



# The Sojourner's Truth

Volume 15, No.09

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

December 17, 2008



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*In our experience, grandmothers serve as the heartbeat of the African-American culture. It is their wisdoms and understanding of life, along with their undying commitment to family which has lifted generations.*

## This Strikes Us ...

*A Sojourner's Truth Editorial*

If President-elect Barack Obama's administration is not a rousing success, it certainly won't be because he has not selected the right members for his team. His economic team, his national security team and his energy team are awash with bright, experienced highly-qualified individuals – an all-star team indeed.

There is only one way this group won't succeed, and that is if the president himself proves incapable of leading such a collection of egos. Given Obama's ability to work with people of differing views, we believe that the whole process has been a recipe for success.

There is hardly a precedent in our lifetimes for such a gathering of notables. In 1960, President-elect John F. Kennedy picked a team that would be dubbed "the best and the brightest." Luminaries such as Robert McNamara, the then-president of Ford Motor who had been the leader of Ford's "Whiz Kids" after World War I, were part of that package Kennedy presented to the American people.

Vice President-elect Lyndon Johnson was tremendously impressed by the group. He went to the Speaker of the House, Sam Rayburn, to gush about his admiration for the selections. Rayburn agreed that they were certainly a very smart group, but told Johnson he would feel a lot better if just one of them had run for sheriff at some point.

McNamara, the Secretary of Defense nominee, would go on to lead the department into and during the Vietnam War always referring to his charts to gauge the effectiveness of his department's productivity. Years after the calamity of the Vietnam War had ended, McNamara would pen his memoirs and say: "oops, my bad."

Obama seems not to have fallen into the Kennedy trap. Yes, his team members are awfully bright individually and in the collective. But even more importantly, many of them have run at least for sheriff. It is both their smarts and their political savvy that impresses in this instance. Even those who have not run for office have spent years in public service rather than in the private sector.

Tim Geithner (Secretary of Treasury), Lawrence Summers (White House National Economic Council), Carol Browner (Assistant to the President for Energy and Climate Change), Lisa Jackson (EPA administrator), and the like, should all be able to hit the ground running. They have all spent years in government service.

And, of course, as we have noted previously, the selection of former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle to the twin posts of Department of Health and Human Services and the White House health team – the one that will devise policy, indicates that Obama is at least as concerned with passing a health bill as he is in coming up with a flawless bill. The Clintons tried to achieve policy perfection and fell short in getting anything done.

\* \* \* \* \*

We are also impressed with the retention of Secretary of Defense Robert Gates. Anti-war leaders are understandably perplexed at this move considering Obama's early opposition to the Iraq War. However, two issues have changed the picture slightly.

First, policy issues on the Iraq War have become less divisive among the various political entities who have a voice. Everyone now agrees – Iraqi government, U.S. liberals and conservatives – that withdrawal from Iraq is simply a matter of time. It's going to happen in 16 months or in two years, but it's going to happen ... all parties agree.

Second, given the attention that must be paid to domestic issues, it's important for Obama to have a team in place at the DoD that can move along without the president having to feel that he must micro-manage a war effort. The added benefit to retaining Gates is that the new president is a bit less likely to be tested during his early months in office.

Some months ago we wrote that the primary tasks for this president would be in the areas of health, energy and foreign policy. That was before the collapse of the banking institutions and the current economic crisis.

In the long run, however, we still feel that the crucial aspects of an Obama presidency will be health, energy and foreign policy. He will, of course, have to deal with the short-term impact of the credit problem, but if this president and his all star line-up are going to leave a legacy of achievement, it will happen through the re-structuring of policies in those three areas. This nation's economy, in the long-term, will depend on how such matters are addressed over the next four to eight years.

## The Sojourner's Truth

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## Community Calendar

### December 20

Top Ladies of Distinction: Senior Citizen Christmas Party: 10 am to noon; McKissick Senior Center

### December 21

Benefit Concert: Indiana Avenue MBC; 5 pm; Featuring First Creation, Dorinda Clark-Cole Singers and Musicians Conference, Jesse Coleman and The Affinity Band, Friendship Full Gospel Baptist Choir: 419-508-2636

White Elephant Sale: All Saints Episcopal; Noon to 2 pm

### December 25

Merry Christmas!!

4<sup>th</sup> Annual Free Christmas Dinner: Thomas Temple COGIC; 1 to 3 pm; Dine in only

### December 26-31

Toledo Kwanzaa Celebration: Wayman Palmer YMCA; 5 pm nightly the doors open – vendors, story telling; 6:55 pm – celebration begins, speaker and performances: 419-471-1912

### January 1

Happy New Year!!



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**My View**

By Jack Ford  
The Truth's Political Columnist

If I did not know better, I would guess that Mayor Carty Finkbeiner put Tom Schlachter and Brian McMahon up to the recall effort as a way to rally his troops. What better way to fight for a fourth term than to have a common enemy? An enemy allegedly from outside the city but trying to "reclaim" Toledo?

In one fell swoop, Schlachter and McMahon managed to give Carty a reason to file for re-election by fighting a recall. Brilliant guys, these two ... or three.

Plus, has anyone considered the mayhem or gridlock in 2009 with the specter of three different mayors in a three-month period? Carty,

then Mark Sobczak—as president of City Council—he would take over if the recall is successful—and then whoever wins the 2009 general election.

Toledo city government will grind to a halt for six months if the recall numbers are hit.

I disagree with Councilwoman Betty Shultz regarding her advisory committee on information processing. Any committee that advises a council leader (and Shultz is the voice for information handling on Council) on \$10 million in spending on hardware and software is mighty important.

That this committee used tax dollars for booze and golf fees is even more reason for disclosure. If this had been Councilman Michael Ashford or Phil Copeland spending city funds for a day at Maumee Bay Park, it would have been front page with a photo. By the way, is it illegal to use city funds to buy booze or must it be at a strip club? Oh yeah, that was union funds not taxpayer money.

The weatherization and repair program at EOPA ought to be highlighted. This is a program that makes a difference between being cold in

the winter versus being warm and secure. This same program fixes plumbing in old houses that some plumbers will not touch. And, it operates in all parts of the city, including Point Place, the Five Points neighborhood, East Toledo and South Toledo.

