



Local and National News

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"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

May 20, 2009

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Artistic Director

Positive Force Christian School of Dance



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This Strikes Me...**Why Blacks' Denial of Civil Rights to Others is an Affront to Themselves**

By Ravi K. Perry, Ph.D.
Guest Column

I am still disturbed by those African-Americans who choose not to support marriage equality efforts for members of the gay and lesbian community throughout America. It remains especially baffling that so many African-Americans in California could proudly claim their ability to vote for President Barack Obama as a civil rights victory while voting on the same ballot to deny civil rights to members of the gay community.

It appears that those blacks seemingly view civil rights as solely synonymous with the 1960's movement to improve the Black American experience. However, civil rights in this country are at least as old as the Declaration of Independence, well before blacks had any significant rights or legal protections in America. In other words, civil rights existed before oppressed blacks received them, and should exist for others now after blacks have largely received the same rights afforded whites.

Marriage is a civil right, conferred by the state. At least given one's verifiable status as a state resident and citizen – that right should be conferred equally to all within every state's borders. More and more, state supreme courts and legislative bodies – conservative, moderate and liberal – have recognized the basic legality of that fact. The only roadblocks to such civil equality that remain have been voters' own interpretations of what they individually consider marriage to be.

Many of those blacks who have chosen to deny a state-conferred right to a marginalized group have argued that their faith and religious beliefs form their opinions thusly. However, one would think that blacks, of all people, would recall that the KKK used Christian-based arguments to sustain their Jim Crow control over blacks for centuries through intimidation, fear, and other tactics. One would think that blacks, of all people, would recall that some White southerners used Christianity to suppress blacks' efforts toward equal treatment as they enslaved blacks for centuries – either by way of the institution of slavery or the institution of second-class citizenship. One would think that blacks, of all people, would recall that in some states since the late 1600s until 1967, blacks were not given the freedom to marry whomever they pleased given rampant miscegenation laws that did not allow 'race mixing.' Each of these historic recollections are examples of James Madison's tyranny of the majority and are evidence of the use of religion against black people in their pursuit of economic justice, legal civil protections, and marriage equality.

In each case blacks often argued their pursuit of equal legal protections were not only civil rights, but human rights. Do you remember reading King's Letter from a Birmingham Jail? Therein, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. used quotes from St. Thomas Aquinas and others to persuade white southern ministers who were reluctant to challenge unjust laws against segregation. King argued that unjust laws were no laws at all and cannot be justified. Moreover, he suggested that all persons, but especially Christians, have a duty to challenge the unequal treatment of human beings.

As a minister, King invoked preferred tenants of the Christian faith to make his arguments. However, I'm conscious enough to realize that I am also guilty of picking and choosing which Bible verses speak most readily to my point of view. However, that's the point. No matter our opinions on contentious issues like abortion, the death penalty and marriage equality, we all can find Biblical references to support one's argument. Take women's rights, for example. In the first book of Corinthians, the Apostle Paul suggests that women should remain silent in church. Yet, in the book of Romans, Paul's view is that women could and should be church leaders.

As a civil right, marriage equality should not be about religion, but I had to address religion because I know that, for many, it is the reason for persons' opposition to marriage equality.

Hence, there are differing views in the Bible with respect to major issues based on individual interpretation. The same is true for marriage equality.

Regardless of how Christianity has been used to further the social agendas of varying groups historically, I understand and respect the merits of both sides of the contemporary marriage equality debate. For example, recently, scholars and media pundits have increasingly suggested why "gay rights," should be viewed as a civil rights issue. However, others share a different view.

Recent evidence of the competing views is noted within the membership of the NAACP. Leaders such as Julian Bond and Coretta Scott King have noted that support for gay rights is in line with the organization's mission. Detractors, such as civil rights leader Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, find that gays are rightly discriminated against "because of their behavior." Thus, proponents of "gay rights" have long framed the issue of marriage equality as a human, rights-based issue with ties to the civil rights movement. However, others view their concerns as distinctly different from the content of rights, human or civil.

The problem with detractors' arguments concerning marriage equality is that their arguments keep shifting. Many opponents of marriage equality have argued that 'activist judges' should not legislate social changes from courts. Some have suggested that is what occurred originally Massachusetts, later in California and Connecticut, and most recently, in Iowa when the Supreme Court ruled state-sponsored discrimination against gays in marriage equality as unconstitutional.

Those opponents argued to leave the decision to the people or their elected representatives. Yet, in New Hampshire, New York, Maine, Vermont, and the District of Columbia where state and local legislatures have voted in favor of marriage equality or are in the process of doing so, those detractors now alter their tactics from claims of judicial activism to one of moral reasoning.

In either event, however, the spirit of the law remains the same – the denial of rights to a protected class of people is illegal. Separate civil unions will not work. Civil unions still deny gays more than one thousand federal benefits and responsibilities received by

(Continued on Page 13)

Community Calendar**May 21**

Northwest Ohio Black Media Association 15th Annual Impact Newsmakers Award Banquet: Ramada Westgate (formerly the Clarion); 6 pm: 419-243-0007
The Ford Gallery Inaugural Exhibition Grand Opening Reception: 6 to 10 p.m.

May 22

Mission Possible Youth Services: Crusaders for Christ; 7:45 pm: 419-290-4503
Bethesda Christian Center Cathedral 13th Pastoral Anniversary: Celebrating Bishop Marjorie Holt; 7 pm; Guests Pastor Larde of Victory Now International Ministries
Church of the Living God, Inc "Clothes Give-Away:" 11 am to 2 pm: 419-241-8045 or 419-243-3826

May 24

Bethesda Christian Center Cathedral 13th Pastoral Anniversary: Celebrating Bishop Marjorie Holt; 5 pm with guests Pastor Kevin Sutton and Word of Faith Ministries
Ebenezer MBC 57th Annual Women's Day Services: 11 am and 4 pm; Morning speaker Sis. Lurine Calhoun of Union Grove Baptist; Afternoon Speaker Sis. Lorene Bell of Charity MBC: graham1@buckeye-express.com

May 27

Libbey HS Alumni Association: Organizational meeting for elections of officers; Libbey Library; 6 to 8 pm: 419-244-1236 or 419-376-3971

May 27-29

First MBC Revival: 7 pm nightly; Evangelist Supt. Johnny Hobbs of Greater St. John C.O.G.I.C.

May 29

Bethesda Christian Center Cathedral 13th Pastoral Anniversary: Celebrating Bishop Holt; 7 pm service with guests Pastor Baber and Truth in Jesus
Majestic Prarie Ministries: Women's Dept selling fish and chicken dinners; 10 am to 4 pm: 419-535-3017 or 419-290-0736

May 30

Step Out For Kids Walk-A-Thon: Sponsored by Lucas County Foster Parent Assoc; Ottawa Park Liz Pierson Shelter House; 10:15 am: 419-213-3347

Seminar & Workshop: For youth and young adults; "Moving from Low Self Esteem to a Healthy Self Esteem;" South Branch Library; Noon to 3 pm: 419-290-4503

Business & Health Seminar: Sponsored by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority; 11 am to 4 pm; Indiana Ave MBC: 419-475-3007

Bethesda Christian Center Cathedral Fashion Show: 6 pm: 419-944-0984

Open Workshop: "Moving from Low-Self Esteem to Healthy Self Esteem;" South Branch Library; Noon to 3 pm: 419-376-2331

May 31

Faith Way C.O.G.I.C. Men's Day: 11 am service, 5 pm service; Guest speaker Pastor Columba Niboro of Sunrise Community Church

Bethesda Christian Center Cathedral 13th Anniversary Celebration: Final Service; 6 pm; Guests Bishop Andre Woods of Detroit: 419-944-0984

June 4, 5, 7

St. Paul AME Zion 3rd Pastoral Anniversary: Celebrating Pastor Cordell Jenkins; Guests Rev. Nolan White and Christian Community Church on Thursday at 7 pm, Rev. Randall Parker and New Kingdom MBC on Fri at 7 pm, Rev. Correther Jenkins and Freedom Christian Center on Sun at 11 am, Rance Allen and New Bethel on Sunday at 5 pm: 419-243-1065 or 419-246-0790

June 6

Financial Crisis Explained: Sylvania Branch Library; 2 pm; Speaker Tom Warneka, Ph.D.: 419-882-2089

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My View

By Jack Ford
The Truth's Political Columnist



Kevin Boyce, the relatively newly-minted State of Ohio Treasurer, is coming to Toledo on June 3 for his first fundraising function since being appointed to office in March of this year. Boyce will be at the Toledo Club from 5 to 7 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$100 to \$500.

