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"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

November 19, 2008

S&S Management and Consulting



In This Issue

The Truth Editorial
Page 2

Fatherhood Summit
Page 4

Cover Story:
S & S Management
Page 6

Ebony Fair Fashion
Page 8

ASSETS Businesses
Page 10

Obama Observations
Page 3

Wilkowski's Campaign
Page 5

Mayor's MBE Award
Page 7

Home Depot's Re-Do
Page 9

Real Estate Info
Page 12



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This Strikes Us ...

A Sojourner's Truth Editorial

So much for the honeymoon!
 But then again, President-Elect Barack Obama isn't exactly expecting any sort of grace period as he prepares to take over the most powerful position in the world. Good thing, too.

The Obama phenomenon, huge as it has been for the last two years, has only grown in scope since he won the presidency. You can't find a magazine that does not have his photo on it. Tickets for the inauguration are in greater demand than ever. And, no, faithful readers, we do not have any magic way of conjuring up such tickets for you but thanks for asking ... and asking.

U. S. Senator Chuck Schumer (Dem-NY) says his office has received over 100,000 requests for inauguration tickets. As with other senators, he has 381 to distribute. House Representatives have only about 200.

The Obama-watching just has not subsided in the post-election euphoria or curiosity. CNN and MSNBC saw their ratings go through the roof in the run-up to the election but the guess here is that those ratings are just as strong as all of the newly minted political junkies ponder and second guess every Obama transition move.

Obama seems to be moving quickly as he plots his moves as well he should. He really, unlike any president before him, has to hit the ground running ... ready on Day One as his rivals - Hillary Clinton and John McCain - were wont to say.

And speaking of rivals, it appears that Obama has been magnanimous almost to a fault to his rivals. He is inviting Clinton to take one of the most powerful positions in the government and he has reached out to McCain, ostensibly to engage him as an ally in the Senate.

Independent Senator Joe Lieberman, who caucuses with the Democrats and has a chairmanship as a result, by all rights, should have been locked up in a closet for a while. Word has it that Obama has spoken to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid to go easy on the disloyal Lieberman, who not only campaigned for McCain but also campaigned in various locales for the down-ticket Republicans.

This openness of spirit is not without purpose. Never before has an incoming president faced quite the challenges that await Obama. Never before has a president needed as much help as he will need. He doesn't need to make new enemies; he doesn't need to keep rivals out of the loop.

Obama will be only the second president since Richard Nixon to enter office with a war ongoing. And only Franklin Delano Roosevelt entered office facing an economic crisis of this magnitude.

Factor in the nation's energy crisis, the access to health care issue, the environmental problems, the global war on terrorism, the public education fiasco ... you have to wonder if it did not occur to Obama on the day after his victory to ask for a recount.

So much for a honeymoon!
 Traditionally, presidents can coast for the first 100 days in office. Crises usually take at least that long to surface. Obama has already been hit with his crises, he spent the campaign speaking at length about most of them.

And did we mention the mess in the American auto industry?
 Obama has already let it be known that his preference is for bailing out the industry ... again. That will cost taxpayers another \$25 billion, which is \$25 billion we don't have. Advocates of the auto bailout argue that a bankrupt industry cannot expect to reorganize while clients still line up for cars from companies that they suspect might not be around in a year when they need the assurances a warranty provides.

Opponents say that throwing money at the auto companies will not rescue an industry that has problems so systemic there is no cure unless they declare bankruptcy and free themselves of onerous obligations.

We've already seen the problems that bailouts present with the banking package. In spite of the Treasury Department's efforts to push banks into resuming lending practices, the fact is that the first round of money the government poured into financial institutions failed to do that. Banks have been using that money for other purposes such as acquisitions and shareholders dividends.

This is the world that President Barack Obama will be leading.
 Remember how easy things seemed when George W. Bush took over? All he had to worry about was whether to pass out tax breaks because there was a budget surplus. Then all hell broke loose.

At least Obama is suffering no illusions about what he is about to face. We don't know if he is fired up, but he has to be ready to go.

The Sojourner's Truth

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Community Calendar

November 19

Holidays and Every Days: ProMedica Cancer Institute and Catholic Charities to help with loss of a loved one; 7 to 8:30 pm; Flower Hospital campus: 419-469-3716

November 19-23

50th Anniversary of Mt. Sinai Pentecostal Church; Nightly services at 7 pm; Saturday night banquet: 419-255-8577 or 419-726-0391

November 20

"Getting Ovar It:" ProMedica Cancer Institute support group for current and previous ovarian cancer patients; 7 to 8:30 pm; Hickman Cancer Center at Flower Hospital: 419-824-8822

November 21

Friendship New Vision 2nd Annual Bishop's Ball: Dinner music by Tim Bowman; Ballroom dancing; 6 pm; 419-917-0077

Bethesda Christian Center Cathedral: Celebration service; Guests Bishop Edward & Co, Pastor Beverly Bank of True Holiness of Sandusky; 7 pm: 419-944-0984

November 22

Santa's Helpers Child Care: Warren AME; Child care for ages five to 11; 10 am to 3 pm; Activities provided: 419-472-8668 or 419-259-8601

Citywide Christian Trustees Assoc. Meeting: 10 am; James B. Simmons Building: 419-380-9477

November 23

International Boxing Club Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser: Sponsored by Manos Restaurant; 3 to 6 pm; Proceeds donated to benefit inner-city, at-risk youth; 1717 Adams: 419-698-4775

Center of Hope CBC 11th Anniversary: 5 pm; Guests are Rev. John Roberts and Indiana Avenue MBC

Brian Thomas Chorale's 24th Anniversary Celebration: New Life COGIC; 6 pm; Guests are Rev. Antonio Clark and New Mercy from Detroit

Bethesda Christian Center Cathedral Men's Day: 11 am; Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner: 419-944-0984

Men's Day at Bethesda Christian Center Cathedral: 11 am; Guest Prophet Stanley Jack of Shamar Ministries in Reynoldsburg: 419-944-0984

Mt. Ararat MBC Youth Day Service: 4 pm; Guest Rev. Matthew Allen of Southern Baptist: 419-472-8747

November 24

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

November 26

Ebenezer Outreach Ministry's Annual Need to Feed Thanksgiving Dinner: Ebenezer MBC; 11 am to 3 pm; All are invited: 419-729-1466

November 27

Thanksgiving!!
 Pilgrim Church Annual Thanksgiving Community Meal: 11 am to 2 pm: 419-478-6012

Thanksgiving Day Dinner: St. Mark's MBC; 11 am to 2 pm: 419-241-1726
 Thomas Temple Annual Free Thanksgiving Dinner: 1 to 3 pm; Dine in only

November 30

Bethesda Christian Center Cathedral Youth Day: Service at 11 am; Speaker Prophetess Tiwana Alexander: 419-944-0984

The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's Truthful African-American
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The Sojourner's Truth, 1811 Adams Street, Toledo, Ohio 43604
 Phone 419-243-0007 • Fax 419-255-7700
 thetruth@thetruthtoledo.com
 www.thetruthtoledo.com

Milepost for Coffee with the Fords

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Channel 13ABC's "Coffee with the Fords" will celebrate its 50th telecast this Sunday, November 23. The early morning show – broadcast at 6:30 a.m. on Sundays – features former Mayor and First Lady Jack and Cynthia Ford.