Service is dependent upon need not race, gender or age. If you are broke and need repairs, you can get it as long as the funds hold out. I hope EOPA starts up a newsletter again and tells their story about helping poor people. Tell it repeatedly!

Ali Green and Jamilah Jones are thinking about running for the Toledo Board of Education. Go ahead and get your committees organized, raise lots of money and put your team together. The sooner you get going, the better.

One final point on Toledo's budget. If after a 10 percent whack to Ohio's budget, a shortfall of \$6 billion may remain for Ohio. We can expect severe cuts not only at the state level but also in Toledo via the local government fund. A bad state budget cascades down through the county and city. 2009 is going to be tougher than 2008.

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## Four Thoughts That Keep Me Up At Night ....

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq.  
Guest Column

(1) Workers at a "closed" Chicago factory are holding their plant as a peaceful hostage until they are paid their rightful wages and pensions and vacation pay. The recalcitrant employer is trying to stiff the employees with a lot of jibber-jabber on why it can not do the right thing. Could this be the nascent development of a worker-led consumer movement to tell owners and management that the worker is a human who is entitled to his or her daily bread in exchange for time and labor?

Workers everywhere should hold these protesting workers in solidarity because what happened to them can spread like a cancer across the land especially at non-unionized shops and factories. The particular hostage situation is Jackson is on the scene trying to national spotlight since now taking all of the air out



(2) The slogan Take initiative to rush city hall out on his duff. That move—In the most recent election, Ford, an eminently qualified worker who balanced the budget and whose only faux

"smile enough." Go figure! Yes, Carty needs to be dumped with all deliberate speed. He has foisted Toledoans long enough with his tom foolery and gibberish. If I could, I would sign the petition 10 times. Remember: This is the mayor who calls black men: King Kong! Don't let Carty's Pepsodent smile beguile you. Send him packin'.

(3) Remember the good ol' days when the local black churches could come together and give the appearance that they could work together on social ills and issues. Look again. Today, with HIV/AIDS being rampant in the black community and poverty rates at an all time high and black-on-black crime being an ever-present thug in the black community, you will not see too many black churches raising a ruckus.

Regrettably, too many are concerned with their own little groups of folks and making sure that the offering plate overflows on Sundays and Wednesday nights. Anything else is a big yawn to them. Increasing their church membership and putting away the bucks seems to be a cottage industry for too many churches.

How many churches have active soup kitchens or clothing programs or give out free advice to the down and out about improving their health, family and economic condition?

Notice any churches sending their members to "patrol" their surrounding neighborhoods both as presence and as a comfort to the residents. Don't worry. You won't. If it doesn't involve gospel singing and shouting and raising money ... it probably won't get done!

(4) Let me suggest for the umpteenth time that as a way of raising funds for community research and involvement and economic empowerment that there be a common fund set up by which each church will "tithe" off of their Sunday and Wednesday offerings and give to this fund so that in a few years, hundred of thousands of dollars can be raised for inner city development, scholarships, housing and job creation.

We would have a moratorium on pastor anniversaries, their birthday givings, their Christmas presents and other various and sundry givings. Those alone in a matter of a few years would raise copious amounts of funds.

Will it happen? I doubt it. Why? There would be a huge fuss over who gave what and how much vs. who should have given and how little they gave!

In other words, we would rather be without or ask for charity than do for self. To do for self requires sustained organization and sacrifice ... a precious commodity in short supply. The churches would squabble amongst themselves about who would head the fund and who would monitor what each church is giving to the fund.

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## The Arena Project: On Track or Falling Short of Intended Participation?

By Fletcher Word  
Sojourner's Truth Editor

At the end of this past summer, just four short months ago, Art Jones, former city councilman and retired City of Toledo employee who serves as volunteer on an advisory committee (Lucas County Arena Minority Oversight Committee) to the Board of Lucas County Commissioners for the Multi-Purpose

Arena, was positively beaming about the progress on minority participation in the project's construction.

"We are achieving the goals as on the arena," said Jones in late August. "We are reaching 15 percent minority participation in dollars in contracts and in work hours on the site. It has happened be-

cause the county commissioners passed a resolution and because they believed in it."

What a difference four months can make.

"It has gotten bad," says Jones now of the effort to reach those goals. "It has gotten worse." Not that Jones blames the county commissioners for what he perceives

to be a failure to include minority suppliers in the project. He blames the contractors who, he says, have not engaged in a good faith effort to bring in minority subcontractors.

As the Multi-Purpose Arena was originally conceived to reach minority inclusion goals, those goals were divided into two discrete categories – work hours on the site and subcontracts. The subcontracts include goods and services.

What has disturbed Jones of late is that the contracting part of the commitments is only being met because of the heavy reliance on the "goods and services" part of the equation.

Here's the problem from Jones' point of view. Contractors who have reached agreement to work on the arena have voluntarily signed affidavits stating they will attempt to dole out 15 percent of their contracts to minority subcontractors.

Such affidavits are strictly voluntary because it would be against state law to require such a commitment.

The affidavits do not distinguish between subcontracting and "goods and services."

Subcontractors are those who take over part of the actual construction from the prime contractors in such trades as carpentry, plumbing, electric, sheet metal, ironworking, and so forth. Such subcontractors create jobs, money flows into the minority community.

Goods and services are provided by suppliers, in this

case minority suppliers. According to figures provided to the Minority Oversight Committee in mid-October, only nine percent of the total contracts were given to minority subcontractors, another 5.2 percent went to suppliers.

Suppliers, such as Quality Building Supplies of Grand Rapids, OH or Rath Builders Supply of Defiance, are asked by prime contractors to purchase materials for the job.

It's a simple procedure that requires, at most, a supplier to take delivery of material and take it to the job site or the prime contractor's site. For this service, a supplier might receive a two percent commission. No significant jobs are created; the commission is simply a carrying fee and helps the minority-owned company only to sustain itself.

"That was not the intent," says Jones of the fact that suppliers are included in the same category as subcontractors.