Boyce will have to raise some two million dollars between now and September 2010 in order to be competitive in the Treasurer's race. He is the first black Democrat to hold a non-judicial statewide office. As Ohio's top banker, Boyce is breaking a lot of new ground in political terms. He also has a compelling personal story as the son of a single mother who grew

up in poor circumstances. It timing is everything in politics, the upcoming recall vote on Mayor Carty Finkbeiner is coming at a very bad time. Not only has the economy tanked but the protracted talks on union concessions here have also worn everyone's nerves to the unraveling point. Who is not ticked off now?

Be it pot holes, high grass, lay offs, murders ...

By the way, some think Carty won the 1993 election primarily because there was a highly visible murder a few weeks before the election. We have seen several heinous killings in the past few weeks.

I cannot remember a time when the strong mayor system has been questioned more than in these days. My guess is that if it were on the ballot next week, the system would go down to defeat 65 to 35 percent.

The strongest proponent has always been The Blade. Yet it is The Blade that has endorsed Finkbeiner three times (and Ray Kest once) in the four races since the adoption of the strong mayor sys-

tem. The move by some to dilute the number of city councilmen borders on the ridiculous. And I wonder if there is some latent classicism in the proposal. It is telling that the district plan has changed the pattern of representation in Toledopolitics. The inner city has had two, sometimes, five voices on City Council. Under the old system, the inner city was lucky if there was even one vote on council to represent those residents' interests.

We are now approaching two dozen folks running for City Council's six at-large seats. My guess is that two or three new faces will emerge from the next election.

In the 2010 election cycle, look for Will ("King Keyser") Lucas to enter the fray. This young man (28 years old) is looking at the legislature. He is articulate and well known to the youth of the city. Lucas and Aji Green (endorsed candidate for the board of education) represent the next generation of politicians in black Toledo. You should get to know them.

Fighting The Wrong Enemy

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, D.Min.



Issues of race always cloud and confuse what should be clear and cause us to focus on the things that separate and make us different rather than the real issue. Race also makes us irrational to the point that we will take out our frustrations by turning on those in the same condition as us rather than those whose policies keep all of us in bondage.

This seems to be the case in the African-American community in the aftermath of the Toledo Board of Education's 5-0 approval of Superintendent John Foley's recommendations to spare Libbey High but close Nathan Hale and Fulton elementary schools and cut 116.5 personnel positions to trim a projected \$10 million shortfall for the coming year. The Toledo Public Schools lost approximately 1,600 students this year and anticipates more enrollment losses next year.

Tensions, hard feelings, acrimonious words and back and forth "signifying" among various factions of Toledo's black community exemplified the tenor of the public hearing process and continued in both private settings and on radio talk shows following the announcement of the Board's decision.

This predictable contentious internal wrangling is another example of the misplaced anger that allows the epidemic exploitation of the community to continue and took place as a result of viewing the school closings as the true evil when they were only a manifestation of a larger, but camouflaged problem. In other words, TPS could keep all of the schools open and the real evil would persist.

The true evil, and one in which many are in denial of is the influence of race in education. Fifty five years after the Supreme Court's Brown v. Board of Education decision, which overturned segregation in public schools, African-Americans and other minorities continue to get the short end of the stick when it comes to the quality of education delivered to them, thus being denied equality in education.

It ought to be upsetting to us that black and Hispanic students are approximately two to three years of learning behind white students. Or that 48 percent of black reading scores across the fourth and eighth grades are "below basic" compared to only 17 percent of those of white students. It should cause anger that our children are getting dumped on in the quality of education that they are receiving as compared to what others are receiving.

The fact is that economic opportunity and social mobility are directly tied to high-quality public education. With technological advances having routinized manufacturing and clerical jobs the demand for cognitive, problem-solving and communication skills comes at a time when schools are equipping only a certain segment of its students with the skills to survive.

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NOBMA - Northwest Ohio Black Media Association

Impact Newsmaker Awards Dinner

Honoring those who make positive, newsworthy contributions

May 21, 2000

Social Hour 6:00 p.m.
Dinner 7:00 p.m.

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Politics... The Quality of Service and Relationship to Mankind

By Stephen Ward
Guest Column



Over the past few months, I've journeyed into the heartland of Toledo. I've met with real Toledoans. When I think about that factory worker who recently lost his job or that single-parent mother who is struggling to raise her children ...when I think of that homeless man eating out of the trash or that police officer who was laid off or that child afraid to play in the neighborhood park ...

It's evident, that Toledo is in a crisis, in a desperate need of transformation. For too long our political leaders have played on our fears and exploited our differences for their own personal and partisan gain.

It's certain, it is clear... it's time for the citizens of Toledo to be heard. We must create

a community for all people. A city where all people - black, white, Hispanic - all people, regardless of gender, regardless of race, regardless of social status, may be able to live in peace, be able to be safe in their homes and have equal rights to economic opportunities and education.

At the end of the day what matters most, is working and making decisions. Decisions not of a political party or special interest group but that of the citizens of Toledo. No longer can important decisions be made with too little input from the citizens, who will be affected by those decisions. The greatest leader forgets himself, and attends to the development of others.

In such a spirit on my part and on yours we face our common difficulties. Values have shrunken, taxes have risen, our ability to pay has fallen, we cannot deny the realities of this moment. However, together we can take action now. We can make it, we will change Toledo!

We can regenerate our sense of safety and security. We can resuscitate our

economy, our schools and our neighborhoods. And we can reclaim Toledo for all people. We can, and we will!

However, the achievement and success of the future of Toledo depends upon the constant interest and involvement of its citizens. We cannot rely on the "career politicians." The only time you see some of them in the community is when they are grandstanding ostentatiously during election time. So since it's campaign season, some of them may begin to surface. They may even begin to make the council meetings and hearings, considering in 2008 only two of the at-large city council members attended all of the 26 regular council meetings and all 26 of the agenda-review meetings.

Toledo, we cannot allow this to continue. We must hold our elected officials accountable. If we want change, we must be about change. We cannot continue to do the same thing over and over and expect different results. That is insanity. We must vote these career politicians out of office, and elect people who

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Toledo Police Accused of Using Unreasonable Force in Subduing Teenager

By Michael Hayes
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

According to his family, Trevor Casey, a 14 year old Jones Jr. High Student, was the victim of apparent excessive force by Toledo Police in an incident occurring in the Brand Whitlock Homes this past weekend.

On Friday May 15 sometime between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m., Casey was reportedly approached by two Toledo police officers, Andre Bills and Byron Daniels, while he and a few teenage friends were sitting on a porch enjoying the weather.

Perhaps startled by the presence of cops, all of the boys ran off when the Jeep Cherokee Squad Patrol pulled up.

Possibly indicating no wrong doing, the officers decided not to give chase to the other young men and singled out Casey who chose not to run. According to family and friends,



he didn't run because he had committed no crime.

The police report filed after the incident states that Casey taunted the officers by performing a dance in front of the police vehicle and then refused to leave when ordered to do so. He was "talking and doing a dance," reads the report.

After words were exchanged the officers decided to arrest a 14 year old with only a few minor

police incidents. Subdued by handcuffs, Casey was then forced to put his face on the hood of the Jeep Cherokee Toledo Police Patrol unit.

Images clearly show the entire right side of his face badly burned.