This Sunday's show will bring in a local historian to discuss, appropriately enough, Toledo's earliest mayors and first ladies.

Also on this Sunday's show will be Andrew Z of KISS-FM..

"Coffee with the Ford" takes a look at life in Toledo and the city's events and offerings in arts and culture.



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OBAMA TIMES FOUR.....!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq.
Guest Editorial



Ok. If you are math challenged, please do not proceed any further than this page but if you are up to it and want to see how the new "Obama Math" impacts you...read on.

With the impressive win of Barack Obama who is now poised to be the next most powerful man in the world to wit: the president of the United States and, besides the emotional catharsis that such an election brought, there is also what I call the new "Obama Math" that we must now factor in when we take in account the new United States in an "AO" (after Obama) era as opposed to a "BO" (before Obama) era.

New math principle one: Right or wrong, there are now few to no excuses for black folk (talking about you) to carp and complain that "The Man" has locked them out and they are thus in a death spiral of continuous mental and emotional despair.

Psychologically, the black authors and agents of race baiting and who made their comfortable living ranting and railing about the shortcomings of society can no longer use that crutch anymore without appearing to be both pathetic and a bunch of losers. Obama's election shows, albeit in a political narrative, that conspicuous gains are possible and probable.

The obverse is also true that the racial puppets who, for a fast nickel, will sell out black people have lost their cachet with their white handlers since their simplistic message is now also shrill and strident.

New math principle two: rightly or wrongly, excellence, or at least a hard showing of one striving for competence, is now the threshold of achievement. The old adage of "I could not do it" just lost it luster when the Obama invigorating chant of, "Yes we can!" became the new rallying cry for black America.

New math principle three: a coalition of whites, blacks, Latinos and a plethora of new voters put Obama in the White House and made Michelle Obama the new fashionista and power behind the throne.

As such, we have to subtract from our mental computations that white folks mean evil for us. Yes, some still do and will, but their input is waning and accommodation is the new order of the day.

New math principle four: as seen in the media, there was worldwide jubilation over the election of Obama. His so-called celebrity status, as disdainfully put by his Republican opposition, has jelled into a new found respect for Obama and the United States.

As such, we as a people also have to have a new found respect for each other. If others can respect "us" we should do likewise to ourselves and for ourselves. Hopefully that will do a world of good regarding black on black crime, teenage pregnancies and illicit drug usage.

Do not be deceived. Obama was not born in a manger in Bethlehem and nor should he face the Herculean expectations of immediate change since it took many years for the United States to get into this "mess" and it will take some time before we can see light at the end of the tunnel but ... there is light!

For America, this election was both profound and profoundly liberating for everyone because an American black, once removed from a direct linkage via his African parentage is now the president-elect; and he professes an uncanny sense of destiny and purpose which gives some credence to the thought that America's best days are still yet before it.

Now, if you got all four new math principles right, give yourself an "A" and pray for this man and his family because the unseen spiritual forces of evil are arrayed against Barack Obama who professes to be a Christian man.

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Ramon Tiggs, Curator

For event information contact:

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Director of Events
419.346.5275
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The Truth Art Gallery and Events Center is dedicated to providing professional services for your next event. We invite you to come and view the art gallery and see the many possibilities that we offer for having your special event at this special venue.



Gallery Hours:

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Sat and Sun: By appointment

Fatherhood Summit Seeks to Connect Fathers with Resources and Information

By Artisha S. Lawson
Sojourner's Truth reporter



Ohio Practitioners' Network for Fathers and Families (OPNFF) held an event titled Advance Fatherhood Ohio Summit on Monday, November 17 at Owens Community College to connect fathers in various stages of life with resources to aid them.

The summit was sponsored by St. Vincent Mercy Children's Hospital, Ohio Commission on Fatherhood, Northcoast Fatherhood Initiative, Owens Community College, Reentry Coalition of Northwest Ohio, WSOS Community Action Commission and Toledo business leaders.

The one-day event included three panel discussions and open question and answer sessions in the topics of visitation and custody policies, Ohio child support rules and complications for incarcerated fathers and child support. One discussion in particular sparked an on-going discussion on fathers who strive to provide for their children.

"The common denominator between parents is the child, no matter what took place in the past, regardless of where the money is going. You do what you have to do to make the support, even think to expand and go to those organizations and agencies here," said Joshua Fowler, CEO/founder of Task.

Delma Jackson of Greater Toledo Urban League felt that more has to be done before laws are passed in the form of research to find the root problem. "I think one of

the biggest things we need to deal with is legislation and how it is enforced," said Jackson. "One of the biggest issues to this institution is the people cutting the checks and making the laws who have no experience on the ground level. They have no idea on how the everyday situation is looked at. I would encourage the people on the hilltops to come down to the valley and intervene with folks who deal with this on the everyday basis before they start trying to pass laws and legislation."

Newly appointed executive director of Ohio Commission on Fatherhood, J. Tracy Robinson, took the position provided by Governor Ted Strickland because of personal and community reasons.

"One of my primary reasons for serving in this role is two-fold," said Robinson. "The first being to overcome my own father issues. There are many things about my own father during the times when he was less than his best, and rather than sit back and be critical I decided on a personal level to be a good father and be able to help other men that may be confused, hurt, or have a desire to do better. I also wanted to help and train others, and overcome some of my own frustrations."

In addition to the panel discussion, information on different agencies was displayed throughout the forum room including information on video visitation in Cleveland, Boot Camp for new dads provided by St.

Vincent Mercy Children's Hospital and House Bill 130 which will reduce barriers in current law to enhance offender's opportunities to successfully reintegrate into society and prevent their future return to prison.

Also on display was information about support services provided by First Step, a family violence intervention center which includes case management and volunteer opportunities and services for disenfranchised fathers as well as life building skills. First-time home buyer programs information was provided by WSOS Community Action Commission.

OPNFF was started in May 2003 by the Center for Families and Children in Cleveland and has seen expanded to cover the entire state of Ohio. OPNFF seeks to advance fatherhood and family agenda in partnership

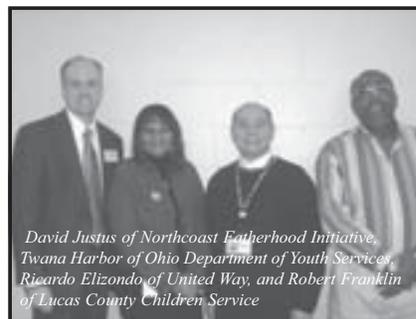
with public agencies, grass roots faith and community based organizations. Today, the OPNFF provides networking, training, resources, research, public policy updates and other supports to fathers and family-serving practitioners across the state of Ohio.