Whether that was the original intention or not, County Commissioner Pete Gerken feels the project is on track as far as minority inclusion is concerned.

"We knew it would be a challenge," said Gerken in response to Jones' comments.

"But we are farther along than any public project in the history of this city ... and that includes the public schools and the waterways projects."

At issue, as Gerken says, is the fact that suppliers are certified Minority Business Enterprises (MBE). Gerken acknowledges that not all MBE's employ a lot of people. "I don't

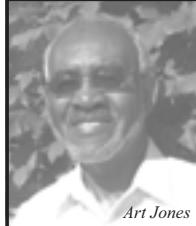
make these designations ... I can't, and we can't dictate changes in designations" he says.

But even excluding the suppliers, says Gerken, "we are at about 12 to 13 percent" minority participation. "We are still higher than any other public works project ever."

According to the latest figures The Truth has obtained, subcontractors – as of December 22 – account for less than the figure Gerken offered, or around eight percent, while goods and services (suppliers) account for 6.3 percent of the total. The goods and services portion of the contract percentage has indeed increased over the last several months, as Jones says.

Nevertheless, the total contract percentage was 14.3 percent, very close to the stated goal of 15 percent.

Similarly, the workforce percentage accounted for 14.1 percent, again very close to



Art Jones

the goal of 15 percent.

Those numbers, both Jones and Gerken admit, can change over the course of the project. "There is still a lot to do," says Gerken. "We are still seven or eight months from the finish."

## McNamara and Steel Urge "Green Infrastructure" to Save Money and Improve Water Quality

Special to The Truth

Toledo City Councilman Joe McNamara will soon be introducing legislation asking the Plan Commission to update the City of Toledo's zoning code to allow for expanded use of "green infrastructure." As part of the run-up to this introduction, McNamara and Toledo School Board President Steve Steel, Ph.D., held a news conference last week during which they displayed a sample of permeable concrete in the lobby of One Government Center. The sample was provided by the Kuhlman Corporation – a local producer of the concrete.

Green infrastructure can be defined as using natural methods that decrease the environmental impact of human development. The legislation would not mandate the use of such methods but would allow for techniques used successfully in Midwest cities with climates similar to Toledo such as Chicago and Milwaukee.

"Green infrastructure reduces sewer overflow, saving money and protecting our environment," said McNamara.

"This is a total drainage system ... that absorbs contaminants and keeps them out of the sewage system," he added. "The water goes back into the soil."

According to Tim Casey, sales manager for Kuhlman's, the cost for the permeable concrete, that can be used for many of the same sites where concrete is now used, is more than concrete, however, the labor cost to install is less. "So the cost is a wash," said Casey, "but the life expectancy [of permeable concrete] is a lot longer than seven years."

"It's a lot cooler product

than plain concrete or asphalt," said Wayne Moening, Northwest Ohio director of Ohio Concrete. "No moisture is captured in this so there are no expansion problems [during cold weather]."

The permeable concrete that was shown last week can be used even on low volume, residential streets, said Moening.

Green infrastructure has already been used successfully in building projects in Toledo. The new Bowsher High School has sidewalks made from the permeable concrete.

"The use of permeable surfaces for paving at our new Bowsher High School project illustrates a simple fact – environmental sustainability is fully compatible with economic devel-

opment," said Steel. "It makes sense to use public investment to leverage support for forward-thinking projects utilizing local enterprises. It's the right thing to do for our kids and for their future."

Also attending last week's press conference was Kathryn Swartz from American Rivers – a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and restoration of North America's rivers.

Incorporating green infrastructure into our city codes and ordinances is an important step to encouraging developers and engineers to use these low-impact techniques ... We must continue to explore smart alternatives like permeable pavement to improve water quality so we can all benefit from a healthy river," said Swartz.

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**Laura, Willie's Wife**

"Whenever we had questions, Hospice explained every answer. They knew what to provide even before we knew what to ask for. And the staff connected on a personal level, too. My dad's nurse was like part of our family."

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**Joya, Willie's Daughter**

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# 100 Grandmothers: The Heartbeat of African-American Culture

By Robert Smith, African American Legacy Project  
Special to The Truth

The African American Legacy Project will coordinate a region-wide effort to find and talk to women who, through selfless acts, have sustained, grown, and nurtured family. We're celebrating grandmothers in an extraordinary way!

Grandmother: she is the soul—*some even say the backbone*—of the African-American family. She also serves as the family's spiritual and inspirational leader. She is our moral barometer and, with something as simple as a whisper or a quick glance, she can immediately let you know ... something's not quite right. She reserves her smiles for the right moment. She is our strength! She is the single person that every family member finds both comfort and counsel.

It is true that grandparents from all ethnic persuasions have—for a variety of reasons—begun raising their grandchildren. However there is substantive historical foundation supporting the hypothesis that the African-American grandmother has perennially been the single consistent person that has kept community [family] together.

Grandmothers hold our culture close to their breasts. Their keepsake box holds the family's treasures, the baby's first shoes, your first grade card and, of course, her wedding picture. She frames, maintains and exalts our eth-

nic identity. Better stated, she reminds us of who we are and whence we came. A grandmother is one of the richest resources capable of helping to identify and secure the history and experiences of a people.

Individually and collec-

The best tribute one could possibly pay to her or his grandmother is to insure her experiences legacy, dreams and pure acts of love and courage are protected forever.

**Traveling Exhibit to Recruit Grandmothers**

Over the next several

give you—the community—an opportunity to *Honor Your Grandmother*.

We will be soliciting grandmother interviews, along with photos and stories about her. We want to look at the world through grandma's eyes. We want her prayer to be our prayer.

If your business, church, or organization would like to host the grandmothers trav-

American Legacy Project for more information.

**Community Support Growing!**

Several community institutions have joined The African American Legacy Project in our mission to document the African American grandmother. The Stranahan Foundation via the Toledo Community Foundation is underwriting part of the cost of the

more special!

There are still opportunities for community institutions to support this important community responsibility.

