



Volume 17, No.15

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

February 10, 2010

**In This Issue**

Perryman – "Walking on Water"  
Page 2

Urban League Explained  
Page 3

Russian Roulette Death  
Page 3

Ashford Touts Landbanking  
Page 4

Library's Oral History Collection  
Page 5

The Education Section  
Black History Month at Library  
Page 6

Parents' Choices  
Page 7

Book Review  
Page 9

SETT Advocacy  
Page 10

Connecting Points' Clients  
One Year Later  
Page 11

Minister as Cupid  
Page 13

BlackMarketPlace  
Page 14

Classifieds  
Page 15

## Toledo Lucas County Public Library's Edrene Cole Oral History Collection



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## New Paradigms of Power: African-American Women Walking On Water

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, D.Min.  
The Truth Contributor



*If I didn't define myself for myself, I would be crunched into other people's fantasies for me and eaten alive. —Audre Lorde*

Historical images of mid and upper level professional leadership positions have been either white and male, white and female or, to a lesser degree, black and male while the contributions of African-American women in high stress corporate or public administration leadership roles have been marginalized.

Despite a 45.8 percent increase since 2003 in their percentage of the U.S. labor force and a 149.5 percent increase in the number of African-American women receiving master's degrees between 1991 and 2001, there exists a "concrete ceiling" that is nearly impossible to shatter and is unique to women of color.

However, in Toledo, a group of African-American women have begun to shift what and who leadership looks like by recasting traditional masculinist representations of leadership and power into their own images. Kaye Patten Wallace of The University of Toledo, Doni Miller—Neighborhood Health Association, Billie Sewell Johnson of the multi-county Area Office On Aging, Lisa McDuffie—YWCA, Jackie Martin of the Mental Health & Recovery Services Board, Linnie Willis of The Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority and Wilma Brown, president of Toledo City Council all oversee budgets in the tens of millions of dollars and/or wield significant power locally.

What, in their own words, does it mean to be black, female and a leader in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Toledo, Ohio? What unique challenges do they face in breaking through stereotypes? What values inform their leadership styles as they go against the grain of what is expected of them?

For Linnie Willis, who oversees a budget of \$60 million as executive director of Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA), current success was born from early struggle.

"I grew up in Mississippi and wanted to achieve, primarily because of people who said I couldn't. Folks had low expectations for me but early teachers motivated me to succeed and provided opportunities that my mom couldn't afford. They (teachers) made sure I got exposed to places and things, making sure I got there even if they had to buy my clothes themselves," she says.

The attempt by others to limit and confine her provided the inspiration and the guiding hand which perhaps led to her present position. "I attended 'Ole Miss', the University of Mississippi," Willis recounts, "and was part of a very small minority on campus during the Civil Rights movement. We demonstrated about something and I was arrested for protesting. I graduated but was not allowed to march with my class because I was labeled a 'protest leader.' When those jail doors clanged shut and I realized that I could not leave on my own, I made up my mind right then that I wanted to be in a helping profession because of those who helped me. I could not have achieved anything without those who gave of themselves and their resources. So I sought out a career to do the same."

Yet effective success strategies and the ability to leverage personal strengths to overcome the barriers and challenges faced by African-American women leaders are also essential. Willis uses prayer and networking as coping strategies to counter the challenges faced by women leaders such as hyper-scrutiny, undermining and intentional lack of support by subordinates or others, inaccurate performance appraisals by those who are culturally incompetent and who often over-emphasize the trivial, such as golf-playing while downplaying more important and relevant criteria.

Other challenges such as questioning of credibility or authority and lack of institutional and community support present glaring contradictions but often fly under the radar. "I have served on boards of other organizations where leadership was undermined by saddling the board with political appointments who came in with a hostile agenda," Willis says. "And at the same time there is a lack of support from the community. However, when it has been an African-American male, the community has loudly and boldly proclaimed it as a travesty but do not come to the support of an African-American female leader."

Through the reality of struggle, suffering and survival as well as the roadblocks, hurdles, gates and ambushes along the way Willis has developed leadership secrets that enable her to expand her vision for the possibilities for her own as well as other black lives by constantly seeking information, assistance and guidance.

"I never proclaimed myself to be the ultimate authority on leading an organization or identified myself as a know-it-all," she says. "One must understand that the real issues are not in the books. I learn something new daily. And I recommend those who aspire to leadership to search out those who can serve as mentors who can help steer you away from the challenges and prevent your running into the same brick walls. If we can improve on one thing it is the need to focus on providing a network of support for each other where we can talk to someone in our similar situation and who understands."

For what is certain is that in a society that neither values or validates black womanhood and attempts to destroy black manhood, success requires you to walk on water so "we need the support of each other and the support of the community."

*Every generation has the opportunity to write its own history, and indeed it is obliged to do so. Only in that way can it provide its contemporaries with the materials vital to understanding the present and to planning strategies for coping with the future. Only in that way can it fulfil its obligation to pass on to posterity the accumulated knowledge and wisdom of the past, which, after all, give substance and direction for the continuity of civilization. — John Hope Franklin*

## Community Calendar

### February 3-March 3

Healthy Relationships 101: Eberly Center for Women; 6 to 8 pm; Wednesdays: 419-530-8570

### February 13

Love and Marriage: Calling All Single Ladies Workshop; Momma Celeste Mitchell, author and relationship coach; Noon to 3 pm; RSVP before Feb 5: 419-376-2331

Breast Cancer Awareness Seminar: Jerusalem MBC; Noon; Seminar with Deborah Roberts of the African-American Women Cancer Support Group

### February 16

Start High School Afro Club 70's/80's Reunion Meeting: Sanger Branch Library; 6 pm: 419-309-4023

All Saints' Episcopal Church Pancake Supper: 10 am to 7 pm  
Birmingham Branch Library Hungarian Festival "Farsang": 4 pm: 419-259-5210

### February 21

NW District of Ohio Association of Colored Women's Club, Inc and Youth Affiliates Sixth Annual Black History Extravaganza and Soul Food Buffet: 2-5 pm; Local 14 UAW Hall; Music by DJ Ice: 419-535-5960 or [btall419@aol.com](mailto:btall419@aol.com)

Third Baptist Church (Holland) 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Black History Month Musical: 4 pm

United MBC Black History Presentation: Remembrance and Reflections: A Journey in Songs featuring "Crowns;" 4 pm

### February 22 – April 26

A Woman's Success Series: 10 week program at the Eberly Center for Women; Course designed to guide women on the journey of personal and professional development; Facilitator Angela Spoerl; 6 to 8 pm; Mondays: 419-530-8570

### February 28

Diocesan Celebration of Black History Month: "Looking Back to the Future;" St. Martin de Porres Church; 5 pm; Toledo symphony Orchestra

Calvary Baptist Church African American Culinary Food Taster: 4 pm: 419-242-9173

### March 10

Morehouse College Glee Club in concert at Third Baptist Church: 7 pm

### March 12

Toledo Grace Brethren Church Entertainment Event: Maumee Indoor Theatre; Comedian, musician and ventriloquist; 7:30 pm; Fundraiser for new church roof: 419-472-1212

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# Teen's "Russian Roulette" Death Remains a Mystery to Family

Sojourner's Truth Staff

"I don't understand the justice system they tell us to rely on," said Marcy Turner last week of the Toledo Police Department's handling of its investigation into the death of her son, 18-year-old Fitzgerald Adrian Robbins.

Robbins, according to police reports, died of a single, self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head – a victim of the game of Russian roulette on Thursday afternoon, January 28.