Northcoast Fatherhood Initiative prides itself on connecting with the fathers on their level and Executive Director David Justus wants fathers to know that re-

sources are available throughout the community.

"Our whole goal of our fatherhood initiative is to be able to bring the services to where the dads are. Instead of expecting them to go to where the services are in the resource centers which are located throughout the community, we provide the services closer to them."

For more information on OPNFF, go to their website <http://www.opnff.net>.



David Justus of Northcoast Fatherhood Initiative, Twana Harbor of Ohio Department of Youth Services, Ricardo Elizondo of United Way, and Robert Franklin of Lucas County Children Service



Pastor Raymond Lloyd, Urban Light Ministries and Ohio Child Welfare Training Program

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Keith Wilkowski Keeps the Excitement Going

Sojourner's Truth Staff



The 2008 presidential election may be a thing of the past but political fervor appears to be alive and well in Toledo.

Democrat Keith Wilkowski, candidate for mayor, has taken over the office space on St. Clair Street previously occupied by the Obama campaign. The space served the former occupant well and, judging by the size and enthusiasm of the crowd that gathered last Wednesday to help Wilkowski kick off his 2009 campaign, there are lots of people ready to enter the fray again.

"I have to apologize, there are too many people here," joked Wilkowski as he opened the event. Turning serious, Wilkowski told the crowd: "I want the change

that I think we have just seen in the United States of America to get a chance here in Toledo."

The hour-long introduction to the candidate was conducted by David Beckwith who used the meeting to get the audience involved in their reasons for

declaring his candidacy for the 2009 race for mayor. There are several others whose names have been mentioned or who have from time to time expressed interest in the job.

Mike Bell, former Toledo fire chief and currently the fire marshal for the state of Ohio, clearly has the name

taking on his fellow commissioners and entities such as the LCIC, is said to be exploring his chances in a 2009 run. Toledo City Councilman George Sarantou, who lost to Konop in the race for commissioner in 2006, has spoken of his mayoral aspirations in the past. He would probably be the leading Republican candidate.

Council President Mark Sobczak could conceivably enter a crowded field of contenders. And then of course there is Mayor Carty Finkbeiner who has not yet spoken publicly of running for re-election.

One of Wilkowski's more recent achievements, which he mentioned to the audience on Wednesday, was the formation of Toledoans for Obama in the very early days of the campaign when Obama looked to the rest of the world



attending.

"There nothing wrong with a little hope," said Beckwith during his opening remarks. "Why we're here is what's going to drive us to get something done."

Then the audience chimed in as many spoke of the need for jobs, hard work, a higher level of leadership and bringing the northwest Ohio region together.

"Are you willing to stand with me in this campaign to make a difference?" asked Wilkowski of his enthusiastic group of supporters. He heard a resounding "yes" in reply.

Wilkowski is the first to

recognition to be a credible candidate. Lucas County



Commissioner Ben Konop, who has created controversy in his aggressive tactics of

to be a long-shot against the very formidable Hillary Clinton organization.

Afro-Semitic Experience Sunday, December 14, 2008 At the Temple Congregation Shomer Emunim 6453 Sylvania Ave. • Sylvania, Ohio

On Sunday, December 14, at 3:30 p.m., Congregation B'nai Israel, Congregation Etz Chayim, Congregation Shomer Emunim, the United Jewish Council of Greater Toledo and members of the African American Community of Toledo will present a concert by The Afro-Semitic Experience, a cross-cultural band that delivers a positive and meaningful musical message about Jewish-Black relations.

The ensemble has a unique sound...too jazzy to be labeled "folk" and too inter-cultural to be labeled just jazz. Indeed, their name aptly describes their style and sound; they are a tapestry of the many sounds of the Jewish and African Diaspora. The Afro-Semitic Experience is a band of African-American and Jewish musicians, dedicated to preserving and expanding the rich cultural and musical heritage of both the Jewish and African Diasporas. (Diaspora refers to any people or ethnic population forced or induced to leave their traditional ethnic homelands, being dispersed throughout other parts of the world, and the ensuing developments in their dispersal and culture.) They will offer dynamic musical interpretations from the rich tradition of these two cultures: Gospel, Klezmer, Niggunim, Spirituals, Bebop, and Swing. They will frame their music with stories about the selections, what they mean, how they relate to us as individual members of a community, and how they reflect upon the relations between Blacks and Jews.

Through their concerts, recordings, and workshops, The Afro-Semitic Experience has created an artistic response to anti-Semitism and racism of all kinds.

This is going to be a fabulous afternoon of music, one you won't want to miss. A dessert reception will precede the concert. Please consider becoming a sponsor of The Afro-Semitic Experience. Your donation is fully tax deductible. General admission tickets to the concert will be available beginning November 1st at Congregation B'nai Israel, Congregation Etz Chayim and Temple Shomer Emunim, United Jewish Council, Grace Temple and Universal New Beginnings. The cost of a General Admission ticket is \$5.

It is our hope that you will support this wonderful afternoon of music and cultural enrichment.

Generous funding provided by the Dr. Morton Goldberg Lecture Fund of the Toledo Community Foundation and the Toledo Jewish Community Foundation.

The Afro-Semitic Experience Committee: Joanne Treuhaft, Co-chair, Carole Martin, Co-chair, Cantor Jamie Gloth, Cantor Evan Rubin, Cantor Jen Roher, Lynn Nusbaum, Wendy Goldstein, Elsa Leveton, Rosemary Bramson, Marilyn Jacobs, Shelley Kahn, Kevin and Becky McQueen, Sheila Odesky, Jackie Orichio, Janet Rogolsky, Arlene Russell, Donna Trail, Diane Treuhaft, Phyllis Wittenberg & Rhonda Witty.

For questions, call Lynn Nusbaum at 419-885-3341 or email lnusbaum@templese.com.

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S & S Management and Consulting: "Where Dreams Come True"

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

Want to start a business? Already have a small business but need help keeping it going ... or get it growing? Quite possibly the executive team at S & S Management and Consulting have a few answers to your questions or a few solutions for your problems.

S & S, as the brochures read, "offers clients a reliable, high-quality alternative to in-house resources for business development, market development and personal development."

But S & S is not the typical consulting firm staffed with folks who draw a salary from the firm or have had little real-world experience in starting and managing businesses. The S & S team is comprised of entrepreneurs who are handling their own diverse businesses and drawing on that experience and variety to assist others.

Those businesses include a cleaning service, a graphic design firm, a media company, a stage production company, a clothing design component, a communications company, among others.

It's a far flung collection of Toledo talent that is



vices.

He founded S & S "to create entrepreneurial opportunities for other people."

And S & S creates opportunities for other people by also creating opportunities for each other. For example, one entrepreneur in the S & S fold is Reginal Penrose, founder of Ollie Nicole Clothing and Apparel LLC. Penrose is also director of fashion for S & S.