According to the testimony of over two dozen witnesses, Trevor was obedient and compliant with all orders from the police arresting him.

He only moved when they placed his face on the hood of the Jeep Cherokee because it was burning his face. By all accounts, this is the point where one of the officers began to take excessive force on an already cuffed and subdued minor.

Several witnesses say Casey was punched in the face between 10 or 15 times while being held from behind and around

the neck.

Aletha Grandberry, who is a neighbor of the Casey family and a recently graduated

State Tested Nursing Assistant, came onto the scene as the officers were holding the teenager around the neck. "When I walked out of the door, I saw the officers beating him with a closed fist in the head, it was 10 to 15 times that the one holding him

from behind around the neck ... the other one was just standing there," said Grandberry.

"Trevor wasn't saying or doing anything. They put him on the ground and he was just lying there as if he were unconscious. The two officers were laughing and saying 'Don't get soft on me now.'"

Images clearly show a badly bruised and bloody lip and nose on the junior high student.

Trevor's older brother, Vincent Casey, told The Truth that his youngest brother lost consciousness twice during the gruesome ordeal.

The second time was fully caught on video (google: Trevor Casey Toledo).

The footage shows an officer literally twice Casey's size applying a restraint hold. In addition to *(Continued on Page 5)*

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Armed With Computers, Students Slay the Summer School Dragon

Special to The Truth

This summer, students in Toledo will be able to recover lost credits without the dreaded summer school hassle. The 21st Century breakthrough of online education provides students with an opportunity to recover graduation credits by studying at home, on their computer at their convenience.

This revolution in teaching technology eliminates hours of summer boredom for students who otherwise would have to study in a hot classroom while friends enjoy their summer break. Students now have the flexibility to achieve their educational goals while holding a summer job or spending time with friends or at the pool.

Toledo's Phoenix Academy, a nationally recognized leader in the field of online education, offers a unique program that empowers students in grades 9-12 to recover credits from home,

at their convenience 24/7. Online lessons are available on the family computer – or any computer, anywhere in the world. Even more remarkably, teacher support by e-mail is available to Phoenix Academy students seven days a week.

Suburban districts as well as Toledo Public Schools recognize and respect the Phoenix Academy online curriculum. Students from neighboring communities in northwest Ohio including Ottawa Hills, Perrysburg, Rossford and Sylvania benefit from this program.

Traditional schools trust the Phoenix Academy program because it ensures integrity. Classes are comprised of modules, which are similar to chapters in a textbook. Most begin with a pre-test, which checks knowledge of the topic. After completion of all modules in the class section, students visit a Phoenix Academy site to take a final exam. Their

identity is verified by photo ID.

Students without access to a home computer can study at one of the three suburban Credit Recovery Outreach Centers or at the Academy's downtown computer lab. Each has TPS certified teachers available to assist students with one-on-one live support.

Enrollment for Phoenix Academy's online summer credit recovery program is Monday through Thursday, June 8 – 11, 9:00 a.m. – Noon at the four Phoenix Academy locations. Fees are \$100 per semester credit for Toledo Public School students and \$125 per credit for non-TPS students. The program begins Monday, June 15.

Complete information is available at www.phoenixtoledo.org. Click on Credit Recovery Program. Telephone 419-720-4510.

Teenager

(Continued from Page 4)

the hold, the office has had placed over Casey's nose and mouth for a considerable amount of time.

In the video, once the officer lets go ... Casey falls lifelessly flat on his face in the grass.

Siblings of the victim report that when their mother, Casey family matriarch

Karen Casey, asked "What did you do my son?" the reply from the officer on the scene was "Girl, please" and "Your son was strong, we had to do what we had to do."

"He was so nasty," said Karen Casey of her interchange with the officer at the hospital.

Sherise Woodard, Trevor Casey's sister, pointed out that the charges being told to the Casey family were changed when the police report was filed.

At the scene of the incident the charges being mentioned were resisting arrest, obstruction of justice and assault. According to Woodard, after the family followed Casey to the hospital and mentioned obtaining legal representation then the officials communicating with the Casey family on behalf of the officers changed the assault charge to aggravated assault. This incident was witnessed by nearly 30 citizens.

A mother of six with her youngest now the victim in a now national story of public

outrage and police brutality, Karen Casey went on record saying that

speaking with Trevor at the hospital and at the detention center he told her he 'could feel the life leaving him' during the experience.

However, deprived of oxygen and fading in and out of consciousness while in a chokehold administered by one of the officers... Trevor reportedly was not given an X Ray at St. Vincent's Mercy Medical Center.

The saddened mother expressed a deep concern for any long term effects on her young teenage son's health. She was alarmed that in subsequent talks with him from the hospital to the detention center his memory seemed to be fading to the point he barely remembered what had taken place.

Luckily Shari Weems caught the video footage necessary to bring the entire event into perspective for anyone who can stand to view the graphic scene as it occurred.

Community support has been immediate.

Bishop Stephen Ward, a candidate for Toledo City Council, came to the Casey family offering his voice and making a public call to hold Toledo Police officers who abuse their authority responsible.

Ward held a press conference for the Casey family and media to make everyone aware of what this ordeal says about the respect citizens need to demand from those who are ordered to serve and protect them.

Ward went on record saying that his current campaign for city-council has nothing to do with his decision to stand by the Casey family during their challenging time. "It's not about winning or not, it's about doing what's right" he said during the press conference.

The Casey family has many supporters from the local community but as this story has made local headlines since Saturday and national headlines by Monday May 18, the online community has also joined in to voice their opinion.

Prejudiced and insensitive remarks have been left on various news websites in the form of user commentary.

During a hearing at the Juvenile Justice Department on Monday May 18th, Karen Casey was told her young son would be released later that night which greatly relieved the family even though the charges from Toledo police have yet to be dropped.

The aggravated assault charge, the most serious of the charges, was dropped and replaced with a simple assault charge – a fourth degree felony. The other charges – obstruction, resisting arrest, disorderly conduct – are all misdemeanors.

The Casey family has filed a complaint with the Internal Affairs Bureau of Toledo Police Department.



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Take charge of your education at Phoenix Academy. For more information and a list of available courses visit www.phoenixtoledo.org and click on Credit Recovery Program.

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Fifth Annual Transitions Conference Encourages Women to Return to the Classroom

By Nadean Hamilton
Sojourner's Truth reporter

On Saturday, May 16, women of all ages attended the 5th Annual Transitions Conference on The University of Toledo Scott Park Campus, to learn about the exciting opportunities available to them should they decide to further their education.

During the conference, attendees received information on how to overcome common impediments to higher education such as a lack of adequate childcare, financial aid and college admissions procedures.

"Sometimes attending college whether it is for the first time, or [your] going back to school, [it] can be very overwhelming, [and] stressful, [so] sometimes [we] just need some help with how to overcome some of the problems that get in our way," Angela Sporel, program manager of the Catherine S. Eberly Center for Women, told the audience before the conference got underway.

The conference began with three non-traditional college graduates each relaying their stories of success in obtaining a college degree despite the numerous obstacles they faced along the way.

"I started my higher education journey back in 1992, and it took me 16 years to get my undergraduate degree, but... I have it," said Tammy Holder, Beach House case manager.

Holder says that being a single mom and working full-time to make ends meet initially kept her from completing her degree. However,

when she finally resolved to go back to school to finish her degree, debt was the culprit.

"In 2003, my kids were older, and raised, [so] I said [to myself] that my primary goal was to finish my college degree; [but] I found out that I was about \$20,000 in student loan debt," said Holder.

"I took me a year of paying on my student loans before I could get back in school, [and] the day that I walked back on The University of Toledo campus, I cried," Holder said.

Holder says that she was so determined to complete her degree that she relied on public transportation to get back and forth to work, and even moved into an apartment closer to campus so that she could walk to class.

Although she says completing her undergraduate degree presented many difficult challenges, Holder plans to return to UT to pursue a graduate degree.