Turner, and other members of Robbins' family, believe that law enforcement officials have rushed to judgment in

their declaration that "there was no evidence of foul play," as John Weglian, chief of the special units division of the Lucas County Prosecutor's Office, has been quoted as saying.

What the family is missing, they say, is a sense of clarity about what happened on the afternoon that Robbins died and why police officials have been so secretive with the family about how they have drawn their conclusions.

According to the family, Turner and her parents, Desiree and Lionel Rayford,

they were never called by the police about the incident, they were refused permission to go to the scene and identify the body of young Robbins and their questions about the incident have gone unanswered.

According to police reports, the incident occurred as Robbins was riding through a West Toledo area with two friends – a 17-year-old boy and the boy's 14-year-old girlfriend – in a pickup truck belonging to the boy.

Again, according to reports, Robbins placed two bullets in a revolver and pulled

the trigger, according to his two friends. The gun did not fire and he challenged the other boy to do the same. His friend declined when he saw a bullet lined up. Robbins spun the cylinder and fired again, killing himself.

After that the two survivors apparently stopped and removed Robbins' body, asked a passer-by to call 911, cleaned the truck of blood and turned themselves into police.

Several days after the event, the police declined to press charges against the two friends. According to TPD Lt. Bill Moton, who supervises detectives, the case is not closed. That can't happen until the coroner's report is issued, said Moton. The coroner is not expected to release his report for at least another month. Nevertheless, Turner and her parents are not convinced that any semblance of justice has been served thus far.

One of the troubling aspects of the case for the fam-

ily is that so many people seemed to have found out about the events before they were informed.

According to Turner, she received a call that evening from a young woman who is a student at The University of Toledo and who was Robbins' girlfriend.

"Is Adrian all right?" she asked," said Turner last week. "I told her 'you don't call a house and ask a parent that.' A parent will automatically think something is wrong."

Turner said she asked the woman when she had last seen her son, but the rest of the conversation revealed little information.

Shortly thereafter, said Turner, she received a call from the boy who had been riding with Robbins. According to Turner, the boy said: "Marcy, I'm sorry, Adrian died. I shot him."

"He said he didn't mean to kill Adrian but he was dead," said Turner of the conversation she had with Robbins' fellow passenger.

Chief among the family's issues is the simple fact that they cannot get answers from the department. However, the department said it simply does not have all the answers yet.

"We re-open anything if new information comes in," Moton told The Truth this week. He noted that the coroner could issue a finding that the incident was a suicide, a homicide or an accident, for example.

At least until then, the family is plagued by any number of unanswered questions about both the police and Robbins' companions' actions on that evening.

"Why didn't they attempt to drop him at a hospital?" said Desiree Rayford. "Why would they clean out the car and get the blood out of the car?"

"I'm willing to accept that something tragic happened," said Turner. "But nothing the [other young man] is saying is adding up. There's something wrong here."

## Open Letter to the Community About the Greater Toledo Urban League

A new year, a new decade, a new century! Yes the Greater Toledo Urban League is celebrating with the National Urban League 100 years of serving the communities across this nation. So over the course of the last week or so members of our Board of Directors, supporters and I have reached out and asked this community to support the Greater Toledo Urban League. Some of you within the Toledo community may have even read of our request for support.

What became clear to me as I thought about several things was that this approach would create many and vari-

ous questions within the community. Well, it appears my thought may have been correct as many folks have asked me some very pointed, relevant and important questions. Those questions, in my opinion, deserve answers and it is my purpose for writing this "Letter to the Community". Not only will I (hopefully) answer some of the questions you may have, but I also intend to share with you the vision and direction of the Greater Toledo Urban League, where we plan to be and how we will get there.

As with any fundraising effort, the question of "where

will the money go?" and "why should I give?" are fairly normal. When in a campaign to raise funds quickly and for an "emergency" however, not only are these questions asked, but more serious questions like "will you be around in 60 days?" and other capacity and sustainability type questions rise to the forefront. So here goes....

### #1 – What does the Greater Toledo Urban League do?

This has been the most frequent question that I have fielded over the course of the past 21 months of my tenure

(Continued on Page 12)

## Experience "The Art of Romance"

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Empowering Older Adults and Their Families



## Hannah's Socks Exceeds 2009 Sock Drive Goal Thanks to Successful Community Efforts 125,492 Pairs of Socks Donated in 2009; New Goal Set for 2010

Special to The Truth

Thanks to overwhelming community response, Hannah's Socks is excited to announce its collection of 125,492 pairs of socks in 2009. More than doubling the original goal of 60,000 pairs, this expanding nonprofit organization is setting its sights even higher for 2010.

"Socks are desperately needed by the families and individuals at the shelters we serve," said Doris Turner, Hannah's mom and co-founder of Hannah's Socks. "We now serve almost 50 shelters on a regular basis. These donations are allowing us to grow and help even more people in need."

The need for socks is not specific to this area. Hannah's Socks is finding that shelters in other states and regions literally all across the country are in need of socks. Because of this, Hannah's Socks is setting the 2010 collection goal at 150,000 pairs of socks.

Since Hannah's Socks inception in 2004, its simple goal to provide socks and undergarments for those in need in the Toledo, Ohio area has spread to other cities and states. Hannah's Socks is currently serving shelters

throughout Northwest and Southwest Ohio, Southern Michigan, Northern Kentucky and most recently the Cleveland, Akron and Dayton areas.

In addition to shelters, Hannah's Socks also partners with other organizations to serve underprivileged children and to provide direct outreach in downtown Toledo. Recently, Hannah's Socks donated 11,000 pairs of socks to the Haiti relief efforts.

"Achieving our new goal will allow us to continue to serve our current partner shelters and programs while also expanding to help more families in other Midwest communities," said Turner. "We're eager to do more in 2010; with the support of the community, we are confident we can reach this new goal."

For more information about Hannah's Socks, please visit [www.hannahssocks.org](http://www.hannahssocks.org).

### About Hannah's Socks

*Hannah's Socks serves homeless and domestic-violence shelters in the Midwest, with offices in Toledo and Cincinnati. Hannah's Socks collects donated materials in the form of new men's, women's and children's socks and un-*

*dergarments, then leverages partnerships with local shel-*

*ters for distribution to both the homeless and to victims of*

*domestic violence. In addition, it supports programs serv-*

*ing under-privileged children.*

## Councilman Ashford Promote's Toledo's Landbanking Program

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The City of Toledo has approximately 850 real estate parcels available for sale at very low prices, Councilman Michael Ashford said last Friday during a news conference in front of one of those parcels that local businessman Bobby Howard recently purchased.

The City's 2005 Land Reutilization Program, also known as the Landbanking Program, is an effort by the city to dispose of "unbuildable residential parcels of real estate." These lots have been taken over by the city usually as abandoned houses have been razed. Typically the lots are now too small on which to build new residences—according to City code—and the City's Landbanking Program is specifically designed for

landowners in adjacent properties to acquire the land and expand their holdings. The average cost for such lots has been \$150.

Last week, the City approved the sale of the lot at 862 Buckingham to Howard, a business owner who has the adjacent property. Howard, a property owner and trucking contractor—E & H Taylor Construction, will use the property for extra parking space, at least initially.

"Bobby Howard has a great track record in our community," said Ashford of the entrepreneur who has about 30 trucks in operation along with about 15 employees.

Ashford also observed that the City of Toledo incurs enormous expense trying to maintain such properties, particularly in providing lawn mowing services during warm



months.

The Landbanking Program allows residential citizens to purchase adjacent sites without City Council approval. Commercial property owners, such as Howard, can purchase with Council approval. In the matter of Howard's

purchase, City Council approved the sale on February 2, 2010.