Penrose, an athlete like Snelling and a graduate of

who had died.

Thus the Ollie Nicole business was created out of Penrose's basement. It's a name that is starting to gain widespread recognition in the Toledo area. This year the brand was nominated for Best Designer in Ohio at the annual Hip Hop Awards. "Every notable artist in Toledo is wearing Ollie Nicole," said Penrose.

S & S has so many different skill sets in its collection of entrepreneurs that the company can, for example, pull models from its model management arm - led by Steve Coleman, dress them in the Ollie Nicole fashions, bring them to a show at a downtown nightclub - thereby enhancing that establishment's business and record the show by Game Savvy Television LLC - led by Andre Savage, S & S's production guru.

If the downtown establishment needs promotional material - business cards to logos to brochures - then S & S's creative teams can fill that need also.

If the establishment needs marketing help to promote the show or other aspects of the business, then the Conceptual Freedom Group, led by Delence Sheares, vice president/director of marketing, can assist in "identify[ing], develop[ing] and maintain[ing] a precise marketing agenda for clients."

Recently, JaJuan Turner, a local playwright and producer came on board and with the rest of the team's help, he plans to take his very successful plays - the last one was American Issues which was produced on October 18 at the Maumee

Indoor Theater - to a number of different cities across the country.

Of course, Turner's involvement with S & S enables him to utilize the company's resources to promote, to clothe, to record his productions. In turn, Turner and S & S can assist the fledgling entrepreneurs in his theater production company move forward.

Another new member of the ever-expanding executive team is Lisa Haynes who handles the public relations chores. Haynes, another Toledo native who graduated from Bowsler High School, is also taking classes at the Toledo Academy of Beauty to obtain a cosmetology license. A graduate of ASSETS Toledo, a faith-based, 13-week entrepreneurial training course, Haynes will be opening her own salon in the not-too distant future adding another component to the S & S structure.

Haynes will be in a position to assist the other divisions - such as the media, theater, modeling groups - and will naturally benefit from the marketing and man-

agement expertise of her colleagues.

Currently the S & S team is housed in the offices of the Lighthouse Community Center, an agency they have been assisting with fundraising and overseeing the back to school program. At the start of the new year, they will be moving downtown into the Fifth Third Building on Madison Avenue.

"We are growing in every aspect," said Snelling of the move to more spacious quarters.

The S & S tagline reads: "where dreams come true." For this group of entrepreneurs, the key is to take control of their own destinies and make those dreams come true.

For more information on S & S Management and Consulting, go to the website at www.sandsmanagement.biz or call 419-215-4204.



Andre Savage of GAME SAVVY TV

poised to offer other entrepreneurs the services that in-house managers often have no time to pursue on their own.

Che Snelling is the founder and president of S & S. A Toledo native who graduated from Rogers High School, Snelling attended Kentucky State University where he played football and ran track. He earned a degree in criminal justice.

An entrepreneur since the age of 19, Snelling ran businesses in Kentucky, Arkansas and Florida before returning home to Toledo about four years ago to help run the family business, Concierge Cleaning and Ser-

Woodward High School, attended Alpena College to play basketball and earned a business associate's degree.

Penrose had absolutely no intention of entering the fashion design business but the Ollie Nicole name came from two cousins who passed away. The cousins' sister was attending The Ohio State University for fashion design and had registered the Ollie Nicole name when she also passed away untimely in 2003. Another cousin approached Penrose with the idea of taking the name and carrying on their relative's dream of creating fashion in tribute to those

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20 North Gallery Presents 100th Show: *America the Beautiful*

Annual Holiday Show at Downtown Gallery Marks Historic Anniversary

Special to The Truth

Earlier this month, 20 North Gallery opened the 100th exhibition in their 16-year history, *America the Beautiful*. The exhibition will continue through Sunday, January 18, 2009.

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Join 20 North Gallery and exhibiting artists Kimberly Arden, Sharon Frankel, Edith Franklin, Tom Grant, Klaire, Carol Lee Rice, Julie Schnell-

Madden and others in celebrating 100 Shows in Sixteen Years at the Opening Reception on Friday, November 7th, from 6-9p.m. The perfect opportunity to shop for a unique, fine art gift for lovers of the outdoors and the American landscape from “Sea to Shining Sea.”

A local physician, Mike Basista will be speaking about his work as a fine art photographer at his Artist Talk on Sunday, November 23rd, 2 p.m., at 20 North Gallery. The free reception following the Artist Talk will conclude at 5 p.m. Light refreshments will be served and gallery visitors will have an opportunity to speak one-on-one with the artist.

IMA Day at Liberty



On Sunday, November 9, a service was held at Liberty Ministries Church of God in Christ entitled IMA Day at Liberty. The Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance (IMA) held a pre-opening service for Elder William Lucas, pastor of Liberty Ministries.

Pastor Cedric Brock president of the IMA, said: “This is what we are all about helping to build the kingdom of God.” Pastor Robert Lyons and Greater St. Mary’s Baptist Church were the guest speaker and choir.

Pastor McGhee of Serenity and Pastor Self of Majestic Praise and many others were also in attendance. Pastor Lucas noted that the grand opening would not be until early next year because the church is still in the process of remodeling.

On November 23 at 5:00 p.m. Bishop Clark and Power Tabernacle will be Liberty Ministries’ guests.

Mayor Carty Finkbeiner Honored for Promoting Minority Businesses

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On Friday November 14, Toledo Mayor Carty Finkbeiner attended the 2008 Northern Ohio Minority Business Council (NOMBC) banquet and awards ceremony where he was one of four Ohio mayors to be honored for their efforts in expanding minority-based businesses in their communities.



The theme for the event was “Inspiring Minority Business Entrepreneurs for the Next Millennium.” Donna Brazile, CNN political analyst, served as the keynote speaker for the event.

Finkbeiner was nominated by Toledo businessman Truman Irving, a member of the NOMBC, because of the City of Toledo’s Minority Business Enterprise program, which is overseen by the Office of Affirmative Action/Contract Compliance (AA/CC). The office works with public and private entities to certify minority-owned busi-

“We are proud that our economic development is moving forward thanks to the efforts of Toledo’s minority entrepreneurs and business owners.”

nesses in the city.

The annual goals of attainment for the MBE program originally consisted of a 15 percent participation of minority contractors in construction projects and seven percent for goods, services and material providers, according to the mayor’s office. In July of this year, the MBE goals were increased to 15 percent for construction projects and 10 percent for goods, services and materials.

In 2007, the mayor’s office reports that both goals were exceeded with a 20 percent MBE participation in construction projects and 14 percent in goods, services and materials. AA/CC reports that – year-to-date for 2008 – MBE construction participation is running at 24 percent and eight percent for goods, services and materials.

In addition to Toledo’s Finkbeiner, Mayors Don Plusquellic of Akron, Frank G. Jackson of Cleveland and Jay Williams of Youngstown are being honored.

