, ethnic minorities and people with disabilities is pre-

served. It is a policy that will allow the youth of this country to inherit a future where equality and fairness is a part of being an American. Support our future, support equality, support Senator Barack Obama!

You may contact Bishop Stephen Ward by email at: pastorsmward@yahoo.com

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CLASSIFIEDS

October 29, 2008

Page 15

State of Ohio Ohio School Facilities Commission NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Bids will be received by the Toledo Public School District (the "District or TPS"), at the School Board Office, Treasurers Room 3, 420 E. Manhattan Blvd., Toledo, Ohio 43608 for Elmhurst Elementary School, Riverside Elementary School, Walbridge Elementary School, and Birmingham Elementary School Pre-demolition Asbestos/HazMat Abatement Projects in accordance with the Drawings and Specifications prepared by:

TTL Associates, Inc.
1915 N. 12th Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604

Phone No. 419-324-2222
Fax No. 419-321-6252

The Construction Manager for the Project is:
Lathrop/Gant/Barton Malow, LLC
701 Jefferson, Suite 302
Toledo, Ohio 43604
Phone No. 419-776-5600
Fax No. 877-281-0784

Any Proposed Equal for a Standard shall be submitted to the Consultant, no later than ten (10) days prior to the bid opening. If no Addendum is issued accepting the Proposed Equal, the Proposed Equal shall be considered rejected.

Sealed bids will be received for: Estimates

Bid Item No. 1: Asbestos/HazMat Abatement of Elmhurst Elementary School \$205,000

Abatement Dates: December 15, 2008 through January 30, 2009

Bid Item No. 2: Asbestos/HazMat Abatement of Riverside Elementary School \$180,000

Abatement Dates: December 15, 2008 through January 30, 2009

Bid Item No. 3: Asbestos/HazMat Abatement of Walbridge Elementary School \$72,000

Abatement Dates: December 15, 2008 through January 30, 2009

Bid Item No. 4: Asbestos/HazMat Abatement of Birmingham Elementary School \$215,000

Abatement Dates: December 15, 2008 through January 30, 2009 until **November 10th, 2008, at 2:00**

p.m., [as determined by Stratum clocking (cell phone time)]. The bids will be opened and read at the Board Room located at the Thurgood Marshall Building at 420 E. Manhattan Blvd., Toledo, Ohio 43608.

A pre-bid meeting will be begin on **October 31st, 2008, at 10:00 a.m.** at the former Elmhurst Elementary School located at 4530 Elmhurst Road, Toledo, Ohio; then will proceed to Walbridge Elementary School located at 1245 Walbridge Avenue, Toledo, Ohio; then will proceed to Birmingham Elementary School located at 2222 Bakewell Street, Toledo, Ohio and the walkthrough will finish at Riverside Elementary School at 500 Chicago Street, Toledo, Ohio.

Bidders will be required to comply with the Toledo Public School District's Community Inclusion Plan.

Contract Documents can be obtained from **Toledo Blue Print, 6964 Mc Nerney Street, Northwood, Ohio 43619, phone: (419) 661-9841** for the cost of the printing, to be paid to the printing company at the time the drawings are picked up. CD-Rom copies of the bid drawings are also available from **Toledo Blue Print** for no cost with the purchase of the specification books.

The Contract Documents may be reviewed for bidding purposes without charge during business hours at the following locations:

Maumee F.W. Dodge Plan Room
3521 Briarfield Blvd., Suite D
Maumee, OH 43537
PH: 419-861-1300
FX: 419-861-1325

The Plan Room
3135 South State St., Suite 210
Ann Arbor, MI 48108
PH: 734-662-2570
FX: 734-662-1695

University of Toledo - Capacity Bldg
Toledo, Ohio 43606
PH: 419-530-3120
FX: 419-530-3242

Builders Exchange
5555 Airport Hwy, Suite 140
Toledo, OH 43615
PH: 216-661-8300

Northwest Ohio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
303 Morris St.
Toledo, Ohio 43602
PH: 419- 351-1521

E.O.P.A. - Hamilton Building
505 Hamilton St.
Toledo, Ohio 43602
PH: 419-242-7304

Columbus F.W. Dodge Plan Room
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Dublin, OH 43215-1073
PH: 614-486-6575
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Construction Association of Michigan
43636 Woodward Ave.
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302
PH: 248-972-1014
FX: 248-972-1136

Ohio Construction News
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Cleveland, Ohio 44130
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Community investment funds available through United Way

United Way of Greater Toledo (UWGT) is pleased to announce to the public the Intent to Apply for program investment funds through a detailed screening process beginning Monday, October 27, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. Funding requests must align with UWGT's identified priority issue areas, short and long term goals, and desired results. Funding is available to organizations that serve people in Lucas, Wood, and Ottawa counties. Please visit www.unitedwaytoledo.org/agenda to review the full Agenda for Change, timeline for program investment funds, eligibility criteria, and instructions about how to submit an Intent to Apply. All requests must be submitted electronically by Wednesday, November 5, 2008 at noon. Invitation for full proposals will be communicated by Tuesday, November 11, 2008.