Ashford praised the program, noting that it provided the opportunity for "residential expansion and economic development."

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## Library Debuts Edrene Cole Oral History Collection

*Special to The Truth*



Melissa Geter  
Director of The Art  
Tatum Resource  
Center

During February, the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library will premiere the Edrene Cole Oral History Collection, an oral history collection of film and transcriptions profiling African-Americans who migrated from the southern region of the United States to Toledo and Lucas County as children or adults before the year 1960.

The DVD collection also documents residents who were born and raised in Toledo before 1960.

The collection will be presented to the public on February 16, at 6:00 p.m., at the Kent Branch Library and Art Tatum African American Resource Center at 3101 Collingwood Blvd.

The documentary features interviews conducted with, among others, Ohio House of Representative Edna Brown, Toledo City Council President Wilma Brown, Toledo Council of Black Nurses founder Mary Gregory, NAACP Toledo Chapter President Willi Ann Moore, First Church of God Senior Pastor Robert Culp and former Toledo City Council member June Boyd.

"All the interviews were conducted with a specific set of questions about race relations and [the interviewees] accomplishments," said Faith Hairston, manager of the Kent Branch Library.

The DVD collection is named after the late Edrene

Cole, a noted educator and local historian who interviewed many African-Americans in Toledo and also collected materials such as photographs and documents of historical significance. Cole will long be remembered for her 1972 master's thesis at The University of Toledo on Blacks in Toledo which still serves as a reliable research tool for local media, city officials, historians and academics from across the country. That thesis laid the foundation for a Toledo Oral History project.

Cole, along with a handful of other area historians such as Lillian Ashcroft-Eason, Ph.D., who is also one of the interviewees in the collection, was dedicated to researching and keeping alive the disappearing and often invisible legacy of the past for future generations, particularly focusing on genealogical roots. She died in 2007 at the age of 75.

Cole, whose parents came to Toledo in 1935, attended Washington, Gunckel, Robinson and

Scott High School and earned undergraduate, master's and education specialist degrees from UT. For many years she was a teacher and then an administrator with Toledo Public Schools.

Cole also helped start the UT EXCEL program with Helen Cooks, Ph.D., was active in the Toledo Chapter of the NAACP and was a member of the Read for Literacy board.

The interviews in the collection were conducted in May 2009 by Willie L. McKether, Ph.D., assistant professor of anthropology at UT, taped by his brother Kenn McKether of Dynamic Group and edited by Above the Shop Studios of Toledo.

The debut will consist of a showing of excerpts from the 21 interviews, followed by a panel discussion about African-Americans in Toledo. Panel members will include some of the interview subjects. Additional viewings and discussions are scheduled for March 9 and March 23.

Also interviewed for the project were: Merle Abbot whose family immigrated to Toledo in 1927; Cheryl and William Catlin, niece and brother, respectively, of Wendell Catlin, African-American developer and realtor; Oscar Haynes, who was raised in Briceys, Arkansas; Marjorie Hoskins, who came to Toledo after

the death during her childhood of her parents; John C. Moore, a native Toledo; Maude Rixey, whose parents immigrated to Toledo from Illinois; Rev. John E. Roberts, pastor of Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church, who was born in Bryant, MS; Fred Russell, who was born in Little Rock, AR and Eddie Turner,

who spent 30 years with the Toledo Police Department.

The Library's Edrene Cole Oral History Collection series was funded in part through an Institute of Museum and Library Services ISTA grant awarded by the State Library of Ohio.



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# The Sojourner's Truth Education

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## Black History Month at The Toledo-Lucas County Public Library

By Rhonda B. Sewell, Library Media Relations Coordinator

The Toledo-Lucas County Public Library is proud to celebrate **Black History Month** in February with a host of exciting **FREE** programs for the entire family to enjoy.

The annual observation of Black History Month was originated in 1926 by African-American historian **Carter G. Woodson**, as "Negro History Week." Woodson chose February because it marked the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln and abolitionist Frederick Douglass, two Americans who Carter believed influenced the lives of black Americans. Discover more on Black History Month at "Your Library" by stop-

ping by any of the system's 18 branch locations, Main Library, or aboard the Bookmobile to read about Woodson and many other contributors of African-American culture.

Listed below is a sample of many of the programs "Your Library" has scheduled to observe Black History Month. We invite you and your family through the doors of a branch near you to discover more at the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library. Be sure to ask about our new Library card and key chain tag card at the Circulation desk.

• **Now through Friday, February 26: Black History**

**Quotations Quiz—Birmingham Branch Library, 203 Paine Ave.,** held during Library hours: Grades 5-12, stop in anytime this month to take a quiz that tests your knowledge of black history. All you have to do is match the quotation to the famous African-American individual. You'll get a prize just for trying! Info: 419.259.5210.

• **Now through Friday, February 26: Black History Quiz—Birmingham Branch Library, 203 Paine Ave.,** held during Library hours: Grades K-6, come to the Library anytime this month and test your knowledge of black history with a quiz created especially for you. Anyone who takes

the quiz will receive a special prize! Info: 419.259.5210.

• **Today, February 10-Saturday, February 13: Revolutionizing Industry—Kent Branch Library, 3101 Collingwood Blvd.,** held during Library hours: Grades 6-12, celebrate Black History Month by testing your knowledge of famous African-American inventors. (i.e. Nathaniel Alexander patented the . . . ?) Win a sweet treat! Info: 419.259.5340.

• **Today, February 10-Saturday, February 13: What's Your BHIQ (Black History Intelligence Quotient)?—Main Children's Library, 325 Michigan St.,** held during Library hours: Grades K-6, Test your knowledge with our quiz and earn a sweet treat. Info: 419.259.5207.

• **Now through Friday, February 26: African American Inventors Contest—Lagrange Branch Library, 3422 Lagrange St.,** held during Library hours: Grades K-12, Celebrate Black History Month by testing your knowledge of various inventors. Info: 419.259.5280.

• **Now through Saturday, February 27: The Toledo Chapter of The Links, Inc. presents The Nathan Hale School Quilt—Kent/Art Tatum Center Gallery, 3101 Collingwood Blvd.,** on display during Library hours. In observance of Black History Month, the service women's organization, The Links, Inc., presents a quilt made in conjunction with Nathan Hale

students in 1996 in order to demonstrate that "it takes a village to raise a child." Info: 419.259.5392.

• **Tuesday, February 16: Debut of The Edrene Cole Oral History Collection—Kent/Art Tatum Center, 3101 Collingwood Blvd., 6p.m.** The Library is proud to announce the premiere debut of the Edrene Cole Oral History Collection, an oral history collection of film and transcripts profiling African-Americans who migrated from the southern region of the United States to Toledo and Lucas County as children or adults before the year 1960. The DVD collection also documents residents who were born and raised in Toledo before 1960. Documentary features include Ohio House of Representative **Edna Brown**; Toledo City Council President **Wilma**

**Brown**; Toledo Council of Black Nurses founder **Mary Gregory**; NAACP Toledo Chapter president **WilliAnn Moore**; First Church of God Senior Pastor **Robert Culp**, and former Toledo City Council member **June Boyd**. This DVD collection is named after the late **Edrene Cole**, a noted educator and local historian, who interviewed many African-Americans in Toledo. She also collected materials such as photographs and documents of historical significance.

• **Saturday, February 27: Expression of Culture through the Performing Arts—McMaster Center at Main Library, 325 Michigan St., 2-4 p.m.** This lively program, generously sponsored in part by The Library Legacy Foundation, is free and open to the public.