“Toledo is a city that was founded upon diversity, and we take pride in our city being filled with talented individuals who come from a multitude of ethnic and religious backgrounds,” said Finkbeiner. “We are proud that our economic development is moving forward thanks to the efforts of Toledo’s minority entrepreneurs and business owners. I thank the Office of Affirmative Action/Contract Compliance for their efforts in assisting Toledo minority business owners.”

Among the Minority Business enterprises that were recognized was New Technology Steel, an eight-year old manufacturing company with steel processing services in Toledo. New Technology, a Class IV nominee with sales in excess of \$50 million, is owned by Sarah Bates, a Toledo native.



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20 North Gallery Presents 100th Show: *America the Beautiful*

Annual Holiday Show at Downtown Gallery Marks Historic Anniversary

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Ebony and AKA Present Toledo With the Latest in High Fashion

Artisha S. Lawson
Sojourner's Truth Reporter



Colorado Springs, CO; Lamont Jennings and Destanie Sykes from Dallas, TX; Andrea Lanece' Keesee



& Monika Simmons, Elizabeth Carson Racker, Bouwer, Monica Byrne, Naeem Khan, Oscar de la Renta, Reem Aera, Rubin Singer, Stephen Burrows' World, Steve Harvey Collection, Terani Couture, and Zange Toi along with 23 Italian designers; 15 French designers as well as a host of British, Japanese, Canadian, Lebanese, Argentine, Virgin Island and Monte Carlo designers. Sponsors of the show are Ebony, Fashion Fair, American Airlines, Luster's Pink and JET.

length coats, 1980s grunge updated look, patch denim jeans, animal print dresses and blouses, stamp and tie-dye dresses, chain length dress, jeweled jacket, women's tuxedo style suit, three-piece hot pants suit, tribal-inspired dress in earth tones and a triple satin wedding gown. The entertainment was underscored by the voice of seasoned commentator Jada Collins.

The show featured fashion pieces from American designers: Anna Sui, Antonio Wingfield, bMichael, Bill Blass, Carolina Herrera, Chado Ralph Rucci, Chris Kole, Double Stitch, By Erika



The show featured fashion pieces from American designers: Anna Sui, Anthony Mark Hankins, Anto-

from Clinton, MD; Taylor J. Mason from Atlanta; Ontwanet J. Moran from Los Angeles; Petal Munroe from Orlando, FL; Deonna L. Pinkerton from Kansas City, KS; Chondra La-Tease Profit from San Diego and Phinical Washington from Waldorf, MD.

These models strolled, danced and entertained the crowd while showcasing the latest in mink hats, fur coats, beaded swimsuits, feather dresses, ruffle blouses with wide-leg trousers, leather jackets, hand-made full

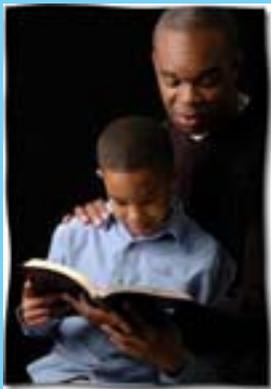
Unique furs, leather heels and high fashion best describe the 51st Ebony Fashion Fair. This year's fair – "The Runway Report" – was sponsored locally by the ladies of pink and green – Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Zeta Alpha Omega Graduate Chapter, Alpha Lambda Chapter and Iota Iota Chapter.

The show was held on Sunday, November 16, 2008 at Toledo's downtown

SeaGate Convention Center where hundreds of Toledoans watched the latest fashion designs.

The 2008 show was divided into eight scenes: Glossary of Style, Fad from the Past, Colorful Story, Attire Talk, Fantasy Island, A Cool Change, Proud Plumage and High Drama. Various fashion pieces were draped on 12 models: Jamilah Farrakhan and Richard Gallion from Chicago; Leena Geeter from

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Sojourner's Truth Staff

Christmas came early this year for The Friendly Center on N. Superior. The North Toledo community center received a much-needed facelift – estimated to be a \$2,800 value – courtesy of Home Depot. Nine volunteers from the home improvement retail giant's outlets upgraded the center's toilet facilities and painted the game room, the computer room and the classroom.

According to Susan Manning, district human resources manager for the area's seven outlets, the local stores try to undertake such a project two to four times a year. They select a non-profit organization, such as The Friendly Center, based on need. In this case, particularly in the matter of the center's toilet facilities, the need was great. The bathrooms had not been updated in decades,



Susan Manning and Morlon Harris

said Morlon Harris, the center's executive director.

Directing the efforts to rehab the bathrooms was Ryan Prior, department supervisor of lumber and building materials, who is a certified plumber. Prior is the chief planner for these volunteer projects.

Katrina Gregory, who



Ryan Prior



helped select the color scheme for the painting part of the project, was The Friendly Center's liaison with the Home Depot.

Still to come is a grant from the Rotary Club that will help to replace game equipment and books in the center.



Katrina Gregory

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ASSETS Toledo Businesses Motivate Audience in Fremont, Ohio "All Things Are Possible"

By Glenda D. Brown
Special to The Truth

Before we received the official news that Senator Barack Obama would be the first African-American president of the United States, some of us believed that "All Things Are Possible." It became even more believable after we heard the news that the president-elect was Barack Obama and we heard his acceptance speech on Tuesday, November 4, 2008.

"All Things Are Possible" was the theme for a motivational conference held in Fremont, Ohio on Saturday, November 8, 2008. The event was held at The Rivers of Living Waters Cathedral Church, located on Holland Rd. The audience was truly excited and motivated by the theme for the evening.

Four ASSETS Toledo graduates showcased their



Motivational Team

businesses at the event. Jeffrey C. Reed of J Reed Enterprises was the motivational speaker; Shanda Gordon, the soloist;

Katrina Barnhill, the saxophonist and Glenda Brown of GCreations, event planner and manager for Jeffrey Reed.

Special guest Pastor Tony Calloway of Columbus, Ohio served as MC and rendered musical selections on the piano. Michael "The Evangelist Rap" Kirksey of Fremont and recording artist Emanuel Judkins known as "Telos," also of Columbus helped to empower the audience with their motivational selections focusing on the theme that "All Things Are Possible."

Last but not least, Jeffrey's wife, Audrey,

shared empowering words to the audience right before her husband came forth.

Reed began his presentation by celebrating the victory of President-Elect Obama and that "All Things Are Possible." Holding up a People's magazine and showing the center photo of the Obama family on election night with the words printed on it "All Things Are Possible." From that point Reed moved the audience with his energetic words of experience and wisdom that proclaimed ... yes, all things are possible.

It will be four years in

December that Reed and the author graduated from the Class #18 of ASSETS Toledo Business Training Course. We have been reminded of the words spoken to us by Executive Director Olivia Holden: "Wouldn't it be awesome if the two of you could work together in business?" We have been working together and supporting each other ever

since graduation. But it was the event in Fremont that took the collaboration to a higher level.