**With a Child's Heart**

In our experience, grandmothers serve as the heartbeat of the African-American culture. It is their wisdoms and understanding of life, along with their undying



tively, grandmothers challenge us! You can do better; get your education; watch the people you hang around! Other people can tell you the same thing, but when you hear it from grandma...you only love her more!

months, representatives from The African American Legacy Project will escort a traveling exhibit about grandmothers throughout our region. We will visit communities, churches, schools and special events in an effort to

## We want to look at the world through grandma's eyes. We want her prayer to be our prayer.

eling exhibit, or if you would like to recommend a grandmother to be honored called The African American Legacy Project (419-720-4369) The Sojourner's Truth Newspaper (419-243-0007), or radio station WJUC (419-861-8582).

### A Special Quilt

The African American Legacy Project will produce a quilt, our special tribute to grandmothers. The quilt contains 100 squares. Each is four inches by six inches in size. We will place exactly 100 images of grandmothers of a special quilt that will travel throughout the region. There is a \$50.00 fee per square and persons interested in honoring their grandmother with this special tribute should call The African

program. The Area Office on Aging has supported 100 Grandmothers since its inception. 100 Grandmothers is a perfect fit for the Area Office on Aging. Buckeye CableSystem and Owens Community are also among the list of growing supporters.

The Sojourner's Truth Newspaper and radio station WJUC reached out and immediately embraced the 100 Grandmother's project. These two important community media outlets have truly wrapped their arms around our 100 Grandmothers Project.

They didn't just say yes, they rolled up their sleeves and came up with a couple of exciting ideas to make our tribute to grandmothers even

commitment to family which has lifted generations. As every child—no matter how young or how old—knows, after everyone else disappears, grandma will be there! They know—tucked in grandma's arms, they are safe.

Even our young ones have an opportunity to participate.

Adolescents and children can write their personal tribute to grandma. Kids will be able to write a 150 word essay on ... *Why Grandma is Special!* Essays will be published in The Sojourner's Truth newspaper along with a picture of the writer and his or her grandmother. Some entries will be aired on radio station WJUC and still others will become a part of the 100 Grandmothers traveling exhibit. Of course, all of the essays will be kept safe in our archives as a public record ... forever! The first opportunity to pick up forms for the essay contest will be at this year's Martin Luther King Unity Celebration at The University of Toledo's Savage Hall on Monday January 19, 2009.

After January 19, 2009 entry forms for the essay contest can be picked up at The African American Legacy Project 2321 Upton, radio station WJUC, 5902 Southwyk Blvd and the Sojourner's Truth Newspaper 1811 Adams St. You may call either of these organizations to get information on how to Honor Your Grandmother and information regarding our grandmother's quilt.

Honor your grandmother!

*Note: 100 Grandmothers and its derivatives are the proprietary property of The African American Legacy Project of Northwest Ohio*

## Economic Essentials and You

Your Toledo-Lucas County Public Library has pulled together a variety of resources to help you navigate the current economic climate.

Click on the Economic Essentials button on the Library's Web site @ [toledolibrary.org](http://toledolibrary.org) for help.

**Access a variety of informational links and circulating materials on these topics:**

- Job Searching
- Economy and Investing
- Living on Less
- Resources for Help
- Giving Without Spending
- Family Frugal Holidays



# The Afro-Semitic Experience Enthralls Shomer Emunim Audience

By Fletcher Word  
*Sojourner's Truth Editor*



Yes, the show must go on says the old show business adage. But at some point during a truly wonderful performance, especially a musical performance, one realizes that unfortunately, the show cannot go on forever.

And unfortunately, The Afro-Semitic Experience, after wowing their audience of about 600 on this past Sunday afternoon at the Temple Congregation Shomer Emunim, had to inform the audience that they were about to start their last number.

What a performance it was, while it lasted.

The Afro-Semitic Experience is a group of six virtuoso jazz musicians who have been together since 1999—an offshoot of the creative work of African-American pianist Warren Byrd and Jewish-American bassist David Chevan. In 1999, while both were part of a New Haven-based jazz group, Bassology, they were asked to expand to a group that could play klezmer, gospel, spirituals

and Yiddish songs along with their own blend of jazz and world music pieces.

The group grew to include Will Bartlett (saxophone, clarinet, flute); Alvin Carter, Jr (drum set and percussion); Baba David Coleman (percussion) and Stacy Phillips (lap steel guitar, violin).

The Afro-Semitic Experience was brought, for the second time to the Toledo area—the first was in 2004, by a committee comprised of local African-American and Jewish participants. The performance was sponsored by the Congregation Shomer

Emunim, the Congregation B'nai Israel, Etz Chayim and the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity while the bulk of the funding was provided by the Dr. Morton Goldberg Lecture Fund of the Toledo Community Foundation and the Toledo Jewish Community Foundation.

"We celebrate what we have in common, not how we are different," said Chevan near the start of the concert as he noted the historical ties between the American Jewish and black communities in the civil rights struggle.

In a reference to the recent



presidential election, Chevan said: "We're beginning to see some healing and January 20<sup>th</sup> is when that healing occurs—we're going to have an Afro-Semitic White House." Chevan would refer to January 20, 2009 with undisguised glee throughout the afternoon.

The evening's entertainment began with a rendition of a traditional Jewish spiritual song, "Oseh Shalom" ("May God who makes peace in the heavens, make peace upon us and upon all Israel").

A choir had been formed from those members of Kol Zimrah (Shomer Emunim) and the Grace Temple Choir. The choirs were accompanied on this piece by The Afro-Semitic Experience and led in solos by Cantor Jen Roher (Shomer Emunim), Cantor Evan Rubin (Etz Chayim) and Hazzan Jamie Gloth (B'nai Israel).

Then The Afro-Semitic Experience took over the stage and treated the audience to a Hebrew song on slavery, a Negro spiritual, a Chanukah song, an African melody, an anti-apartheid song from South Africa, Psalm 23, and several original compositions by Warren Byrd.

The finale brought the choir back on stage for a gospel song—"Because of Who You Are"—with soloist Tiffani McClain from Grace

Temple.

"Think Jewish wedding, revival meeting and Charlie Mingus all at once," wrote James Heflin in a review in

The Valley Advocate of The Afro-Semitic Experience.

They were indeed all that and much more on Sunday afternoon.