Please join us in celebration of the performing arts contributions of African Americans and witness:

- 1) Libbey High School Jazz Ensemble
- 2) Spoken Word Performers/Poets
- 3) Clarence Smith Community Chorus
- 4) New Works Writers Series
- 5) Afro-Caribbean Dance & Drum Ensemble
- 6) Donte Moss as Gordon Parks, noted photographer and filmmaker
- 7) Belinda Morgan as Elizabeth Keckley, who was the dressmaker of Mary Todd Lincoln, wife of U.S. President Abraham Lincoln
- 8) Gallery Exhibit featuring photos, paintings & quilts
- 9) Children's crafts area
- 10) Light Refreshments

For more details on any of the Library's Black History Month observances, please call 419.259.5207 or log on to [toledolibrary.org](http://toledolibrary.org)

Register Today! • Space Limited!! • Classes begin March 2nd!!!

### B.Y.O.B

Be Your Own Boss in 2010!



#### EOPA Business & Entrepreneurial Development Program

Jump start your dream of becoming your own boss with EOPA's Business & Entrepreneurial Development Program! This new 6-week accelerated program is designed to equip entrepreneurs with the skills necessary to successfully own and operate small businesses. Coursework includes breakout sessions that will cover budgeting, structuring, estimating, marketing, and much more!

There will be experts available to answer questions on business strategy and give valuable insight on money management and financing your new venture. You will also receive, at no cost, an individual assessment of your business—either existing or start up—so that you have the tools necessary for success.

Call today to reserve your space and to pick-up your information packet. Hurry, classes begin Tuesday, March 2, 2010 and space is limited.

419-242-7304 ext. 2912

Funded by:  
The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act  
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SAVE THE DATE  
Friday March 12, 2010



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## Parents Have Choices for Their Children's Education

*Special to The Truth*

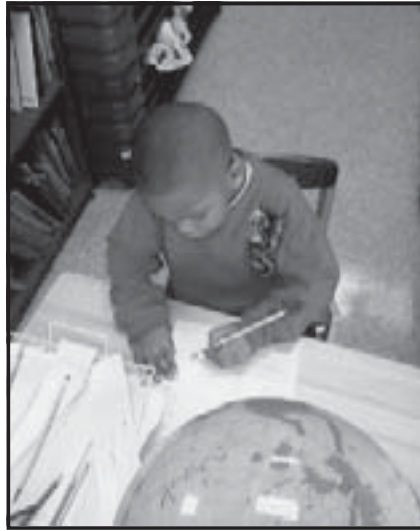
If you are not happy with the education your child is receiving at his or her public school, you do have choices when it comes to changing schools. Those choices are available through the Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund and the Ohio EdChoice Scholarship Program.

The Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund Program is a need-based scholarship for students residing in Lucas, Wood or Fulton County who would like to attend a private school for grades kindergarten through eighth. As stated in the organization's mission statement, *"We believe that all children, regardless of their economic circumstances, deserve access to quality educational opportunities."* The program has awarded over \$7.5 million in scholarships in the last 11 years enabling 9,500 children in Northwest Ohio to attend a private school of their choice.

The Northwest Ohio

Scholarship Fund was founded in 1999 by local philanthropists to provide educational choices to families and children who would otherwise have none. Part of the \$7.5 million includes \$2.7 million that came in the form of matching grants from the Children's Scholarship Fund (CSF) founded by John Walton and Ted Forstmann. The CSF's mission "aims to maximize the educational opportunity at all income levels by offering tuition assistance for needy families and promoting a diverse and competitive educational environment."

Each year a lottery is held to select those families who want to obtain a Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund scholarship. After the lottery is conducted, an award letter is sent along with a financial registration form to determine how much the family will receive towards their child's tuition, up to \$1,250 per child per year. The require-



ments for maintaining a scholarship include a current tuition balance and a 90 percent or higher attendance rate. If the family is successful in meeting these requirements, they will have an opportunity to renew the scholarship each year until

eighth grade graduation as long as they meet the financial requirements.

A second option for families that provides an educational choice is the Ohio Department of Education's EdChoice Scholarship Program. EdChoice has a total of 14,000 scholarships available to eligible students

in Ohio who are attending under-performing public schools that have been rated in Academic Emergency or Academic Watch for two of the past three years. Locally, this means that if your child is attending one of 17 designated eligible Toledo Public Schools, he or she may qualify to receive an EdChoice scholarship to attend one of 26 participating private schools in the

apply for the EdChoice program is Friday, April 16, 2010. The families will be notified in July 2010 whether or not their child has been awarded a scholarship. The scholarship amount is \$4,250 for grades K-8 and \$5,000 for grades 9-12 or the actual tuition charged, whichever amount is lower.

If you are not happy with your child's school or would like the opportunity

**"We believe that all children, regardless of their economic circumstances, deserve access to quality educational opportunities."**

Toledo area.

In order to apply for the Ohio EdChoice Scholarship Program, eligible families must select a participating private school that they would like their child to attend; complete the admissions process and have the school submit the required EdChoice application forms to the Ohio Department of Education. The deadline to

to consider a private school for your child and are interested in learning more about the Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund visit its website at [www.nosf.org](http://www.nosf.org) or if you think your child may be eligible for the Ohio EdChoice Scholarship program visit <http://edchoice.ohio.gov> or call (877) OHIO EDU.

## Owens Foundation Helps Students Achieve Academic Dreams through 2010-11 Scholarship Program Opportunities

*Special to The Truth*

The Owens Community College Foundation is investing in Northwest Ohio's educational future by making available thousands of dollars in scholarship opportunities as part of the academic institution's 2010-11 Scholarship Program.

Through the generosity of businesses and individuals within the surrounding communities, the Owens Foundation will offer current and future students the opportunity to apply for over 50 available scholarships for the upcoming 2010-11 academic year. Scholarship applicants must complete and return the application to the Office of Financial Aid on either the Toledo-area or Findlay-area campus by Friday, Feb. 26. Scholarship award notification will begin in April and will continue until all awards have been made.

For scholarships based on financial need, a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) applica-

tion for the 2010-11 academic year must be on file in the College's Office of Financial Aid by Friday, Feb. 26. FAFSA and Foundation Scholarship Program forms are available in the College's Office of Financial Aid or can be downloaded by accessing the Owens website at [www.owens.edu](http://www.owens.edu).

In addition, Owens currently participates in several need-based federal and state funded grant programs, work study opportunities, and loans, which all require applicants to file a FAFSA form to determine financial need. Specific programs accessible to students include the Federal Pell Grant, the Federal Academic Competitiveness Grant, the Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant, the Owens Community College Grant, the Federal Direct Stafford Loan, the Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan and Federal Work Study, among others.

The Owens Foundation

was incorporated in April 2002 and has over \$2.2 million in assets. The Foundation Board of Directors currently is comprised of 24 community leaders from Lucas, Wood and Hancock counties.

The mission of the Owens Foundation and its Board of Directors is developing and providing resources to advance the College's overall mission of serving students and the surrounding communities. The Foundation is also dedicated to removing barriers to education by providing student scholarships and supporting growth and innovation at Owens.

This past academic year, Owens provided more than \$80.5 million in grants, scholarships, loans and federal work study to support the educational needs of students. For more information on the various scholarship opportunities, call (567) 661-7603 or 1-800-GO-OWENS, Ext. 7603.