J Reed Enterprises, GCreations, Shanda Gordon, Katrina Barnhill and special guests will be working together as a motivational team for J Reed Enterprises. The next motivational event will be held in March 2009 in Toledo, Ohio. After the Toledo event, J Reed Enterprises has been invited to Columbus, Ohio in the summer of 2009.

For more information about J Reed Enterprises—www.jreedenterprises.com or the motivational team contact: GCreations @ 419-346-5275 or Gcreationsevents@yahoo.com.

Visit us online at thetruthtoledo.com



Glenda & Jeff

Owens Express Baseball Student-Athletes and Coaches to Help Needy Families at Toledo Seagate Food Bank, Nov. 22

The Owens Community College Express men's baseball team will be providing a helping hand to those in need during this Thanksgiving holiday season as 29 student-athletes and coaches volunteer their time at the Toledo Seagate Food Bank on Saturday, Nov. 22.

Beginning at 8:30 a.m., the baseball team will be sorting thousands of recently donated food items from the Toledo Seagate Food Bank's annual holiday donation drive titled "Stuff the Truck." In addition to sorting the collected items, Owens' student-athletes and coaches will be packing the various donations for eventual delivery to needy families and individuals throughout northwest Ohio. "There many

people throughout northwest Ohio who are without food on a daily basis," said Bob Schultz, Owens head coach of the men's baseball program. "The Owens Community College Express baseball team is proud to once again help the Toledo Seagate Food Bank in their efforts to fight hunger and make a difference in the lives of those in need."

The Owens men's baseball program finished the 2008 season with a 31-6-1 overall record and captured its seventh Ohio Community College Athletic Conference (14-2 record) title in the program's history. The conference championship is the fourth in the last five years. Owens Express men's baseball, which was ranked ninth in the final NJCAA Division II poll, lost to Lakeland Com-

munity College in the NJCAA Region XII Championships. The baseball team will be volunteering at the Toledo Seagate Food Bank until 11 a.m.

Individuals interested in donating to the "Stuff the Truck" holiday collection drive this weekend can drop off their items at the Toledo Seagate Food Bank, which is located at 526 High St. in Toledo. Items being collected include canned meats, grocery/food items, chilled and frozen foods, canned/frozen/bottled beverages, detergents, and paper goods, among other donations. For more information about the "Stuff the Truck" holiday collection drive, call (419) 244-6996.

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Michelle: A Biography by Liza Mundy

c.2008, Simon & Schuster \$25.00 / \$28.99 217 pages, includes notes

By Terri Schlichenmeyer The Truth Contributor

They say that behind every great man is a woman who's willing to give him a goose in the posterior when he needs it most.

Marc Antony had his Cleopatra. Henry VIII had his Catherine, Kathryn, Katherine, two Annes and a Jane. Harry would have been lost without Bess. Martin had his Coretta.

And Barack has Michelle. By now, we know a lot about our future leader, but what do we know about the woman behind the office? You'll find out when you read Michelle by Liza Mundy.

To truly know Michelle Robinson Obama, says Mundy, you need to understand where she came from. Born in a then-segregated area on the South Side of Chicago in 1964, Michelle Robinson was the second child of parents who raised her to be independent and strong-minded.

As a teen, Michelle Robinson attended a magnet school with other high-achievers, including the daughter of Jesse Jackson, Sr. Because the Robinsons encouraged their children to

get the best education, Michelle chose Princeton, then went to Harvard and set her sights on becoming a lawyer.

Michelle's family claims that she was always hard on her suitors. When she

brought Barack Obama home for the first time, her brother Craig said, "I was thinking, 'Nice guy. Too bad he won't last.'" But last Obama did. They were married in 1992.

Friends and former colleagues say that it was obvi-

ous that Obama was meant for a political career; in fact, he told several people that he aspired to high office. His new wife was an asset to that ideal because she introduced him to people who would further his career, politically. Conversely, he helped her find jobs that made a difference in their neighborhood.

So what can we look forward to when the new presidential family moves into the White House? Mundy says that Michelle Obama has vowed to help families. She loves children and has always strived to make her life meaningful. Breaking down

self-segregation is important to her, as is bringing people together.

Reading Michelle is a mixed bag. There's an awful lot in here that you already know, and a lot you probably won't care about.

Author Liza Mundy admits that she wrote this book without the help of Obama's political team (who discouraged close friends from talking), and without access to Michelle Obama. She eventually found a few people who would talk, but based on her vast notes, much of this book was put together from magazines, newspa-

pers, and other articles written on the future First Lady.

On the other hand, there are enough "AHA!" nuggets in this book to keep your interest and to keep you turning pages. The interviews seem fresh. Some of the stories weren't overly familiar. And this book seems to dig a little deeper than you'd get in a fluff-piece magazine article.

If you've followed politics for the last 12 months but need to know more about the president-elect's family, this is a decent place to start. Michelle is a good book to get behind.



Former Toledoan Weds in Baltimore Area, Returns to LA

Cleveland O'Neal III and Maisha Pajardo were wed this summer on July 26 in the bride's hometown of Columbia, MD.

Senator Barack Obama congratulated the O'Neals on their wedding at a dinner in Los Angeles which the O'Neals attended as VIP guests of the Obama for America campaign and the Democratic National Committee.

The O'Neals reside in Los Angeles, where Cleveland O'Neal is the CEO of Connection III Entertainment Corp., a media producer/distributor and Maisha Pajardo-O'Neal works in healthcare management as an administrative analyst at UCLA. The O'Neals have been invited to the inauguration festivities as special guests of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.



Advertisement for Vince Davis State Farm Insurance Agency, featuring a photo of Vince Davis and a child, and the State Farm logo.

Advertisement for Champions, featuring a large photo of a young boy and a collage of smaller photos.

A Home Is a Family's Foundation and Its Most Important Investment

By Rodney Neely
Real Estate Contributor



The foundation of any family is its home. That home is where childhood memories live and dreams for the future are made. For most of us, home ownership is the cornerstone of the American dream and, although often difficult, it is possible to achieve if we learn some basic information about real estate.

There are some key things you will want to understand when you are ready to buy a house; how to get financed, finding a real estate agent and what you need to do to close a deal. This documentation is readily available on the internet or at the library with minimal research effort. Using the Google search engine is an ideal way to find the appropriate websites to help you get started. As well, contacting the Toledo Board of Realtors or any local mortgage brokerage company as a resource tool can get you moving in the right direction.

It is imperative that before you make the decision to purchase a home that you have your financial house in order. There are a few questions you will need to ask yourself before you begin this very stressful but satisfying endeavor.

First things first, can I afford it? Do I have enough of a down payment to qualify for a loan? What is my credit score? Do I earn at least four times the amount of the mortgage payment I want to have? In most cases you, the borrower, will need to have these answers to move forward with homeownership.

Many lenders will have programs for first-time home buyers that can reduce the amount of the required down payment to as little as three percent of the total loan amount. Occasionally these programs are secured by the Federal Housing Authority (FHA), which insures the bank against your default and encourages your lender to fund your home mortgage.