Connie Torrey, YMCA & JCC of Greater Toledo executive director, says that she began her transition in the early 1990s due to a divorce and having to raise her children alone.

"I made the decision to come back to UT, because... I knew that I needed to support myself and my kids," said Torrey.

Once enrolled in UT, Torrey says although she initially resisted all attempts to become a member of any organization or group, she eventually found herself needing assistance in getting over the hurdles that she faced as a 40-

something year old displaced homemaker.

"I was not going to be a part of any group; I had done everything that I could to avoid any divorce support groups... that just wasn't me," said Torrey.

"But I decided that I was going to do it, so I made the call... [and] I was lucky enough to apply for project succeed and be accepted," Torrey continued.

"It was an awesome program, the program guided us, it encouraged us and it set us out to be the best that we could be."

Joanne West, began her speech by telling the women "today is the day that you have chosen to begin a path that is going to lead you to a place that would have probably never dreamt," she said.

"The information that you are going to take from this day is going to help you [when] you look back in the days to come," said West.

West's college career began in 1985, when she enrolled in UT after graduating high school, and concluded in December, 2008, when she graduated from UT with a bachelor's degree.

Like Holder, West says that family and work obligations led her to drop and withdraw from courses without much thought, prolonging the amount of time that it took to complete the degree.

"Take it from me if you are in school, and you are in transition right now, just know that get in and stay there because you can spend easily 20

something years just wandering here and there, and time is steady passing by," said West.

Although currently unemployed, West will relocate to Dallas, Texas after her son graduates high school in the next few weeks.

Tracee Ellis, an employee in UT's office of enrollment shared financial-aid information with the audience.

According to Ellis, by 2016 the adult student population will increase by more 20 million students and over half of that number will be women.

And one of the greatest challenges these women will face is the lack of information about financial-aid.

"Many of us feel ashamed, we feel guilty, we feel uncomfortable when we talk about money... [but] those students who are knowledgeable about the college financing process are the ones who have an increase in student success," said Ellis.

Ellis strongly encouraged the prospective college students to vigorously seek out

and apply for all free money that they believe that they may be qualified to receive including the pell grant, and various merit, need-based, and ethnicity scholarships.

Central to this mission says Ellis, is the completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible after January 1st of each year that you plan to enroll for courses.

Not to be outdone, Brian Delaney, job developer with The Source, encouraged the attendees to contemplate aligning their educational interests with Ohio's top 50 occupations in highest demand, which according to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services includes careers in health care, education, information technology & engineering, community & social services, along with business & financial services.

The conference concluded with several colleges and universities highlighting the various degrees and majors that their respective schools have to offer including: Adrian

College, Davis College, Heidelberg College, Lourdes College, Mercy College, Monroe Community College, Owens Community College, Professional Skills Institute, Spring Arbor University, The University of Toledo and University of Phoenix.

The 2009 Transitions Conference was sponsored by the Toledo branch of American Association of Women, The University of Toledo Department of Women's and Gender Studies, The University of Toledo Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women, The University of Power of Women, and The University of Toledo.

The Toledo branch of AAUW works to empower women by raising student and faculty awareness of education and equity issues.

Nationally, the organization was formed in 1881 and has more than 100,000 members in 1000 branches throughout the United States.

For more information on Project Succeed contact (419) 530-8570.

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CREATE YOUR OWN JOB WORKSHOP

Date: Thursday, May 28, 2009 – Time: 9 am to 1 pm

Location: Robert B's Banquet Hall, 2495 Collingwood Blvd. at Delaware

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Book Review

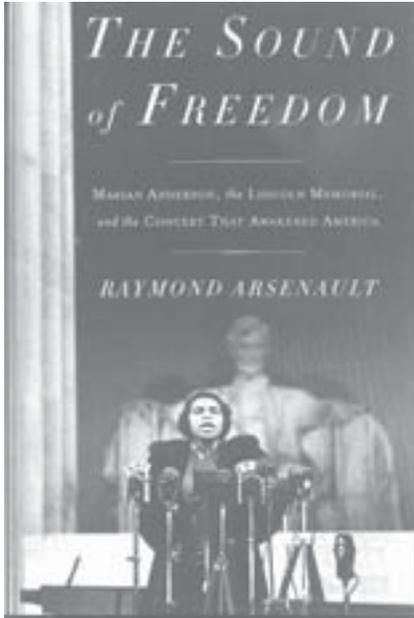
The Sound of Freedom by Raymond Arsenault

c.2009, Bloomsbury Press

\$25.00

310 pages, includes notes and index

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor



You do it without even thinking about it.

You hum around the house, sing to your babies, to your God or to the radio. You catch yourself doing it while you're relaxing with a hobby.

You sing wherever you want to lift up your voice.

In the new book Sound of Freedom by Raymond Arsenault, you'll see that it wasn't always so easy. Sometimes a song is more than just a song.

Not long after she was out of diapers, Marian Anderson was making up tunes and

playing a toy piano. By the time she was four years old, people knew she had "a gift." At age six, she joined the Union Baptist Church's junior choir and was soon singing solo. As a teen, her voice contributed monetarily to the household.

Although many outside the African-American community recognized Anderson's incredible talent, there were few places in which she could perform. Jim Crow laws were more prevalent in the South, but the northern United States, including Anderson's hometown of

Philadelphia, was racially segregated, too. Most concert halls were off-limits to her.

Perhaps because of racism but surely for the opportunity, Anderson followed in the footsteps of many black Americans in the 1920s and briefly emigrated to Europe. Audiences in Germany, London, and Scandinavia were dazzled by her talent and her "exotic" looks.

By 1935, Anderson was ready to resume her American career. Shortly thereafter, she was invited by Eleanor Roosevelt to perform in the White House. There, says Arsenault, "...two modest but strong-willed women became... linked in a chain of events that altered the course of American history."

Four years later, when Anderson's managers attempted to secure the Daughters of the American Revolution's Constitution Hall for a performance, they were informed of a "whites only" policy. A Washington school board likewise turned down the possibility of a concert.

Americans were outraged, and Roosevelt boldly withdrew from the DAR, a move that was loaded with political implications. Ten days before Easter Sunday 1939, Anderson's managers scrambled to organize a free concert at the Lincoln Memorial. Unsure of the attendance, they hoped for a few thousand fans.

Seventy-five thousand people showed up.

As historical books go, you won't find a richer examination of this event than The Sound of Freedom. But that richness is a mixed bag.

Author Raymond Arsenault does a superb job conveying a sense of time and social attitudes in this book, and I was caught up in the drama of the events that

occurred in 1938-39. But before that, his recounting of Anderson's career was mind-numbing. The people who helped and encouraged her will be familiar to die-hard music fans (particularly fans of classical song and German lieder) but may cause casual readers to want to stop reading.

But don't.

Stick with this book despite the (occasional) dry parts and you'll be rewarded with an uplifting, amazing story that certainly had implications on the Civil Rights Movement many years later.

For that alone, The Sound of Freedom is a book to sing about.

CBTU Holds Teen Community Forum – "The Cost of Your Bling-Bling"

Sojourner's Truth Staff



The Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) sponsored a Teen Community Forum on Thursday, May 14, 2009 at the Toledo Lucas County Public Library. An audience of approximately 70, most of them teenagers, listened to and questioned panelists on a variety of issues.

Peirrette Talley, CBTU regional representative, opened the program and welcomed panelists and audience.

Will ("King Keyser") Lucas served as moderator for the event titled "The Cost of Your Bling-Bling." The discussion revolved around three topics: how do you spend your money; what influences you and how the economy affects you and your future.

"I would like to engage you in a conversation about

how we would like our future to play out," said Lucas as he started off the evening's discussion.