Kemba Smith

(Continued from Page 13)

Gilbert said that there is a double standard based on class in America. Celebrities go to spa treatments and African-American women are sent to jail.

English said he lived with the effects of drugs in the central city. Working for judges, he saw members of his own community pushed through the system. He became a prosecutor to create change by applying justice evenly. He urged everyone

to become a part of the political machine not just vote. Gilbert agreed and warned the audience that November 5 is just the beginning of the work ahead.

English commented that not just the juvenile receive treatment but the home must be treated too. She said there is a higher status for those exiting prison than college in our communities.

Audience members, like Tammi Lampkin, who works in the juvenile justice system, asked questions about breaking the cycle in the Black community and addressing the concerns of African-American females during the Q& A. Other audience questions centered on

carceration. UT senior and criminal justice major Ralph Murphy said he wished more black males were in the audience. However, some black women may feel strong enough to walk away, especially inner-city females, after hearing Kemba's story, he said.

Payal Patel, UT freshman, said she heard about Kemba's story from a co-worker and she wanted to find out more. She searched websites like youtube.com to learn about Kemba.

"How she didn't do anything, it was her boyfriend, how she got through it and got out of it," said Patel, when asked about her curiosity for Kemba's ordeal.

Learn more about Kemba Smith's story at: www.kembasmithfoundation.org.



Kemba Smith and the ladies of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority



Sheryl Riggs and Smith

making a difference in the community and supporting those who return from in-

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Come and enjoy an evening of magic and excitement that be headlined by, Dorian Grey, an extraordinary magician, with the ability to keep you amazed and mystified with his large array of magical feats. Dorian Grey will be performing at the Collingwood Art Center on Saturday, November 8, 2008, in an effort to help raise funds for the Art Center. The event is titled "The Warlocks Ball" and will feature Tarot Readers, movies, music for your dancing pleasure, and other events which will keep you entertained throughout the night. The event starts at 7:00 PM and will last until midnight. The admission is \$10.00 and the parking is free.

Tickets can be purchased at The Collingwood Art Center, 2413 Collingwood, 419-244-2787. Also at The Truth Art Gallery, 1811 Adams, 419-243-0007.

Dorian Gray has performed throughout the United States and is currently based here in Toledo. For those who enjoy pure magic and other acts of the mysterious, he will truly be a treat to watch and interact with you as a part of the entertainment.

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3:30 for food service
3:30 for Refreshment Exchanges

Endorsement

(Continued from Page 2)

have been arguably the worst of any president since James Buchanan, the fact is that he was selected for all the right reasons.

What happens in the McCain White House when a tough decision looms? Picture this is you possibly can. "Oh, Sarah, this is John. Wonder if you can drop by the Oval Office, we need your input on this Russian invasion thing."

Sound plausible? McCain's second critical decision was on the bailout. How in the world does a self-proclaimed conservative, one who is accusing Obama of being a socialist because he wishes to spread the wealth around, call for a plan to take \$300 billion and spread it around to homeowners to help them with their mortgages.

The bailout was McCain's opportunity to live up to his billing. He failed miserably.

On the other hand, we have Barack Obama.

His energy plan is no more cohesive at the moment than is McCain's. His health care program is light years ahead of his Republican opponent's although we still believe it can go further - he needs to call on Dennis Kucinich and talk about single payer plans. Ideal but not politically feasible... yet.

We actually think that Obama's approach to foreign policy is a vast improvement over McCain's and we believe that he will make a much better commander-in-chief.

There was a moment during Obama's meeting with General David Petraeus in Iraq when Obama told the general-hero that he would not simply give in to general and flag officers when he had to consider issues of grand strategy that would be beyond the Pentagon's purview.

That's why in this country, the Constitution calls for the military to be subjected to civilian control. Obama sounded just the right note.

Beyond the matters of their stands on the issues, we see a leader with consistency in Obama and a person in McCain who flails around, lurching from one idea to another, inconsistent in his behavior and his choices. Temperament matters.

At one point in this campaign, this newspaper, as did many other observers, wrote that Obama needed to get a little riled up, flash some temper, stick a finger in someone's face. He never did that, to his great credit. If he is elected president next Tuesday, the nation will be thankful that he has such an even-keeled disposition.

We also see in Obama, from his early days as editor of the Harvard Law Review and throughout his adult life, an ability to gather others around him, of all sorts of political persuasions, to work together for a common cause. He has always been that sort of collaborator. That's why we believe that he can take the energy issue by the horns and bring together the right people to put a far-reaching program to solve the energy dilemma.

McCain never has been one to pull people together. McCain has gone through his career burning bridges and bouncing around from one empathetic colleague to another.

The polls are open now, they will be open this weekend.

The Truth urges all of our readers to get out there, bring family and friends with you, brave the lines. This may well be the most important election since 1932. Be a part of it.

Vote for Senator Barack Obama.

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