Nevertheless there are credit requirements. Typically a score in the high 500's is enough to get a loan, but with the tightening of the credit markets that number could move much higher this year and for the foreseeable future.

In addition, you must be able to afford to buy a house. My rule is four times the mortgage amount. For example: if you are interested in home that will give you a \$50,000 dollar debt and the interest rate is six percent on

a 30-year amortization your payment will be approximately \$300. You have to also consider that taxes and insurance will be added to this amount. That means you should earn at least \$1,500 dollars a month to afford this loan. Based on this formula you are ready to make a deal. Right?

Not necessarily. Often prospective buyers stop here when calculating if they should go forward with a purchase. According to recent

est utility rates throughout the state. Columbia Gas Company and Toledo Edison bills can average \$200-300 dollars per month. If you add in the water and sewage cost with the possibility of needing to repair a furnace or hot water tank it could put you in a financial bind very quickly. It's been said many times that "it's easier to get a house than it is to keep one" and I agree.

There are other critical considerations when making

nificant of these concerns in real estate is always location, location, location and it is no different in your case.

Find the best location for the money you can afford. Always focus on the neighborhoods that appear to be stable or improving, have more homeowners than renters and seem to be going up in value over the previous five years.

Moreover, there is the value of this investment over time, which means you have to "buy it right." Your goal is always to get the best deal possible in terms of price. Any increase in value from your purchase over time is what is known as equity. That equity value, in addition to you paying down the debt during that same period, can leave you with a nice nest egg of cash stored as appreciation in your home.

This money can be used for many things in the future. I don't recommend it be used to buy frivolous items, such as jewelry, new cars, or to

take vacations, but instead to do home improvements, putting a child through college or even a medical emergency. No matter what, it's your cash to do what you want. It's a great way to save for retirement or accumulate the down payment for your next home.

The dream of homeownership is one shared by many of us. To achieve this goal you have to be prepared, informed, and determined to succeed. Although there will be many obstacles and challenges to getting through this process, inevitably the joy and peace of mind of finally having a place to call home will be worth the effort. Always remember that in life success is the greatest revenge.

Ed. Note: Rodney Neely is a Toledo-area real estate professional. He can be reached by email at rodney@q3development.com or by visiting the company's website at www.q3development.com.

Many lenders will have programs for first-time home buyers that can reduce the amount of the required down payment to as little as three percent of the total loan amount.

articles in the Toledo Blade and Cleveland Plain Dealer, northwest Ohio is experiencing the largest increase in both foreclosures and bankruptcies in decades.

These rising rates can be attributed to purchases by homeowners who bought more house than they could afford. Some were tricked by unscrupulous mortgage brokers who wanted to close the deal to make a fee and many other buyers lost their jobs in this bad economy.

No matter what the reason, millions of people throughout the country have found themselves in the same situation. Over reaching in this way is a critical mistake that could cause you major financial trouble.

Rising utility costs, unexpected expenses and repairs that can come up at any time are just some of the issues you may face. In our region we suffer some of the high-

est utility rates throughout the state. Columbia Gas Company and Toledo Edison bills can average \$200-300 dollars per month. If you add in the water and sewage cost with the possibility of needing to repair a furnace or hot water tank it could put you in a financial bind very quickly. It's been said many times that "it's easier to get a house than it is to keep one" and I agree.



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Gaining Perspective ... Pt. 2

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture



A couple of weeks ago I wrote an article about my god sister Quavonne Porter who was involved in the five-car accident on the Anthony Wayne trail.

Many readers emailed, called or told me personally that they were touched by what I wrote and even offered their support to Quavonne and her family. In that article I admitted that even though she and I grew up as extended family we had only recently gotten close but then fell out.

I wasn't trying to just put all our business out there, but I am open with this.

In my music, in my writing... in my art I am very open.

That is something that comes from being raised by artists I guess.

That is something Quavonne and I and many others influenced by my parents all have in common... as artists, we just get open.

I told my readers that I was on the outs with someone so close to my family so everyone could look at their own life and really examine if all the drama is worth it or not.

A city has come together to support her, but Quavonne lost a son and a brother that day.

Quavonne and her daughter suffered severe injuries.

And as I said in that

poem... with all the fighting people do, the only fight worth fighting is that fight for life itself. And I repeat that yo, the only time you really see a fight worth fighting is when you are witnessing someone you care about literally fighting for their right to keep breathing.

All other fights are pointless.

I don't use the term beef a lot, so I can't say she and I were beefed out but in that article from a couple weeks ago I did admit that whatever had us on the outs was so serious that the last time I saw Quavonne we didn't even speak.

It broke my heart.

But all this perspective has been the little slice of positive energy I can take from this.

A bigger slice of good news is this: I am happy to report that Quavonne's daughter is recovered and has been released and friends and relatives are keeping her company.

From what I am told, it is a miracle that she has experienced such a healing.

As for Quavonne, the day it snowed... in fact as it started to snow I was standing next to her while she lay in her bed looking at me. Fully awake, no more coma.

Still unable to speak due to corrective measures to heal her injuries... her way of communicating is writing.

I walked in and her eyes got big and she wrote on her little stack of paper

"I am so happy to see you."

And I was so moved but I held it together and told her that I hoped we could move past whatever it was we had fallen out about.

We said we loved each

other and all that.

As more friends and family poured in, the subject of the other driver who caused the accident came up. Theresa Holman is the driver who police identify as the person who lost control of her vehicle and subsequently caused the five-car accident when her car crossed the median into oncoming traffic.

That's not opinion, that's fact.

I feel that peace is the priority of any man striving to be a righteous man.

But as conversation moved to what's legal, not legal... proper procedure or not...if all that's happened in the interim has been by the book or not I have to admit that I was feeling like Quavonne and her family had not been treated fairly in many respects.

But miracles are truly the work of a higher power that has no limit in the number of miracles provided because as I spoke about what's fair and not fair and what should be done to bring justice and all that... yet another miracle occurred.

The miracle of total and complete forgiveness.

From right there in that hospital bed, jaw wired shut, writing on notebook paper...this woman who has suffered immeasurable losses due to this accident had nothing but good things to say about the other driver.

That's right.

Quavonne professed nothing but love and forgiveness for Theresa Holman.

Quavonne wrote and wrote and the more I read her sentences on these scraps of paper now making a small mountain on her bed I found myself feeling things that were beyond words. I've always known Quavonne to be spiritual at a height not seen by most who claim to be religious/Christian/spiritual etc.

We both have always had similar views on aligning your soul with your

And my first reaction is always surprise.

Dude, I'm the first one to say that I am not a big deal out here.

I'm not a big dog in this city in any way, don't have any of that success that attracts hater types and I try to be as drama free as possible. It's always a surprise anyone thinks I'm important enough to gossip about. And that's true story like hell.

already lost more than you could ever gain.