The nine panelists were drawn from a number of different interest areas. They included: Wayne Blanchard, president of UAW Region 2B; John Jones, CEO of the Greater Toledo Urban League; Valerie Thompson, entrepreneur and business owner; Carnell Smith, Ph.D., of Horizon Science Academy; Ian English, assistant prosecutor for Lucas County and candidate for judge; Robert Webb, Fifth Third Bank; Warwick Goodwin, House of Emmanuel; Keitha West, teacher at Owens Community College and graduate Student at The University of Toledo and Joel Todd, youth coordinator.

"Barack Obama said we

need to start in the community first," said organizer Yvette Thompson-Gordon explaining to the panelists before the event the purpose of the forum. "Each one of you holds an area that interests us. This information is vital, you look like the faces that they could be."

The audience of teenagers, who had dined on pizza provided by CBTU prior to the discussion, engaged in a question and answer session after the opening remarks.

The CBTU Youth Committee, headed by Jim Snodgrass Sr., organized the forum in keeping with its mission to "reach out to youth who are receptive to the values of spirit, education and law-abiding principles, who also have a sense of community on a broad based scale."



Art Galleries Take Center Stage in May

Sojourner's Truth Staff



The month of May has brought an additional splash of art into downtown Toledo.

On May 2, 20 North Gallery launched the bustling activity with its annual opening of equine-related art and Kentucky Derby party. The gallery celebrated both the country's most prestigious horse race and the spring introduction of women's hat fashions.

The Truth Gallery opened a show on May 8 of artists Mary McColough and Kate Argow. McColough, a painter, and Argow, a jeweler, will be

displaying their work in the gallery until mid-June.

The Ford Gallery held its ribbon cutting ceremony this month as it is due to

open on Thursday, May 21. The Ford Gallery, located at 222 N. Erie, will specialize in low-priced student art.



Wil Clay and Antoine Kabwasa

Congratulations to Ashley Futrell, who will be



graduating with her master's degree in political communications from John Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, at 10 a.m., Friday, May 22.

We wish you the best of luck in your current job as a Capitol Hill lobbyist for the National Recreation and Park Association in Washington, D.C.

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Arts Section • Arts Section •

Positive Force's Seventh Annual June Recital – "Power of the Blood"

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

The Positive Force Christian School of Dance will present its seventh annual recital in June. This year's recital is titled "Power of the Blood," says founder and artistic director Sheila Gibson in order to explain in dance why Jesus died.

"The songs are all alluding to why He decided to die," says Gibson. "Jesus Christ is my savior but it is the blood that cleansed us from all of our sins."

The vision that Gibson has nurtured so carefully over the years – she is now in her 25th year of teaching dance – surfaces in every aspect of her endeavors as a dance instructor and as a choreographer. "I feel that it is the purpose of dance, to give praise to God. I've always tried to walk the Christian walk," she says.

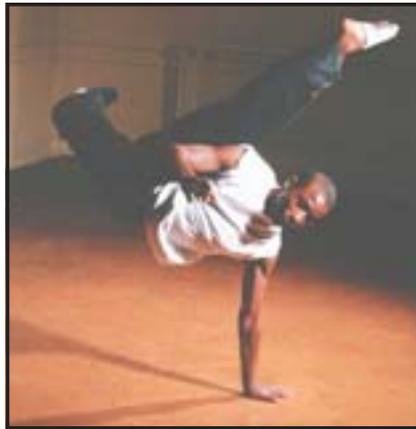
This year's event is cer-

tainly no exception.

In addition to the vision that carries through in each event is the growth that Positive Force as a company, and Gibson as its leader, have experienced over the years. Now, for the second year, there will be two performances of the June recital – Satur-

day, June 20, at 6 p.m. and Sunday, June 21, at 3 p.m. – rather than the singular performance of previous years. The event is always sold out, enabling more patrons of dance to experience the joys of Positive Force's performances.

This year's performance will also bring a



She plans and choreographs the show during the course of the year and also performs a solo dance during the event

As always, the annual recital will feature all of the company's students – 105 of them ranging in ages from five to 18.

Symbolic of the success Gibson has had over the years is the fact that the company boasts two performers who have attracted attention from a national talent agency – Starbound NYC.

Tyree Bell, an 18-year-old junior at Scott High School, and 10 year old Nicole Herndon of McKinley, were performing in the last year's recital when they came under the scrutiny of the talent scouts from Starbound. As a result, both are due to go to New York this summer for a round of interviews and auditions under the guidance of Starbound.

The all-expense paid trip will take the youngsters to the Big Apple to audition for modeling ads, dance shows and situation comedies. Bell has been dancing with Positive Force since he was eight years old; Nicole started when she was six.

Gibson teaches dance around the clock these days. She holds 13 different ballet classes for different ages and for various levels of expertise, as well as a number of jazz dance classes. This summer she plans to start with toddlers by offering a class in movement.

For more information on the recital or classes at Positive Force, call 419-932-0593.

simple, powerful visual change. As Gibson explains, recently the Dance Theatre of Harlem, founded by Arthur Mitchell in 1969, came to Toledo for a performance as part of one of their tours.

The Dance Theatre members explained to the audience that there was a time when black dancers were not accepted in traditionally all-white dance companies, at least in part, because the very color of the darker dancers broke the look of the line of white dancers clad in pink tights and dancing shoes.

As a result, the Dance Theatre of Harlem has adopted a color range of tan to dark brown shoes and tights to reflect the skin shades of its dancers. Positive Force will follow suit this year. It's part of

Gibson's effort to raise her company's level of professionalism this year.

This year was not the first time that Gibson had the opportunity to see the Dance Theatre of Harlem in performance. When she was a teenager, Gibson was the only African-American in her ballet dance class. "When I saw the Dance Theatre of Harlem, I was so amazed that they looked like me," recalls the Rogers High School graduate who earned her bachelor's degree at Bowling Green State University. That was an experience that prompted Gibson to continue with dancing and ultimately open her own school of dance.

The annual event presented by Positive Force is a tour de force for Gibson.

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Toledoan to Be Featured in National Theatre Festival

Special to The Truth

When award-winning playwright/director/producer James Chapman wrote a play to showcase the phenomenal talent of Toledo actress Pajil Wiggins-Hancock, he had to think outside the box. Possessing the ability to express pathos, rage, vulnerability, strength and joy within the same monologue, Wiggins-Hancock presented him with one of the greatest challenges he'd ever faced as a writer and he found that creating the perfect vehicle for Toledo's premier actress was a formidable task.

Chapman first saw Wiggins-Hancock performing as part of the chorus as a dancer in a Toledo production of his sister, and Toledo resident, Geneva Chapman's original musical drama, *Juneteenth* in 1994. Despite not having a single spoken line in the play, Wiggins-Hancock stood out as the sole professional performer in the production and Chapman, who recognized the range of her talent even without hearing her utter a single word, asked her to join his Columbus-based theatre company, then named Living the Dream.

It wasn't long before Chapman was writing a script built around Wiggins-Hancock's immense talent, which he appropriately named *Wimmin With Wings* expressing in part the heights the actress's talents soar. By the time he completed the script, however, the then Pajil Wiggins returned to Toledo to become Mrs. Hancock and start her family. Chapman staged the production without the actress that inspired its creation.

However, the acceptance of *Wimmin With Wings* as a main stage at this year's National Black Theatre Festival provides Wiggins-Hancock the opportunity to finally perform in the play written for her



by the author of *Our Young Black Men Are Dying* and *Nobody Seems to Care*, which debuted in New York in the 1990's before going on a national tour that included a performance at the Franciscan Life Center at Lourdes College in Sylvania. Appearing with Wiggins-Hancock are Conia Harris and D'Ebrar Chapman, both long-time members of Chapman's company now named Flow Theater. Writing in the choreopoem style made popular by Ntozake Shongu in *For Colored Gurlz Who Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf*, Chapman incorporates fast-paced, rapid-fire dialog in the ensemble pieces and thoughtful, insightful looks into the human spirit in the monologues of his cutting-edge dramas.