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6PM  
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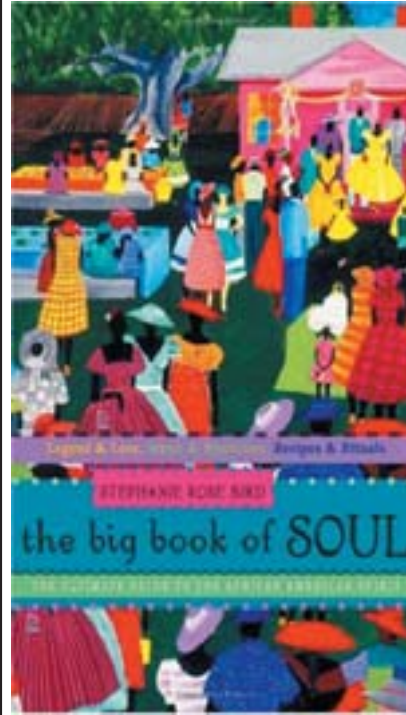
**THE THINKER**

The Thinkers: Carolyn Valentin, Jack Bree, Nicole Rose, James Adams, Bonita Adams, Sylvia Carter

also starting  
Ronald Quince "QQ" | Gerald Foster & The New Wave Band | Steven Smith, Jr. | Grant Walker | House of Adams

Logos: LHM, Church's, The Thinker, The Doctor, JALMA MONTANA

## The Library's Reading Selection of the Month



The Toledo-Lucas County Public Library suggests this new work, just released last week (Feb. 5, 2010), titled *The Big Book of Soul: The Ultimate Guide to the African American Spirit* (Hampton Roads Publishing) by Stephanie Rose Bird. ISBN: 1571745998 –

*The Big Book of Soul* is a reference book providing an in-depth examination of the source of soul in African culture and how soul finds its expression today. Author Bird explores spiritual practices related to diet, dance, beauty, healing, the arts, and provides readers with ancient healing rituals and practices they can use today.

Source: [AALBC.com](http://AALBC.com)  
(The African American Literature Book Club).

## FEBRUARY 2010 BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Charlie Chuck

### THE JUICE CELEBRATES

February 4, 1969 \* "CHARLIE CHUCK"

41<sup>ST</sup> RADIO ANNIVERSARY



February 5, 1910 – 1992 \* Mr. George Welch would have been 100 years old  
Our Father, Grandfather and Great Grandfather

February 27, 1997 – WJUC THE JUICE 107.3 signed on the airwaves after over 10 years of FCC Court Litigations. W. Charles Welch/Welch Communications became the first African American to build from scratch and sign on a radio station in Northwest Ohio.

THANKS TO OUR ADVERTISERS AND SUPPORTERS  
THE JUICE FM 107.3



"WE ARE TOLEDO"

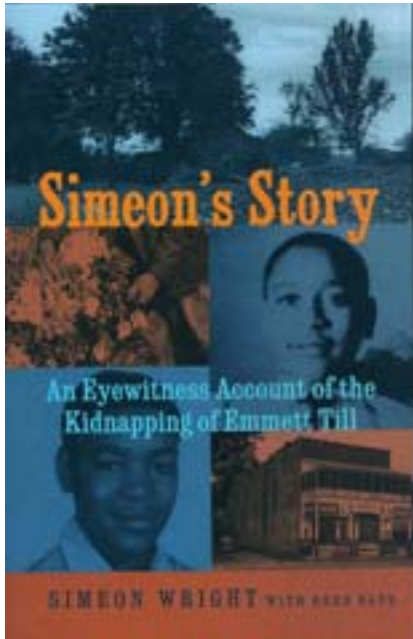


**Book Review****Simeon's Story by Simeon Wright (with Herb Boyd)**

c.2010, Lawrence Hill Books

\$19.95 / \$21.95 Canada

144 pages, includes index

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

eyes lowered. Unconscious flex of muscles beneath a flashy t-shirt. A smile, a glance, a wiggle of hips or lips or brows.

Where would you be without a little flirting? Married? Hooked up? Maybe not. But attracting the opposite sex is how our species perpetuates. Flirting is fun.

You would never in a million years think it could get you killed.

But in the new book, *Simeon's Story* by Simeon Wright (with Herb Boyd), you'll read about a wolf whistle heard 'round the country.

Growing up in Mississippi in the Jim Crow era, Simeon Wright knew that there were certain things a black person never did. Specifically, he was never remotely disrespectful to anyone who was white. Sassing "Mr. Charlie" was a good way to get in trouble.

Wright learned from his father that some white people could be trusted, though. Mose Wright was a share-

cropper. He knew who was fair and who wasn't, and he wouldn't work with dishonest landowners.

Simeon Wright indicates that he had a good childhood, despite Jim Crow laws. His parents loved him and he had a big, extended family. In fact,

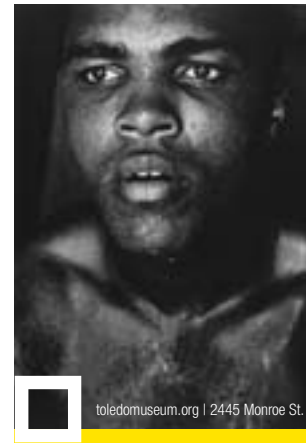
when cousins were scheduled to visit Mississippi from Chicago, Wright "was so excited that I didn't know what to do."

One of those cousins was 14-year-old Emmett Till, a big-for-his-age boy, almost the size of a grown man. Every-

body called him Bobo and he was fun-loving, but Wright remembers that "he just didn't know the rules."

On the afternoon of Wednesday, August 24, 1955, Bobo's lack of knowledge sparked a movement.

(Continued on Page 14)

Toledo  
Museum  
of  
Art**Bare Witness**

Photographs by Gordon Parks

February 5–April 25, 2010

Canaday Gallery | FREE Admission

toledomuseum.org | 2445 Monroe St.

Gordon Parks, "Muhammad Ali," c.1970. Gelatin silver print, 24 x 20 inches. Lent by The Capital Group Foundation, 2002.47 © 2008 The Gordon Parks Foundation. *Bare Witness: Photographs by Gordon Parks* was organized by the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Center for Visual Arts at Stanford University. The exhibition and its accompanying catalogue are made possible by generous support from The Capital Group Foundation, the Cantor Arts Center's Hirsch Family Fund and the Cantor Arts Center's members.



You've been doing it since before.  
you were a teenager, maybe A certain look sideways,

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- Spoken Word Performers/Poets
- Clarence Smith Community Chorus
- New Works Writers Series
- Afro-Caribbean Dance & Drum Ensemble
- Donte Moss as Gordon Parks
- Belinda Morgan as Elizabeth Keckley  
(Mary Todd Lincoln's dressmaker)
- Children's Activities
- Light Refreshments
- Gallery Exhibit featuring photos, paintings & quilts

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toledolibrary.org

## SETT Program Tackles Domestic Violence Issues

By Brittany Jones  
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Intimate partner violence is on the rise. What is more disturbing is that when compared to adults, teens are at higher risk of violence.

February 2-6 is National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week. In honor of this week, the Self-Expression Teen Theater or SETT, in collaboration with DELTA Project, hosted the kick-off event on February 1 from 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Close to 100 people gathered in the auditorium of the Frederick Douglass Community Association to receive the message of what a healthy relationship means and to discuss the different types of abuse.

The program began with a prayer and a welcome from the program coordinator, Washington Muhammad. Community leaders and representatives from certain health facilities were the speakers for the evening.

Sherita Evans, the HIV reduction specialist of Planned Parenthood, talked of the statistics involving teens, both male and female, who are

abused in relationships. She made her audience aware of the different types of abuse other than just physical. These types

— emotional, verbal, spiritual, sexual, and financial as well as others — are easily misdiagnosed

***"Take your time to think about your possibilities and what you want to be,"***

or ignored.