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## Commission Seeks Aid and Solutions for African-American Males

By Artisha S. Lawson  
*Sojourner's Truth Reporter*

The Ohio Commission on African American Males (OCAAM) held a public hearing, in a campaign called "The Governor wants to know... How are African American Males doing in Education, Healthcare, Criminal Justice and Economic Empowerment," in Toledo City Council Chambers on Tuesday, December 9.

The campaign plans to travel to 15 cities and obtain information on the challenges African-American males face across the state of Ohio, these cities are: Akron, Cleveland, East Cleveland, Mansfield, Steubenville, Canton, Columbus, Sandusky, Toledo, Cincinnati, Dayton, Lima, Springfield and Youngstown. Last week's two-hour hearing included testimony from several Toledo private and public agencies and organizations.

OCAAM Executive Director Samuel Gresham, Jr., says that the commission is focusing on five areas and admits that most are being repeated in each hearing. "Healthcare,

employment, family support ability, and access to jobs," said Gresham. "Education keeps coming up, health keeps coming up, and employment and employment access keeps coming up. In all cities those keep coming up, the black community is hurting."

Toledo's hearing included testimonies from John Jones, Greater Toledo Urban League president; Dr. Lloyd Jacobs, The University of Toledo president; WilliAnn Moore, NAACP local president; John

Foley, Toledo Public Schools superintendent; Dr. David Grossman, Lucas County Health Department commissioner; Rev. Cordell Jackson, Closing the Achievement GAP trainer; Bishop Duane C. Tisdale, Friendship Baptist Church senior pastor; Craig Gebbers, The One Stop Employment Jobs & Family Service director; Morris Jenkins, Ph.D., UT dean of Criminal Justice Department; Ray Woods, UAW Local 14 president; Rev. Talmadge Thomas, NAACP religious

affairs chairman; ONYX and Task.

During her five minute testimony, Moore spoke briefly on the need for appropriate housing for African-American males who had been incarcerated. "I cannot speak for everywhere, but I can speak for Toledo because our African American males need assistance," said Moore. "Consider housing for reentry, it is crucial to African-American males who have been incarcerated. When they get out, they have no housing because they have a criminal record. And that is a barrier, some of these barriers need to be looked at and Toledo and other cities need to make a coordinated effort to make things less troublesome for these young men."

Foley provided statistical evidence on how African-American males perform academically while attending Toledo Public Schools. Based on his report 13 percent of African-American males come prepared for kindergarten. Additionally, according to Foley, from 2003 to the present, African-American males have performed below males in general in the areas of reading, writing and math.

Lastly, since the 2002-2003 academic year African-American males have graduated in a lower rate than males in general, except in the 2005-2006 the graduation rate was equal to other males of different ethnicities. However, African-American males graduated at 80 percent and above since the 2005-2006 academic year.



*Samuel Gresham*

"It is really important that we provide quality preschools with excellent standards for our students. As the governor faces more challenging budget down the line, as mentioned earlier there is the unconstitutionality of school funding. But the reality is if we continue to cut the pie to spread it out to make everyone happy, no one ends up happy and our kids are the ones who end up suffering," said Foley.

During Dr. Grossman's testimony, his PowerPoint presentation showed that overall African-American males need to invest more in preventive care and maintaining good health. In his findings, Dr. Grossman reported that African-American males lead in having the highest mortality rate in heart disease and diabetes, twelve percent of all Lucas County African Americans were diagnosed with diabetes while 35 percent were diagnosed with high blood pressure and were twice as likely to develop prostate cancer.

"As we look at these facts,

you have all heard it before and seen it, but we deal with it every day. More collaboration is needed from the top down, this is vital because it's about minority health. I think that it is the only way is from the top down," said Dr. Grossman.

Ohio Commission on African American Males is a state agency whose mission is to identify and promote strategies and public policies to foster improvements in the social economic and educational problems that affect the African-American male population in Ohio.

Established in 1989, the commission was the first statewide commission established to address the needs of African-American males. The commission is charged with solving problems with advancing/proposing recommendations pertinent to black males in the areas of health, education, employment, and criminal justice.

Information on the commission's findings and a hearing video are available on their website, [occaam.org](http://occaam.org).

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**Book Review**

# ***Renegade for Peace & Justice***

**by Congresswoman Barbara Lee  
c.2008. Rowman & Littlefield \$24.95**

*By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
Sojourner's Truth contributor*

No doubt, you were glued to the news for much of the fall

Even if you never once paid attention to politics, this year's election and all that went with it had you near-hypnotized. Although you don't exactly have a warm feeling for politics-as-usual, you couldn't get enough this year. Come March, though, you'll probably slide back into that old familiar level of political indifference, just because you don't feel like paying heed anymore.

Would it make any difference if you knew somebody in Washington had your back? Read the new book *Renegade for Peace & Justice* by Congresswoman Barbara Lee and you might breathe a puff of relief.

Congresswoman Barbara Lee's story starts with racism: her mother, when giving birth to Lee, was nearly turned away at the hospital because of the color of her skin. Lee, therefore, was a victim of racism literally at birth and because of that and her many life experiences, she is a tireless champion of human causes.

Raised in part by her maternal grandfather, a man who demanded excellence, Lee says she knew that education was the path toward a good future.

But long before college, two teen pregnancies gave Lee a keen understanding of women's reproductive rights. Married at 16 because of an accidental pregnancy, Lee endured a miscarriage but was quickly pregnant again. Because of her youth and her Air Force husband's recent departure, Lee made the difficult decision to get an abortion.

A few years later, Lee was a divorced, single mother of two young sons and was on welfare for a short time. She says she remembers what it's like to get government assistance and that memory spurs her to fight for the poor and disadvantaged. She also knows what it's like to be abused, because her second husband was violent.

When she finally was able to go to college, Lee became politically active and joined the Black Panther Party, where she worked toward "righting the wrongs of our society." As a congresswoman, she's introduced bills to help people with HIV and AIDS and she's championed the rights of women and children. And in the halls of Congress, Lee is known for standing strong in her beliefs, including one that says we need a Department of Peace in Washington.