Nothing is worth sacrificing your sense of peace and dignity.

Anyone out there with close friendships knows what it's like when some mess pops up that you never saw coming and people question things you never thought they would question and accusations fly and etc.

When those closest to you stress you...when all those harsh words are flying back and forth...when people walk all over all you've done for them/given them... you might feel justified in switching on your little gangsta mental but I swear it's not worth it.

If she can love a complete stranger unconditionally, I know I can show love and compassion to those close to me even if they have done me wrong.

Understanding opens doors.

Your close relationships are much too valuable to throw away over petty things.

And even if you have been done wrong and need to part ways, do so without animosity.

I know of a couple others who have experienced some turmoil in their inner circles recently and I offer these words to them as well because you really do have to let go of the pain and hurt when you have been wronged.

Forgiveness is as much for the person doing the forgiving as it is for the person being forgiven. That's a hot line, right?

I can't take credit for that one though. That's all homie Meghan who gave me so much advice recently (Happy Birthday Meghan November 22nd!).

See, I have great friends. I have great people around me. I have a loving family.

And Quavonne's example has taught me that even the most tragic events aren't enough to rob someone of their capacity to love and forgive and move forward.

Putting it all in perspective... the mess I've been dealing with is nothing to even be mad about in all honesty.

Okay, no more sermons from Brotha Hayes.

But I swear to everyone reading this... I have witnessed a miracle.

Thank you, Quavonne... for everything.

Peace.
glascitytruth@yahoo.com

higher self.

We both have always agreed that people find their higher self through different paths.

We both share an uncompromised and perhaps ferocious stance on loyalty among those we love.

But when it comes to forgiveness in general, Quavonne has mastered this part of her spirit in a way I have yet to even approach.

As the snow fell in larger and larger clumps on the picturesque scene outside this hospital window, I grew ever more amazed at the compassion expressed by Quavonne and the father of the youngest boy lost in this tragedy.

And tragedy is my word, they have had their lives transformed in an unspeakable way and I didn't hear them speak one gloomy, doomy, hostile or even bitter word during my visit.

Quavonne said that God planned all of this and she can't be mad at anyone and that what that woman (Theresa Holman) needs more than anything is love and compassion.

Wow, right?

What have I learned? Driving away from the hospital, snow turning to icy drizzle...I had to let my thoughts soak in. I had to once again put things in their proper perspective.

See, this past week was particularly odd for me.

I had felt I had been severely wronged by some people close to me, I had rumors and questions to straighten out to keep some of my most important friendships intact and I even had to deal with a bit of gossip involving my name with people who don't even reside here in The T.

I feel that peace is the priority of any man striving to be a righteous man. And when you give up your peace so you can contemplate war with those closest to you, you have

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November 19, 2008

Page 15

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Ebony

(Continued from 8)

nese, Canadian, Lebanese, Argentine, Virgin Island and Monte Carlo designers. Sponsors of the show are Ebony, Fashion Fair, American Airlines, Luster's Pink and JET.

The fashion fair began in 1956, when the idea was conceived by Mr. and Mrs. Dent to support worthy causes, who later approached John H. Johnson to sponsor a mini-fashion show fundraiser for an organization.

Since 1973, Eunice W. Johnson has been the producer and director of Ebony Fashion Fair, one of the largest traveling fashion shows that covers over 175 cities in the United States and Caribbean. This traveling show has served as a fundraiser for community projects for several organizations including: Alpha Chi Pi Omega Sorority & Fraternity, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Charmettes, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Gamma Phi Delta Sorority, Inc., Jack & Jill of America, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Links, Inc., NAACP, National Association of Negro Business & Professional Women's Clubs, National Council of Negro Women, Order of the Eastern Star, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Prince Hall Masonic Family, Sickle Cell Dis-

ease Associate of America, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., UNCF, Urban League and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

Locally, the ladies of Zeta Alpha Omega have worked to help mankind in the Toledo area since April 25, 1952, and have sponsored for many years the Ebony Fashion Fair which serves as the sorority's fundraiser for scholarship and community service.

"There are 25 members of the chapter who work on this event. It takes a whole year to plan for the next year, because we're meeting every month continuously and as

the day draws closer we meet every couple of weeks," said Denise Black-Poon, Ebony Fashion Fair chairman.

This is the centennial year for AKA, which was founded on January 15, 1908 at Howard University as the first African-American Greek-letter sorority. Toledo's AKA chapters began the centennial celebration in January at Howard University and with a Toledo City Council recognition for 100 years of service. Then followed a Founders' Day celebration in February, a community service event at Stewart Academy for Girls in March, a workshop on

franchising and clean-up at Sidecut Park in April, a Zeta Alpha Omega Foundation luncheon in June, the annual Showcase of the Arts in August, a business workshop on recruitment in September, the Centennial Celebration Gala in October and the Ebony Fashion Fair in November.

"This event is a major fundraiser, but it's our last major event we're having in our centennial year. I think this event puts an explanation point on the wonderful programs we've had throughout the year. We've been excited and looking forward to this and we ap-



Steve Williams, Ebony Fashion Fair Manager, Denise Black-Poon, Ebony Fashion Fair Chairman, Jada Collins, Ebony Fashion Fair Commentator, Lisa Dubose, Zeta Alpha Omega chapter president, and Traci Charman, scholarship chairman

Omega president.

During this Sunday's event, Dubose, Black-Poon and Scholarship Chairman Traci Charman announced the eight recipients of scholarships that totaled \$7,000. The recipients were Raven Jones, a graduate of Central Catholic High School who attends Miami University of Ohio and is studying accounting; Ashley Strickland, a graduate of Toledo School for the Arts who attends Bowling Green State University and studies journalism; Ashley Wilbert, a graduate of Notre Dame Academy who attends Uni-

versity of Dayton and studies pre-med; Sharae McCaery, a graduate of Woodward High School who attends The University of Toledo and studies social work; Francesca Adams, a graduate of Start High School who attends Tiffin University and studies accounting; Racheal Sciplin, a graduate of Central Catholic High School who attends Walsh University; Cayenne Colbert, a graduate of Bowsler High School who attends Ohio University and Leah Whitarc, a graduate of Bowsler High School who attends Miami University of Ohio.

In addition to the scholarship announcements, over 20 door prizes were given away including a \$500 gift card to Toledo Furs which was won by Judi Bigelow, prizes from sponsors American Airlines and Lusters' Pink which were won by Beverly Beasley and Mary Shapiro.

The chapter also displayed two plaque presentations that will be shipped to the national headquarters of the sorority. One was of the women of the chapter who had served as president and the other a picture of honorary member and future First-Lady Michelle Obama. The show closed with participants being able to spend time with the models and show workers

"We're especially proud of the reception; it's a different touch for this year. We used to do it years ago, so people could get the chance to meet and mingle with the models, talk with producers of Ebony and a few other people," said Black-Poon.

precipitate the community for coming out to support," said Lisa Dubose, Zeta Alpha

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