"We have learned to love someone backwards," Evans said. "It starts with communication with ourselves so we can understand what we want."

Direct from the community was "Grannie" Hunter, Ronnell Traynum. She is a foster mother at her own foster home, Lucyetta, located at 3230 Kimball. Her home is open to pregnant teens and their children. Her calling to this occupation was what she sees as "divine intervention" and her topic focused on the fact that just because a person is 18 does not mean that they are adults.

Due to the experience with the girls in the home, Traynum stressed the importance of staying with parents or guardians because the world is very difficult.

"Take your time to think about your possibilities and what you want

to be," Traynum said. "Don't allow peer pressure to make you do things you don't want to do."

In regards to intimate partner abuse, she highlighted the significance of finding a trusted adult. Traynum also hosts a weekly event called "Thursday Nite Kids."

Martha Pawlicki, Domestic Violence Prevention Educator at Adelante, Inc, brought diversity to the issue. Adelante, Inc. is a Latino facility that seeks to empower individuals and families in NW Ohio through education, health, economic, and other social services.

"Violence has no race,

culture or nationality boundary," Pawlicki said. "Don't let anybody treat you less than what you are or what you deserve."

Pawlicki spoke of the different services offered such as domestic violence education and prevention:



Ronnell Traynum

Hermanas Unidas (United Sisters) which assists women to end the cycle of violence and promote healthy relationships.

Brother Lee X brought the male perspective on the abuse issue. He spoke about the issue of "ignorance is the cause" of relationship abuse. Teens should be aware of their instinct — if something does not feel right, then get rid of it.

"If you stop breathing, your body works against you to preserve that life," Brother X said. "So why are we involved in acts that are destructive and can lead to death?"

He spoke to the women about respecting themselves first. To the men, he brought up the point of realizing that these young women are someone's daughters, sisters, etc.

The keynote speaker Ronata Bryant, DELTA Project Coordinator, focused on what a healthy relationship should entail. Bryant warned teens of what signs to look for like texting all day, every day, always wanting to know

where a person is or dictating what a person should wear. She says it may seem cute, but it can be dangerous. The goal is to demand respect.

"You have to take care of you," said Bryant.

Bryant said that the DELTA Project aims to change this type of distorted thinking when it comes to the signs of abuse. DELTA stands for Domestic Violence Prevention Enhancements and Leadership Through Alliances.

As a grand finale, the SETT Troupe performed a presentation names "Expect Respect." The group presented an exhibit about what a young man could think of women if not properly taught to respect them.

They raised the issue of using a woman for sex and if she does not "give it up," she can be beaten or degraded. Another message portrayed was the problem with teen girls thinking that the most important life was to get a man or that to do that was through sex and material possessions.

In contrast, the performance repeated the message of knowing oneself first before expecting someone else to return that respect.

SETT is a program in which teen actors also function as peer educators and counselors. They tackle issues faces by teens today such as drug and alcohol abuse, teen pregnancy and depression.

Greater Toledo Urban League's  
**13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DINNER**  
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Children's Scholarship Fund

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**Valentine's Day**  
Kalvin Hughes Jazz Trio

**Sunday, February 14, 2010**  
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\$15.00 - Adults \$6.50 - Children  
\$20.00 - 1st Door \$8.50 - 1st Door



## Connecting Point's Former Clients Have Settled into Other Area Agencies

By Fletcher Word  
Sojourner's Truth Editor

On February 13, 2009, after months of hand-wringing and scrambling to stem the tide of growing debt, the board of directors of Connecting Point threw in the towel and closed the 35-year-old agency. At one point, the agency had employed as many as 187 people and had an annual budget in excess of \$9 million.

Now, one year later, virtually all the clients served by Connecting Point, say officials at the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of

Lucas County (MHR SB) — the primary funding source for the defunct agency, have been successfully placed in a variety of other area agencies that have taken up the slack in providing mental health and substance abuse services, school-based education programs, community outreach and residential treatment services.

"We never felt that we would lose all those kids," said Jackie Martin, executive director of MHR SB, in a recent conversation with The

Truth. "We have a big enough system here in Lucas County. Ninety percent of the clients were on or were Medicaid eligible meaning that they could go anywhere and every agency would vie for this guaranteed payer system."

According to Martin's figures, of the 1,495 clients Connecting Point had before it closed its doors, 1,211 have been placed in agencies such as Harbor Behavioral Healthcare, the Zepf Center, Unison Behavioral Health Group, Renewed Minds, Res-

cue Mental Health Services and Family Services of Northwest Ohio. The largest block of youth went to the Zepf Center because the former Connecting Point physicians ended up with that agency. Much of the drug and alcohol treatment staff ended up at Unison while the mental health specialists also went to Zepf.

In the past year, the Zepf Center has opened a child and adolescent mental health treatment program, Unison began an adolescent alcohol and other drug treatment program and Harbor took over the Transitional Living Program and provides service to youth 17-21 who need assistance transitioning into adulthood.

In addition, Unison has purchased the Connecting Point facility on Cherry Street in order to expand services to children and families in the area.

What MHR SB staff did was to ensure the youth were placed as quickly as possible and have since followed up

to track down the remaining clients and ascertain their needs. Phone calls have been made, mailings with return receipts have been sent. Martin said that only 11 clients of the 1,495 total have not been located. As for the rest of the unsettled, much of that number, said Martin, can be attributed to youth aging out of the system or families moving out of the area.

"Jackie asked those in the system to expedite intake," said Karen Olnhausen, director of MHR SB's Children's Services. "She worked hard to get them in rapidly."

The staff of MHR SB got into the Connecting Point files immediately and brought them to the county offices making it easy to dispense them to the proper agencies.

The transition, according to Martin and Olnhausen, has gone as smoothly as they had anticipated.

"We had no complaints about Connecting Point's closing from clients or families," said Martin. "Lots of complaints from staff, how-

ever."

Martin also said that the county agency had received virtually no complaints about the services being provided by the replacement agencies.

There has actually been a rather substantial financial benefit to the Connecting Point closing, noted Martin. She anticipates that, overall, the agency's closing will save about \$900,000 in administrative costs annually.

Of course, the closing of Connecting Point at the time generated no small amount of angst among observers of the scene.

"We were disappointed by the Connecting Point closing and the management issues but it shows how strong the system is," said Martin. "Everybody stepped up and asked what can we do and how quickly can we do it. Then much of what we did was to satisfy the critics who forecast chaos. There was a lot of negativity with no basis in fact but what has happened is what we expected to happen — kids got into service."

## Acomplished African-American Men to Appear on BGSU Panel

Special to The Truth

Three African-American men will share their experiences in a panel discussion at Bowling Green State University on Thursday, Feb. 11. "Accomplished African-American Men: A Rich Legacy" is part of BGSU's Black History Month celebration.

Guest speakers for the forum include Harold H. Brown, a member of the Tuskegee Airman and Congressional Medal recipient; and father and son physicians Dr. Alvin D. Jackson, director of the Ohio Department of Health, and Dr. Atiba Jackson, team physician for the Detroit Lions.

A pilot in WWII, Brown was twice shot down and spent the last two months of the war as a prisoner in Germany. After the war, he continued his military career, retiring as a lieutenant colonel after 23 years. He then began a second career, in education, eventually retiring from Columbus State Community College as vice president for academic affairs, having earned bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from Ohio State University. He next founded the consulting firm Brown and Associates, and also started Net Express, an Internet Provider Service, which he sold after five successful years. He is now also an education consultant for the State Board of Career Colleges and Schools in Ohio.