Had enough politics for the year? Hold on. *Renegade for Peace & Justice* isn't completely political in nature. Author and Congresswoman Barbara Lee also tells the story of her life: growing up with a large Latino population, in a Texas version of segregation; being the granddaughter, daughter and wife of abusing men; getting to know Bobby Seale and Huey Newton, Rosa Parks and Shirley Chisholm; understanding at a young age that there was right and there was wrong, and that wrong could be changed.

If you enjoy a good biography or if you're a political junkie, you'll love this book. If you can't bear another minute of politics, pass on it – but you'll be sorry. *Renegade for Peace & Justice* is a book to pay attention to.

## **McNamara and Wilkowski Propose Engineering Plan for Solar Energy Field**

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Toledo City Councilman Joe McNamara and mayoral candidate Keith Wilkowski are revising a proposal they made in September for a municipal solar field.

Given the stated intentions of President-elect Barack Obama to prioritize energy creation projects, McNamara introduced on Tuesday an ordinance giving the mayor the authority to immediately spend up to \$200,000 to complete the engineering for such a project.

For Wilkowski and McNamara, the hope is that completing the engineering phase of the project will enhance the City of Toledo chances to obtain federal financing to build the solar field.

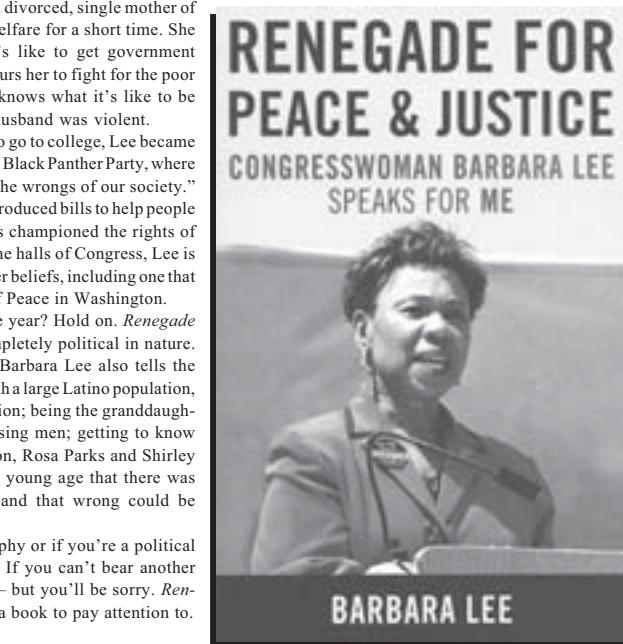
The Obama Transition Team has notified local governments that they are looking for projects that would fall under the purview of the Department of Energy, would already be planned, permitted and engineered and are only lacking the funds to start within the next 90 days.

McNamara had requested that the Mayor Carty Finkbeiner administration list projects it intends to submit to the Transition Team for potential funding. The administration plans to submit several infrastructure

This will help to create jobs.”

There are no guarantees that the federal government will fund the project even after the \$200,000 phase is complete, Wilkowskiacknowledged, but he also said that such projects should be undertaken regardless of the source of the funding stream.

"We should be spending money on such engineering without guarantees," said Wilkowski, the only person who has yet declared an interest in running for mayor of Toledo in 2009. "We must be ready. If we are not pursuing alternative energy projects which is our niche, then shame on us."



A circular graphic for the show 'Game Savvy'. The outer ring contains the text 'IT'S THE SHOW THE PLAYERS FORCH' at the top and 'LOVE IT!' at the bottom. Inside the circle, there's a basketball hoop with a ball, and the word 'SAVVY' written vertically next to it. The background of the circle features a blurred image of a basketball player.

**OMFNG!!!**

By Michael Hayes  
Minister of Culture

Everyone... please tell me you seen the footage this past weekend of George Bush standing at a podium and someone stands up and throws a shoe directly at his dome!!

Correction: dude didn't throw a shoe, he threw both shoes! LMAO!

All you have to do is type into youtube.com: bush shoe - and it comes up.

Ohh, that had me feeling quite jolly...you gotta check it out.

And see, how is that Bush is so hated?

Well... it's not just because he's seen as a buffoon.

I won't get too deep or political right now(y'all know how I can get), but let's just say that George Bush and his policies...his New World Order a/k/a "Project For A New American Century"...his conservative right wing agenda is the very root of much of your woes this holiday season.

Healthcare costs skyrocket. Jobs have been flying south, far east, far west, north... basically everywhere but in the U.S.A. Not only massive layoffs...but now we have entire industries collapsing!

Non-profits, that used to help the needy, have less and less ability to help the growing number of those who fall under the poverty line.

Many of you out there are experiencing holiday woes this season that you may have never expected...all thanks to the purposeful destruction of America's middle class brought about by George Bush and his friends.

Hell, as messed up as this holiday season is gonna be for so many people... we should all be throwing big snow boots at dude.

Ahh, yes, that special time of year: Chrismahanukwanzika.

No matter your culture, tradition or religious leaning... this year you are going to have to work harder to make the holiday count.

To all the single parents out there... I am proud of you all.

Whether you are a single parent in the sense that your co-parent just ain't doing their part, or if both parties are thuggin' it out but you just happen to be the day-to-day caregiver.

Through my 9-5 and through friends and family I see what you guys deal with and all you go through to try and let this time of year remain special for your little ones... I applaud you.

Man, remember how Christmas was used to feel?

This time of year back in the day I was filling out a list and handing it to my

mom...asking for Transformers and Nintendo games or whatever.

School plays, watching the Christmas specials, Christmas trees and many more traditions used to really make this feel like a joyful time.

And then you grow up, right?

Priorities shift when so much about our world today is in question and kids can't even live like kids anymore.

Eight year olds want fashion...not just Jordans like back when we were little, they want Gucci. Meanwhile the American auto industry might be a thing of the past if Washington isn't careful.

The dawn that is dawning on me right now, people... just as you have seen me write about in recent weeks - it's all about family.

Yo, I was messed up this Thanksgiving.

My own family as much as we all love and support each other, we had about five different Thanksgivings at five different homes when before we used to all pile up at one house and just do it big.