Trained in ballet and modern dance, Wiggins-Hancock will also dance in the produc-

tion, as well as singing, along with Harris and D'Ebrar Chapman. A triple threat performer, Wiggins-Hancock has performed in numerous productions in Toledo and is founder, writer, and artistic director of Da Coloured Gurlz Collective and is one of only a few Toledo actors to have acted professionally.

Flow Theatre, which recently appeared at a statewide conference on diversity held at Toledo's Dana Center, performs across the country at universities and colleges, as well as for corporations and various social service and government agencies. *Wimmin With Wings* is James Chapman's second consecutive main stage production at the National Black Theatre Festival, held every two years in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Two years ago, in 2007, his ensemble piece, *Black Man Rising* was performed

by a New York-based company on the festival's main stage, going from North Carolina to an off-Broadway stage in New York. Other plays by Chapman include *One Race*, *One People*, *One Piece*; *Martin and Me*; and *The Road to Darfur*.

Wiggins-Hancock's pieces written for Da Coloured Gurlz include *I Believe I Need to Talk* and *Balance...the Fine Line*. The consummate actress has also

been featured in local productions of Shange's play *For Colored Gurlz...* and finally used all three of her talents – acting, singing and dancing – to perform as the main character in *Juneteenth*, appearing along with Cynthia Drane-Valentine and Geneva Chapman when the play culminated The Toledo Museum of Art's first Juneteenth celebration in 2005.

When Wiggins-Hancock goes to North Carolina in

August, it will be the fulfillment of a dream. "I just love it! I am so excited! I still can't believe it! I know James wrote a piece for me but I didn't know he wrote the show for me...I'm so honored," she said.

"I can't wait to see what he does with it now. I am really excited about working with Conia again. It will be good to see her. I can't wait to see D'Ebrar do her thing too. I am loving it right now!"

Made in Hollywood & Made in Hollywood: Teen Edition



Made in Hollywood (4th Season – actors introduce their new releases)

Saturdays: 9 pm – WT05 (ch. 5)

Made in Hollywood: Teen Edition (3d Season – media career advice for ages 13-16)

Fridays: 7 am on WUPW-TV Fox-Ch 12

Saturdays: 1 pm on WKBD-TV Detroit/CW – Ch 50

Toledo native Cleveland O'Neal III, creator, announcer and executive producer of both programs.

The Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union



A Few Brick Donors

currently located at 1339 Dorr Street, has just launched their "Brick Campaign". The TUFUC has begun this campaign in an effort to raise funds for the new building which will be built at the corner of Detroit Avenue at Dorr Street. If

you are interested in purchasing a "Brick" as a part of the campaign the prices are as follows:

- \$ 50.00 for each "Walkway" brick
- \$100.00 for each "Vestibule" brick
- \$500.00 for each "Archway" brick

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A Salute to Scholars: A Celebration of Learning

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Toledo Public Schools Foundation recognized academic excellence for the ninth year in a row on Tuesday, May 12, 2009 at Gladioux Meadows as 88 scholarships were presented to 76 Toledo-area students by a host of donors.

And as always, most of the scholarship donors were at Thursday's dinner to personally present the grants and scholarships to the honoree. This year, the total of the scholarships was \$154,678.03 topping last year's total by more than \$60,000.

"This is our way of giving back," said Edna Robertson, a retired TPS educator and president of the TPS Foundation, who opened the evening's activities before handing off to mistress of ceremonies Kristian Brown. Robertson and her husband Tyronne are also scholarship donors.

In addition to student recipients, six educators were recognized for projects they have developed to aid in educational efforts. Sheryl Brown, Chase STEM Academy, was honored for her project in "Exploring Wind Energy and Methods of Harnessing its Power."

Teresa L. Day, Beverly Elementary, was recognized

for her "Intervention Activities for At-Risk Students for Math and Reading," and also, with Theresa Wilkins of Beverly, for their Lunch Bunch Project.

Becky Schardt of Waite High School received an award for her "Parent of the Month" project as did Sarah M. Strasbourg, of Waite and Woodward, for "How to Ride Public Transportation." Shan Tao of Waite was honored for her "Singapore Math Program Books" project.

The funding for the educators' grants was provided by the Peter and Marcia Silverman Fund.

Student awardees included: General scholarship recipients - Stephen A. Cornell (Bowsher), Justine Furbeck (Bowsher), Chelsea Ireland (Libbey), Courtney Kenney (Waite) and Raechel Walker (Rogers).

Accounting - Elizabeth Kevorkian (Bowsher); Allied Health - Jerney Hampton (Libbey) and Caitlin Lanz (Waite).

St. Luke's - Michael A. Miranda (Bowsher) and Jasmine Woodson (Rogers)

Architecture/Construction/Engineering - Jennifer Hendrix (Waite), James Weygandt (Toledo Technology) and Larry Yglesias (Libbey).

Associated General Contractors - Wesley Hughes (TTA) and Anthony Osinski (Libbey)

Banner Scholarship - Samuel Martin (TTA)

Crestline Paving - Quvondo Davis (Libbey) and James Douglas, III (Libbey)

Engineering and Bright Future - Mauhamed Dahan (Waite), Devin Peterson (TTA), Rafael Sanson (Waite), James Weygandt (TTA) and Cornelius Winters (Libbey)

Miller Bros - Isaac Douglas (TTA); Mondo Mechanical - Christopher Clark (Waite); Rudolph Libbe - Lee A. Dunn (TTA); Lathrop Co. - Isaac Douglas (TTA)

Terry Lesniewicz Art Scholarship - Keisha Wilcox (Woodward)

Bob LaClair - Brad Moreno (Libbey); Signature Bank - Elizabeth Kevorkian (Bowsher)

Computer Technology - Alexander Stark (Toledo Early College HS)

Theodore Harbaugh Foreign Language - C'Aira Murria (Start)

BGSU - Victoria Krolkic (Waite); Dr. Jason and Jamesena Carthen - JaQuale Johnson (Scott) and Fionna Stallworth (Scott); Dr. William and Brenda Facey -

Chrystina James (Start); Heidelberg Univ - Jordan Barker (Bowsher); LMHA Larry Sykes - Jerney Hampton (Libbey) and Nija Sheares (Scott); Lourdes - Jamella Williams (Rogers); Dr. Lee McMurrin - James Hampton (Libbey); Tabernacle of Faith - Moriah Hocomb (Scott) and JaQuale Johnson (Scott); Tyronne and Edna Robertson - Robyn Jefferson-Colbert (Libbey) and Alissa Nichole-Thompson (Start); Joseph and Carol Roman - Revlon Wyse (Scott); Scarlet and Gray - C'Aira Murria (Start); Arthur and Maxine Schrader - Jennifer Hendrix (Waite), Luke Kwiatkowski (Start), Arnetia Levey (Rogers), Michael Miranda (Bowsher), Amber Mitchell (TECHS), Jeffery Townsend (Libbey), Jaison Tucker (TTA) and Joseph Young (Scott); University of Toledo - Ja'Lisa Golliday (Start), Whitney Harris (Rogers), Ashley Joyner (Rogers), Zachary Papadakis (Start), Megan Rywalski (Bowsher)

TPS Credit Union - Paige Harris (Bowsher)

Kathleen and Theodore Harbaugh - Joseph Young (Scott)

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Spengler Nathanson Attorneys - Malcolm Pactow (TTA)

Gupta - Chrystina James (Start)

UT Foundation - Ja'Lisa

Golliday (Start), Kristine Moore (Rogers)

Hilton Murphy Teacher/Coach - Sierra Avila (Woodward), Alyssa Wielcraft (Start)

Richard Daoust Memorial - Pamela Fink (Bowsher)

Crystal Ellis Future Leaders - Thomas M. Duris (Waite); Mary Ann Kiss Hamerik Memorial - Ashley Kish (Start); Emory Leverette Memorial - Alexcia Davis

(Bowsher), Shamarah Helm (Libbey), Julis Mosely (Libbey); T.A.A.P. Memorial - Scott Adkins, Jr. (Waite); TFT - Maria Urbieto (Waite)

General for Sixth Graders: American and Lena Sanders - Taneil Walker (Lincoln Academy); Merrill A. Grant - Travis Degler (Sherman); National City - Manecja Russell and Jasmin Taylor (Stewart Academy)



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Family Activities Club/American Care Givers' Grand Opening

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Family Activities Club, a 16,500 square-foot facility at 6202 Trust Drive, held its grand opening last Thursday, May 14, and welcomed visitors to explore the wide range of services offered under the club's very spacious roof.