Dr. Alvin Jackson, director of the Ohio Department of Health, has a long history of providing health care to Ohioans. "Ohio's doctor," as he is known, became director of the Ohio Department of Health in June 2007, following his appointment by Gov. Ted Strickland. Before that, Dr. Jackson served as medical director of Community Health Services in Fremont, as chief of staff of Fremont Memorial Hospital and as a staff physician at the



Harold H. Brown  
(now)

Sandusky County Health Department.

Dr. Atiba Jackson has followed his father's footsteps to the medical profession. He is an orthopedic sports Fellow at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Mich., and has also served as a team physician for Oakland University athletes.

The discussion begins at 7 p.m. in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union Theater (Room

206, and will be followed by reception in the Theater Lounge. The event is free and open to the public.

The forum is jointly sponsored by BGSU's Division of Student Affairs, Student Health Services, College of Health and Human Services, and Black Student Union, as well as by the Wood County Hospital and Wood County Health Department.

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

## An Open Letter

(Continued from Page 3)



John C. Jones

as the president and CEO. We are a civil rights, social service organization with a mission *"to improve the social and economic conditions of each person in the community, particularly African-Americans, other minorities and those that are disadvantaged"*. We provide direct service in three primary areas: education, employment and care for the elderly (Senior Services). You can find more information and detail on our programs at

[www.gtul.org](http://www.gtul.org).

Historically, over the course of the last 13 years our primary focus has been on job training and placement however there is a shift occurring that will move our focus toward education and literacy. This area is one of the main barriers to employment and we firmly believe that it must be tackled early on in order to mitigate problems we see as youth mature into young adult and adulthood. We are one of 97 affili-

ates within the National Urban League Movement, which was founded in 1910. So as we celebrate our Centennial year of service we as an organization have made a decision to not just celebrate, but recommit and redefine how we serve those that are most marginalized in this community.

### #2 – Where will the money go?

Many non-profit organizations have operated (and continue to operate) under the idea that they should not have a "surplus" and their bottom line of income over expenses should be zero. That is not the idea that I ascribe to for one very simple reason – if there is no margin, there can be no mission! This does not mean that there are surplus dollars and money is being spent frivolously on bonuses for executives or junkets in tropical locations, but what it does mean is that there must be in

place a "working capital fund" to ensure the programs have the undergirding and support necessary for them to operate at a very high and efficient level. Most grant dollars today offer a limited amount of administrative dollars within their funding stream, which is usually not enough to maintain all of the things necessary to operate (i.e. – rent, utilities, etc.). Also to be a highly effective organization, there should be adequate staff from an administrative perspective that are dedicated to the organization and not solely tied to a grant funded program that may end after 12, 18 or 24 months. The dollars we are proposing to raise will support and build a "working capital fund" that will ensure our sustainability for years to come.

### #3 – You have programs, but will they be around in 60 days or six months?

Our programs are well funded! From Project Reconnect funded through Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services to our work with the Financial Stability Collaborative funded through the United Way to our Senior Program operated out of the J. Frank Troy Senior Center funded in large part by the Area Office on Aging, we have funded programs. The funding for those programs are tied directly to the direct services we provide.

What affords us the opportunity to do advocacy work and develop or expand programs is the utilization of resources that are not restricted to a particular program. We have been fortunate to acquire additional grant support, but it takes an enormous amount of research and writing to do so, which is another area that these additional funds will help to undergird. We also recognize that by offering a "menu of services" to the community and to potential funders we open the door to obtain additional support for the programs we offer. So from a program perspective we will be here, but we need the additional support to ensure the future stability of

our entire organization.

### #4 – Why isn't the Annual Dinner enough?

Many folks have believed that through the Annual Dinner (which is scheduled for Friday, March 12, 2010) we generate all of the support needed to operate this organization. Unfortunately, that is not the case. While the dinner is the largest fundraiser we have, it does not generate enough for us to build the type of sustainability that we seek. If you look at high-performing organizations on a national level and then on a local level, they are able to generate revenue from multiple donor sources and they do not rely solely on one "event" to survive. Again, it becomes necessary to change with the times and ensure we are reaching a broad base of people because we serve the entire Toledo community.

### #5 – Why should I give?

There are many reasons to give. For one person it could be the focus on education and youth, seeing how we have afforded more than 140 students this past year the opportunity to take and pass their Ohio Graduation Tests. For another it could be our focus on employment, where we have been able to place nearly 30 percent of our clients in jobs (where "there are no jobs") and help many (nearly 70 percent) that were previously incarcerated or have a prior record to gain skills necessary for employment.

For yet another it could be our senior program, where we see nearly 35 senior citizens on average each day at the J. Frank Troy Senior Center. For countless others it could be our utilization of resources, because approximately 80 cents of every dollar currently goes directly to support our programs. We are young (only 14-years old) yet we have accomplished much, but without a significant support from this community our impact will be marginalized and that clearly is not the direction that neither I, nor our

Board of Directors choose to go.

At the end of the day, Good People, we not only ask for your support in a monetary way, we need you to engage in service with us. We need your information so we can build a solid volunteer core of people that can be deployed in a moment's notice to address the ills that plague this community. I am convinced that this work we are engaged in is not to be taken lightly, but rather it is (for me) a divine calling.

I often get in trouble at least once when I speak, so here I go again...it would be a travesty for a community the size of Toledo to not have an Urban League affiliate. The unfortunate part is that many people regardless of color treat some minority organizations like "charitable cases" as opposed to institutions in which to invest. I realize that part of that onus lies on what we do internally. We must define who we are, what we do, and why to invest more clearly and succinctly. I do hope that I have begun to do that and I am confident that over the course of the coming weeks and months we will share with you a vision and a focus that will move us forward to address the needs of our youth specifically and our community as a whole.

Here are the levels in which you can give: "Champion of an Equal Society" - \$5,000; "Whitney M. Young Legacy of Influence Society" - \$1,000; "Patron" - \$750; "Benefactor" - \$500; "Sustainer" - \$250; "Supporter" - \$100; "Family" - \$50; "Individual" - \$25; "Senior Citizen/Student" - \$15. There are also auxiliary groups that can be joined for a small membership fee and business memberships. I am excited about our future and about the success of this community and I ask that you join me in the Movement. **NOW is the time!!!!**

Rev. John C. Jones  
President and CEO  
Office: 419-243-3343  
Fax: 419-243-5445  
Email:  
[john.jones@gtul.org](mailto:john.jones@gtul.org)  
Web: [www.gtul.org](http://www.gtul.org)



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DOFU: 05/13/2009



## A Valentine's Day Question: Do Soul Mates Exist?

By Michael Hayes  
Minister of Culture

Valentine's Day 2010. What's on your mind, dear readers?

As for me, I just watched someone get married the other day.

Yep, that's right.

I've been co-producing/co-writing this man's music for years, have embraced him as family for years and this past Sunday I watched U.G.E.'s own R&B/Soulman Aye Dee get married.

Adriant Gardner wed Tawana Hardy in a simple, laid back ceremony with family and friends in attendance.

Regardless of all that was going on, when it was time for Adriant & Tawana to exchange vows... the look in their eyes was sheer joy and reverence for the moment solidifying their love.

So, it got me thinking.

On Facebook I love talking about relationships, love, men vs. women, etc.

I've led discussion groups and panels on some topics relating to matters of the heart and the ups and downs of love, but I enjoy chopping it up because it is such a vital part of life in our society.

Decisions, decisions... to bop or not to bop.