I know other families experiencing true turmoil and unrest right now.

I know families who are ostracizing and condemning their own blood just for being different right now.

I know families whose hol-

days have been drastically effected by the Iraq/Afghanistan wars(invasions) and they are probably won't see their relatives for a while.

I know families who can't deal with which holiday it is because the home they've been building equity in is now bankrupting them every minute they live in it.

You have to be near the ones you love this holiday.

If it's not your blood relatives... fine.

If you have some blood relatives you get along with but others you don't... fine.

If you have some friends who are closer to you than any of your real family... fine.

If you have a boyfriend/girlfriend whose family welcomes you more than your own... fine.

Family to me is all about those who accept you and continuously show love and support for you in many ways.

I'm lucky to have family...and friends who are like family and even the people I make music with...many of you have kept me aware) that this music is an acquired taste.

But if you were wondering if 2008 gave you anything for your dome... trust and believe Ms. Badu had that real-ish on lock..."...we've been programmed... wake up!"

And that's just a quote from the first song on the album. Dig dat.

Being around them... seeing them well and happy, that makes me happy.

It is my hope for all of you that you have found something as beautiful.

Enjoy that time y'all, it's precious and you cannot get it back.

Squeeze that budget if you can afford to and buy whatever your loved ones some gifts.

But recognize that the present...is a gift in and of itself.

Laugh, eat, be around the people who bring you joy and have a happy holiday.

## YEAR END ENTERTAINMENT REVIEW

Nope, not doing the whole survey thing I do every year.

Having you all email me your favorite picks for club song of the year... favorite R&B song of the year... and all that - yes, I've done it in years past but not this time.

I do have to give special mention to a few pieces that have moved me this year.

### FAVORITE ALBUMS OF 2008:

**Nas Untitled** – This is a must have for every hip-hop fan, every black American and every person who has ever intellectually pondered how our culture as a people fits into this larger society here in the U.S. This is education...this is a testament to one of our greatest lyricists

reaching the peak of his artistic output at the perfect time.

Don't believe what XXL or The Source said about lack-luster production, the beats are perfect for the project and it is the most cohesive hip-hop album I have heard since Mos Def's debut album.

### Erykah Badu Nu

**Amerykah** – Yes, it's way out.

But when everything that's "in" sounds the same and the radio feels like poison... leave it to the queen to give the people what they need. The subject matter is profound...

no talk about relationships, just straight building lessons and sentiments that would fuel a much needed revolution.

This album is necessary for our condition right now but I am aware (because many of you have kept me aware) that this music is an acquired taste.

But if you were wondering if 2008 gave you anything for your dome... trust and believe Ms. Badu had that real-ish on lock..."...we've been programmed... wake up!"

And that's just a quote from the first song on the album. Dig dat.

### Danity Kane – Welcome To The Dollhouse

Setting the bar for production, vocals and even writing in pop/R&B...this genre-smashing album proved that "Making The Band" is not a reality show...it is a vehicle for artists to enter the industry. The sophomore album from Bad Boy's bad girls was dynamic and refreshingly different than what most would expect.

But recognize that the present...is a gift in and of itself.

Laugh, eat, be around the people who bring you joy and have a happy holiday.

hotter than hell, and his artistry has grown beyond just studio wizardry. I saw ob boy bust out a full piano recital on TV one night and there's youtube footage of him getting very open on the drums.

He is an artist and he is the reigning billboard champ of the millennium.

Even surpassing his boss.

### Dwele – Sketches of a Man

Anyone complaining about what music used to be, you buy this and you will have much less to complain about and much more to appreciate.

Just a downright amazing caliber of material on this release and the writing is the best it's been. "Vain" and "Cheatin On My Girl" are among my favorites.

We play at least two or three tracks of this album EVER Saturday at our open mic night at the gallery...people love this album.

### Lil Wayne – The Carter III

I don't even need to say anything here.

### Films:

I didn't get too heavy into Hollywood this year.

So instead of going through a meticulous list...I'll make it simple.

Buy the Hancock DVD.

If you are anything like me...sometimes you want to get away from the big budget flicks and you wanna see what the indie world is talking about.

One particular black indie film was so good I did not want to give it back ...

If you get a chance, go find this joint and watch it...it's called: *I'm Through With White Women*

It's not as funny as the title suggests but it has layers to it, and is very inspiring without being corny.

Still another shout out to all the finalists for the MISTLETOE JAM IDOL CONTEST.

I'll be in the building on December 20 for the big show at the Stranahan..

Ricky Smiley, Fantasia and Avant – presented by Hot97/95.7.

U.G.E. artist T. Diamond mixtape: The Winter Is Mine myspace.com/toledodiamond1

I wanna thank everyone that made this last Saturday at THE LISTENING so fun!

Shout to U.G.E. (and yes that includes two upcoming new members).

And I'll see y'all in 7.

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

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

AA/EOE

## INSTRUCTOR, INFORMATION SYSTEMS (Toledo Campus)

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

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

AA/EOE

## RN or LSW

Expanding Program seeks Assessor/Care Managers/Screener with one (1) year experience in home care or gerontology. To work in the Toledo area. To conduct in-person assessments, case management and/or screening for individuals in need of long-term care. Benefit package. Knowledge of community resources and reliable transportation required.

EEO/AAP, Bilingual and minority applicants encouraged to apply.

STARTING SALARY: Negotiable

Send resumes to:

Personnel/PASSPORT  
AOA

2155 Arlington Avenue  
Toledo, Ohio 43609

## House for Sale

Single family home  
3 bed, 1 bath  
\$18,000

1535 Buckingham; Call 248-250-0179

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**Lucas County Children Services (LCCS) is issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Housing Services for Post-Emancipation Young Adults, age 18-21.**

The goal is to provide housing services that will support participating young adults efforts to:

- Become self-sufficient;
- Establish and maintain independent housing;
- Learn essential life and personal management skills.

LCCS is seeking proposals from governmental and private entities/agencies capable and willing to lease low cost efficiency and/or one-bedroom apartments to young adults participating in the agency's Post-Emancipation program. RFP materials will be available from December 1 through December 17, 2008 at 705 Adams St., Toledo, OH 43604. To make arrangement to pick up an RFP packet, call 419-213-3658. An applicant information session regarding the RFP will be held at LCCS on December 17, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. in Room #913.