The business is owned and operated by Sarah Bates, who also oversees her steel operation, Nu Tek Steel, from the same location. In addition to the Family Activities Club, American Care Givers

LLC, which specializes in non-medical in-home care, is also part of the Trust Drive complex of businesses.

American Care givers offers clients general housekeeping, personal care, respite care, transportation and accompaniment, household repairs and meal preparation among its many services.

The Family Activities Club (FAC) offers a complete list of enjoyable ways to spend a day. A dining room serves the



Wanda Carter



Sarah Bates



three main meals. There is a game room, a card room, a fitness room, arts and crafts room, computer training facility and a library, among others. Activities also include dancing lessons for the entire family on various nights.

Every day of the week, there is something going on at the Family Activities Club for members or non-members, said Wanda Carter, the executive director of the FAC.

As a special treat, on

June 6, the club will present The Prodigal 1 in concert. The Prodigal 1 is a gospel singer who specializes in gospel hip-hop.

According to the promotional literature which

describes his act: "He is not the first and will not be the last to share with those who want to hear God's message through 'Hip-Hop Rap' or whatever the world chooses to call it."

That concert will start at 6 p.m. in the facility's Multipurpose Room.

For more information on the Family Activities Club or to become a member, call 419-724-0888.



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Politics

(Continued from Page 3)

have the best interest of the citizens of Toledo at heart. Politicians cannot change Toledo, people can change Toledo!
For so long it has been

people who will get into office are the "career politicians." And the only thing they represent are "special interest groups."
In the words of Dr.

question, 'Is it safe?' Expediency asks the question, 'Is it politic?' But conscience asks the question, 'Is it right?' And there comes a time when one

ture and the future of our children. It is time for the citizens of Toledo to say enough is enough. If the politicians won't hear us now, then perhaps they will listen to us when we cast our votes at the polls.
I encourage the citizens

of Toledo not to be swayed by the number of campaign signs that a politician may have. Or the amount of money they can raise. Think about the words of Dr. Martin L. King Jr. and vote based on, "the quality of the service and the rela-

tionship to mankind." Vote with your heart!

Stephen Ward is a 2009 Toledo City Council At-Large Candidate. Contact him by email at: Stephen@WardforToledo.com.

"Cowardice asks the question, 'Is it safe?' Expediency asks the question, 'Is it politic?' But conscience asks the question, 'Is it right?'"

said that politics is nothing more than a popularity contest or who has or can raise the most money. Well, by those standards, we the citizens of Toledo don't have a chance.
By that definition of having to be popular or having to have an enormous amount of money, the only

Martin L. King Jr., "We must reconsider our definitions. We are prone to judge success by the index of our salaries or the size of our automobiles rather than by the quality of our service and relationship to mankind."
"Cowardice asks the

must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular but because conscience tells one it is right."
The time is upon us to consider what is right. What is fair. And, what is just.
As we enter into this election season, please let us not forget about our fu-

Fighting

(Continued from Page 3)

The effects of the gaps in school achievement result in heavy and often tragic consequences via disproportionate high unemployment rates, lower earnings, poor health and higher rates of incarceration. The fact that schools are failing in quality and equity is appalling.

What is the problem? Because of the unique nature of school financing, schools in poor areas have far less funding per pupil than do schools in wealthier areas. This system of inequity is not prevalent in other advanced nations.

The most urgent problem, according to H. G. Pensek and K. Hancock's "Teaching inequality: How poor and minority students are shortchanged on teacher quality: The Education Trust (2006), is that of unequal distribution of high-quality teachers. Teachers with the least preparation and the weakest academic backgrounds are disproportionately assigned to poor and minority children. However, given the acknowledged importance of effective teachers, it

is not yet clear how to attract and retain effective teachers.

Equally problematic is when teachers are available to inspire students to challenge themselves and help them to develop values, commitments and identities their work is often negated by unconcerned parents or a dysfunctional home or neighborhood environment.

So yes, the presence of race in education is an evil that after 55 years continues a legacy of providing unequal resources and quality of teaching to black and minority classrooms. And we should be furious.

But we should be also be indignant with the evil in our own community that has bought into a culture of failure, celebrates "gangsta" as a rite of passage for youth, lacks of accountability and is quick make excuses, disrespects authority and has allowed discipline to disappear from our homes and institutions.

The good news is that these school achievement gaps can be closed.

Environmental factors have some effect, but race and poverty are not destiny as these performance gaps primarily measure the quality of schooling and the amount of resources provided.

Anger should be properly placed on reforming the education process rather than on the bricks and mortar in which the process takes place. Get involved in the Education Equality Project

http://www.edequality.org as education is the arena in which the 21st Century civil rights and social justice battles will be waged.
But at the same time remember that a community without discipline cannot compete. A people at each others' throats cannot mobilize politically to exercise their power maximally. They will always be underrepresented and confined to the margins of life.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, D.Min., at drdlperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org

This Strikes Me

(Continued from Page 2)

married heterosexual couples. More importantly, it establishes a separate institution that is inherently unequal. *Brown v. Board of Education*, whose 55th anniversary we celebrate this week, already struck those structures down as illegal.

I prefer the term "marriage equality" rather than "gay rights" or "gay marriage" on the basis that the infusion of the context "gay" implies the establishment of a separate institution. When, in fact, the rights gays seek are civil rights that do not and should not require the establishment of separate institutions, rather, the legal inclusion of gays within pre-existing constitutionally-based structures of American culture.

I realize that there are differing opinions in the marriage equality civil rights debate. As President Obama recently implied in his controversial Notre Dame commencement address, we should be able to have differing views on major issues and not succumb to degradation. I can understand and respect one who shares a different view on marriage equal-

ity. I would hope that in America, where we have the freedom speak freely, that my views on marriage equality can be equally respected.

Marriage is a civil right. We know that because no marriage is considered legitimate unless it is validated by the state. As long as marriage licenses are printed using state, tax payer funded dollars, and are validated by state employees, every adult should have the right to marry whatever human being they please. Moreover, African-Americans, more than any other group, have a historical duty to support the cause of civil rights of others. Such support would not only be fair, but based in Jesus' instruction to love everybody. It's also *quid pro quo*.

Notable black 'supporters' of the gay community also fiercely supported blacks' struggle for equality - Bayard Rustin, Zora Neale Hurston, Bruce Nugent, Audre Lorde, James Baldwin, Alice Walker, Wallace Thurman, Angela Davis, Langston Hughes, Alice Dunbar-Nelson, Samuel Delaney, Angelina Grimke,

Countee Cullen, Jewelle Gomez, Huey P. Newton and others.

Do we not view these scholars and leaders as equal?

Editor's Note: Ravi Perry is a native of Toledo and resides in Toledo for the summer months. On another note, *The Truth* is proud to announce the completion of his Ph.D. in political science from Brown University in Providence, RI. Interviewees from his dissertation and other interested parties are invited to attend an open house in Toledo celebrating this achievement. Please email ravi_perry@brown.edu for more information

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NEW NOVEL by Toledo Writer:
A black farmer takes his sons to see a silent horror film showing at a new theater Halloween night in 1930, in central Texas. Nearly 500 blacks were lynched in Texas that year; a movie about a vampire hardly seemed frightening except to the youngest son, Lijah, who consoles himself with his father's assurance that in the film, "they just be killing white folks". Download at lulu.com/content/5743710 for only \$5.00

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CLASSIFIEDS

May 20, 2009

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INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority is seeking bids from qualified contractors to furnish all labor, materials, and equipment for the following project(s):

JOB NO.: 29040

PROJECT NAME: Roof Replacement at Westridge Apartments

WALK-THRU DATE: Monday, May 18, 2009 @ 10:00am at the Westridge site

BID OPENING DATE: Friday, May 22, 2009 @ 3:00pm.