The deadline for submitting proposals (NO FAX) is 4:00 p.m. on January 7, 2009. No proposal will be accepted after that deadline.

By Dean Sparks, Executive Director  
Lucas County Children's Services

## Mentoring, Education & Leadership, Inc Bus Trip

The Mentoring, Education & Leadership, Inc. is sponsoring a bus trip to the historic inauguration of President-elect Barack Obama. The bus will depart from Mercy Hospital parking garage on Jefferson Avenue on Monday, January 19, 2009 at 9:00 p.m. and will return on Tuesday evening, January 20, 2009.

The cost of this event is \$120.00 per person which is non-refundable. To reserve your seat for this historic event, please contact Dr. Carmel Smith @ 419-917-3547. Seating is limited. Call now to reserve your seat.

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Train your child in the martial arts now  
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Khalig Kartier

## HIGHER EDUCATION. Teaching Opportunities.

Owens Community College is now hiring adjunct faculty members. Consider sharing your knowledge and experience to promote learning beyond the textbooks. Make a difference for students.

Master's degree required for most positions.  
Please check posting for requirements.

Apply online at [jobs.owens.edu](http://jobs.owens.edu).



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If you are 55 or older and unemployed with limited income, we have training opportunities that may lead to employment. Earn while you learn!  
Call Experience

Works **TODAY!**  
419-255-7102  
EEO/AA

## For Rent

1127 Fernwood Ave  
3 Beds, 2 car, First Floor laundry and Bath. Screened in porches.  
\$625 month. Call 419-392-5428  
Owner/Agent



## Independent Housing Facility

Abundant Life of Perrysburg is a subsidized independent housing facility for those 62 or older. We are located in a beautiful, quiet residential setting in Perrysburg. Abundant Life offers one bedroom garden apartments with private patios, indoor mailboxes, reserved parking and busing to local grocery stores. Applications are now being accepted. Call 419-872-3510 or 419-874-4371



Want to place an Ad or Classified Ad in  
The Truth?  
**Call Pam @ 419-243-0007**

## NORTHGATE APARTMENTS Now Accepting Applications 1 AND 2 BEDROOM APARTMENTS

Mature Adult Community for Persons 55 and Older or Mobility Impaired. Rent Based on Income, Heat, Appliances, Drapes and Carpeting Included. Call Call (419) 729-7118 for details.



## Free Tutoring

No child Left Behind Act  
Clubz! In Home Tutoring  
Elementary & Middle School Students  
One-on-One In Home Sessions  
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419-482-0533

## Maintenance Manager J.M. Smucker Co -- Toledo Plant

The J. M. Smucker Company, continually ranked by Fortune magazine as one of "The 100 Best Companies to Work for in America," has an immediate opening for a Maintenance Manager at their Desert and Baking manufacturing facility located in Toledo, Ohio.

### Summary of Role:

This position will be responsible for organizing, planning, and coordinating all maintenance activities for the production lines. This role will have responsibilities of managing approximately 20 employees over 3 operating shifts. A mechanical and electrical background in the food industry is preferred.

### Qualifications:

Must have a 4 year technical degree  
A minimum of 4 years experience in manufacturing maintenance, preferably in the food industry  
Ability to work and manage within a team environment.

Strong organizational, critical thinking, and problem solving skills.

Effective presentation, verbal, and written communication skills

Ability to organize and prioritize actions to help meet plant objectives and long-term vision.

Self-motivated and can work independently with minimal direct supervision.

Proven project management skills

Open to managing operating teams and departments as a future assignment

### Hiring Process:

Qualified candidates must submit a resume and cover letter stating salary requirements in MS Office Word format to [hr.toledo@jmsmucker.com](mailto:hr.toledo@jmsmucker.com) by December 31, 2008.

### Benefits / General:

The Company offers a competitive benefits program that includes: medical, dental, vision, 401k, and vacation.

**No phone calls please. We will contact individuals that we are interested in pursuing. We are an equal opportunity employer.**

## The Truth Art Gallery Hosts Holiday Meet and Greet

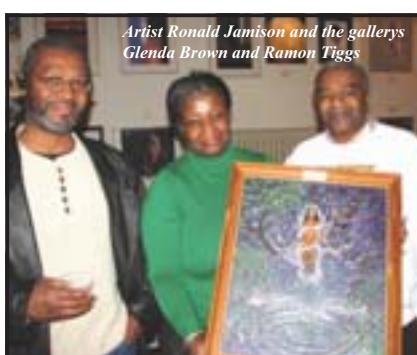
*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

The jazz stylings of saxophonist Katrina Barnhill provided the backdrop for a night of mingling at The Truth Art Gallery at 1811 Adams Street last Friday, December 12.

About a dozen local artists who have their works displayed at the gallery turned out to meet and greet guests who dropped by to view art, listen to Barnhill's music or just bring holiday greetings to friends or new acquaintances.

Gallery Curator Ramon Tiggs and Event Planner Glenda Brown hosted the event to celebrate the conclusion of The Truth Art Gallery's first year.

More on the Art Gallery may be seen at [www.thetruthtoledo.com](http://www.thetruthtoledo.com).



*The Peacock Cafe & Lady K. Ms Karen Harris Presents...*

**The Hottest New Years Eve Party**

**LADY K.**

**K.G.B.**

**The Politics**

**Annette Wright**

**Charlene Gilbert**

**Unity Cable's Annette Wright and Neighborhood Health Association's Doni Miller**

**Live Entertainment provided by:**

**Mr. Gerald Foster**

**K.G.B.**

**Lady K (Ms Karen Harris)**

**Tickets**

\$35/person (before Christmas)  
\$40/person (after 12/25)

**Tickets Available At:**

Peacock Cafe : 419.241.8004  
Lady K. Ms Karen Harris 419.290.8280  
(reserve seating available for early purchase only)

**Erie Street Market**  
237 N. ERIE ST. TOLEDO, OHIO

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