All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud in the 2nd Floor Conference Room on the dates shown above, in the RCI/Modernization Department, at 201 Belmont Street. Contract documents and technical specifications/drawings will be available from the RCI/Modernization Department, and will be provided upon request.

Each bid shall be accompanied by cash, an approved surety company bid bond, or a certified check upon a solvent bank, made payable to the Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority in an amount equal to five (5) percent of the bid, tendered as a bid guarantee (if required) that the bidder will, if the award is made to him, enter into a bona fide contract with Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority for this work and furnish proper guarantee bonding as required under the specifications within a period of ten (10) days after the awarding of the contract. If for any reason whatsoever the bidder fails to enter into a proper contract and to execute the proper guarantee bonding as required by the specifications, the amount of such guarantee shall be retained by the Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority, as liquidated damages sustained by reason of his failure to do so.

The prevailing wages for this locality, as established by the Department of Labor as Wage Determination OH20080028, as modified, must be paid all persons employed for this work.

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or to waive any informality in the bidding. No bids shall be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days subsequent to the opening of the bids.

All bidders shall be required to meet the Affirmative Action requirements and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. Each bidder must insure that all employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, handicap, age, ancestry, creed, or military status.

LUCAS METROPOLITAN HOUSING AUTHORITY
RCI/MODERNIZATION DEPARTMENT



Notice to Bidders: Inquiry # FY09-117, (Project # 0045-05-456)

for Complex for Business & Learning Engagement - Technology for the University of Toledo. Sealed bids for this project must be clearly marked with the project number on all inner and outer envelopes and/or shipping containers. Bids must be addressed and delivered to the University of Toledo, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations, Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 3, 2009. Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 2:05 p.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000. Copies of Plans, Specifications, and Bid Forms may be obtained from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Road, Toledo, Ohio 43615. Call 419-385-5303 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of \$35.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from David E. Wolfe, AIA of Munger Munger & Associates, Inc. at 419-243-8141. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Wednesday, May 27, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000, at the University of Toledo, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, Toledo, OH 43606. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 5% and a University of Toledo Goal for MBE of 100%. Project Estimate: \$371,000.00; Breakdown: Technology Cabling & Equipment: \$371,000.00.

State of Ohio Ohio School Facilities Commission NOTICE TO BIDDERS

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

TTL Associates, Inc.
1915 N. 12th Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604
Phone No. 419-324-2222
Fax No. 419-321-6252

The Construction Manager for the Project is:

Lathrop/Gant/Barton Malow, LLC
701 Jefferson, Suite 302
Toledo, Ohio 43604
Phone No. 419-776-5600
Fax No. 877-281-0784

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

Sealed bids will be received for: Estimates

Bid Item No. 1: Asbestos/HazMat Abatement of Old Orchard Elementary School \$70,000.00

Abatement Dates: July 13th through July 24th, 2009

until **June 2nd, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. (as determined by Stratum clocking (cell phone time))** and will be opened publicly and read immediately thereafter.

The pre-bid meetings will be held on **Friday, May 22nd, 2009, at 3:30 p.m.** at Old Orchard Elementary School, 2402 Cheltenham Rd, Toledo, Ohio. **ATTENDANCE AT THE PRE-BID MEETING IS MANDATORY FOR ALL CONTRACTORS INTENDING ON SUBMITTING A BID.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Columbus F.W. Dodge Plan Room
1175 Dublin Rd.
Dublin, OH 43215-1073
PH: 614-486-6575
FX: 614-486-0544

Construction Association of Michigan
43636 Woodward Ave.
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302
PH: 248-972-1014
FX: 248-972-1136

Ohio Construction News
7261 Engle Rd., Suite 304
Cleveland, Ohio 44130
PH: 800-969-4700

Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce
MCBAP
300 Madison Ave. Ste. 200
Toledo, Ohio 43604-1575
PH: 419-243-8191

Grace Presbyterian Annual Women's Day Celebration

Special to The Truth

All women of Grace Presbyterian Church are members of the National Presbyterian Women's Organization. The Grace Women sponsor a number of church and community events yearly. Some of these events include: Family Fun Night, educational tours, fun shopping trips and other trips of interest to Michigan.

Each year, one Sunday is set aside to celebrate "Women's Day." Last Sunday's (May 17, 2009) celebration and worship service was sponsored by the Grace Presbyterian Church Women's Association. For over 25 years, the congregation has enjoyed the messages delivered by guest speakers such as: Cecelia



Adams, Ph.D., Shenikwa Stratford, Linnie Willis, Juanita Price, Eloise Carey, Dr. J'Lange, Jean Overton, Elizabeth Bannister and the late Edrene Cole.

This year the church members were pleased to have as their morning speaker, Judy Jackson May, Ed.D., professor of Education at Bowling Green State University. Everyone was delighted to hear

this amazing speaker on "The Blessing of Many."

Members of many years of service were recognized for their dedicated service to Grace Presbyterian Church & Women's Association. Newly elected officers are: Gwendolyn Young, president; Valerie McCain, vice-president; Chris Stuart, secretary and Shirley Ducking, treasurer.



Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc's Scholarship Tea

Sojourner's Truth Staff



(l. to r.): Tracci Johnson AKA presenter, Amber Mitchell, Jasmine Shells, Carmen Nathaniel, Christopher Isby, David Gant, Nickellatt Edward, Kaila Blanchard, Lisa Dubose (AKA president)

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter held its annual Scholarship Tea on Sunday, May 18 and awarded a total of \$7,000 in scholarships to eight of the area's outstanding college-bound high school seniors.

"We are proud of you and that you are looking to go on to higher education," said Lisa Dubose, president of Zeta Al-

pha Omega Chapter. "I had a hand up and we want to offer you a hand."

The \$7,000 presented to students this past weekend raises the total granted in scholarships to \$177,000 since the chapter was founded in April 1952.

This year's recipients were: Kaila Blanchard of Central Catholic who will be attending The Ohio State University to

major in speech pathology; Nickellatt Edward of Start High School who will be entering Wright State to major in biochemistry and cardiology; David Gant of Central Catholic who is entering The University of Toledo to major in civil engineering; Christopher Isby of Springfield High School who plans to attend Tiffin University; Amber Mitchell of Toledo Early College High School who will enter the UT pharmacy college; Carmen Nathaniel of St. Ursula's who will major in psychology at UT; Jasmine Shells of Central Catholic who will attend Notre Dame University to major in premed and Ashley Okonta.

"We expect great things of you," said Soror Edna Robertson, "but we are here to help you ... don't hesitate to call us."

Scholarship committee members are Dubose, Felicia Dunston, Elinor Allen, Tracci Johnson, Anne Marie Bolden, Mary Dawson, Mildred Guy, Leola Haynes, Margaret Huntley, Julia Holt, Clara Petty, Cynthia Savage, Jacquelyn Turner, Deborah Washington and Rhea Young



Listen, Toledo, Our Youth Are Speaking!

Sojourner's Truth Staff

On Wednesday, May 13, Human Values for Transformative Action (HVTA) presented the unveiling of eight murals in the historic Ohio Theatre on Lagrange Street in north Toledo -- "Listen, Toledo, Our Youth Are Speaking." All of the murals were created using HVTA's signature Community HeARTbeats approach -- of/by/for/with the people.

Along with HVTA, participating youth groups included Self Expression Teen Theatre, Adelante, Madd Poets Society, Misunderstood and YMCA/JCC of Greater Toledo Youth Opportunities Program.

Artists included Yusuf Lateef, Kelly Lever, Nate Masternak, Edgar Ramirez, Alecia Robinson, Adam Russell and Sal Schiciano