Many people enjoy singlehood, but also many wanna be boo-ed up.

For those who are more relationship-minded, the prevailing concern is how to de-



termine the most complete match for you.

Compatibility vs. Chemistry and, ultimately, the question:

### IS THERE A SUCH THING AS A SOUL MATE?

During fourth grade at Ella P. Stewart (in the 80's it was a regular elementary), the initial understanding of what a soul mate was came to light

for me.

We got a new student one day. She had on white, she had curly hair (I think she was bi-racial) and she was lovely. Her name was Michelle and my teacher Mrs. Ludwig sat her right next to me and BAM... to me that was a soul mate.

I thought all 'Michael's got 'Michelle's and all 'Robert's got Roberta's and

so on. In high school my understanding became much more elaborate and after a few relationships I had my mind made up:

Yes, soul mates exist and I'm looking for mine asap!

But in recent years I find myself somewhat back at the drawing board, or at the very least drawing distinction between one's IDEAL mate and one's SOUL mate.

Some feel you can have more than one, others feel they don't exist at all so as Winter 2010 brings us all closer to those we cuddle with... what is a soul mate?

I once told someone:

"Before you and I met, before we had names, before we were conceived... everything that you are and will be was partnered with everything that I am and will be."

I said those words to someone as my expression of what a soul mate is. Meaning that your connection is deeper than your likes/dislikes being similar, deeper than if you make sense on paper or not, deeper than the way you feel when they are around.

Soul mates have a union designed with purpose.

A bond at the very origin of the energy of the two.

Can you read each other's minds? Maybe, maybe not.

But things simply flow with your soul mate.

Not meaning that problems don't arise, but meaning that solutions arrive with ease.

Just having mutual re-

spect, consideration and a connection are some of what make a relationship sustainable, loving and fulfilling.

However a soul mate is that plus a lot more. I think.

But if a soul mate is so great, is it possible you can miss yours?

Do you only get one? What if your soul mate was born in Bolivia

and you were born and raised in Baltimore?

Is it destined you will surely meet? What if the person designed to fit best with you marries someone else before you even meet them?

I'm sure those who have absolute faith in soul mates would reply that all these things will just properly fall into place, because after all... it's your soul mate.

But is it possible to be deeply happy and fulfilled without even worrying about if this person is your soul mate or not?

I would have to say HELLS YEA!

If his strong areas are your weak areas and vice versa...

If the little things you've always wanted a man to do are getting done by this man and he's happy to do them...

If you enjoy each other's company and have a completely balanced and fully gratifying relationship, maybe bothering with the soul mate question would be counterproductive and you should just rock out with who you have.

The main thing I would

ask you all to remember is DO NOT DECIEVE!

If you are not sure of your feelings, admit that.

If you are only looking for sex, admit that.

If you are only ready for/not ready for commitment, admit that.

Be up front with your expectations.

But leave room for those unexpected moments where someone you never guessed would sweep you off your feet just might do that.

Real talk, in a way so much of our society is based on the decisions we all make about whom we give our love to.

Talk shows are infested with human beings who responded to the human need to have company, to have closeness but made bad choices clouded by faulty judgment. It is increasingly more and more normal to see people having baby daddies/baby mommas instead of husbands/wives and even though blended families and people doing it on their own get all my respect, there is something about having that two-parent home that you just can't replace.

Obviously I don't have all the answers.

But I know one friend of mine has his soul mate, another friend of mine has a loving and committed relationship and Aye Dee just got married.

So if love is what you want, trust me... it's doable!

## ProMedica Health System Awards Over \$50,000 in Prizes at Scholarship Competition Targeting Obesity

Special to The Truth

ProMedica Health System (PHS) is pleased to announce that two students from Notre Dame Academy in Toledo, and a student from St. John's Jesuit High School in Toledo are the first-place winners of its Fields of Green scholarship competition. PHS presented each participant with a \$5,000 college scholarship on Saturday, Jan. 30 at The Toledo Hospital.

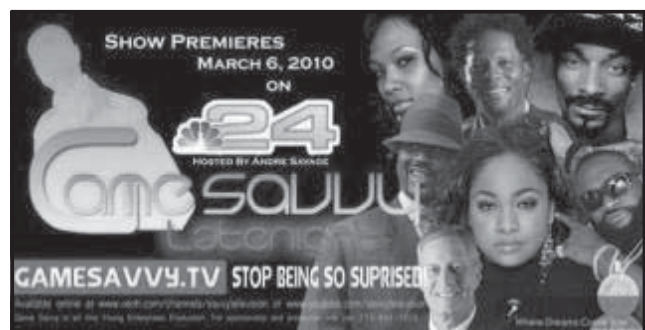
The Fields of Green scholarship program, designed to target childhood obesity, required teens to create a 20-30 minute health and fitness program for elementary school children. Each program included a detailed budget, a method for evaluating the program's success and a creative slogan. The first-place entry will be implemented in several area elementary schools this spring.

PHS awarded \$2,500 college scholarships to team members from Blissfield High School in Blissfield Mich., and Perrysburg High School in Perrysburg, Ohio, who tied for second place. There was also a third-place tie between teams from Tinora High School in Defiance, Ohio, and Bellevue Senior High School in Bellevue, Ohio. Eight of those individuals walked away with \$1,000 scholarships.

The following 11 schools in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan were represented at the event and received \$1,000 from PHS to support its health and science programs: Bellevue High School in Bellevue, Ohio; Blissfield High School in Blissfield, Mich.; Cardinal Stritch High School in Oregon, Ohio; Fairview High School in Sherwood, Ohio; Notre Dame Academy in Toledo, Ohio; Perrysburg High School in Perrysburg, Ohio; Northview High School and Southview High School in Sylvania, Ohio; St. John's Jesuit High School in Toledo, Ohio; Tinora High School in Defiance, Ohio; and Woodmore High School in Elmore, Ohio.

The annual scholarship competition is part of a comprehensive health initiative to address obesity in children and adults. Another program called the Healthy Kids Conversation Map® Program includes a series of interactive, educational sessions conducted in various community settings to encourage children and adults to adopt healthy eating habits.

For more information about PHS, visit [www.promedica.org](http://www.promedica.org).



**Book Review****Simeon's Story**

(Continued from Page 9)

After a long day of work, Wright, Bobo, and three other boys went to a nearby store for some refreshments. For about a minute, Bobo was alone in the building with a white woman and as she stormed out, he brashly whistled at her. Days later, as Wright slept next to his cousin, two white men entered the family's house and snatched Emmett "Bobo" Till.

In his foreword, Wright's co-author Herb Boyd explains that this story almost didn't see publication. Simeon Wright was tired of people taking artistic license with the story of his cousin's murder. There were things

that Wright didn't care to remember, but he eventually agreed to lay some nasty myths to rest.

And with crystal clarity and blistering prose, Wright does just that.

Recalling a somewhat carefree childhood, Wright tells of youth interrupted by something so horrific that it hurts to read

about it. He speaks of his father's dignity and bravery, and of deep disappointment that was eventually soothed.

About those myths perpetuated by journalists, Wright has a few choice words. With anger apparent, he advises that "anyone planning on working in the communications

field... go to the primary sources. They know what really happened."

Surprisingly, you'll probably find this book in the YA section of your library or bookstore, but don't let that deter you from this powerful, important memoir. *Simeon's Story* is a story you must read.



# Black Market Place

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**West Village - \$149,500**  
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**4522 Oak Creek \$84,500**  
3 BDRM brick/vinyl ranch home 2.5 baths and Master Suite. Large LR/DR with updated kitchen. 2.5 car attached garage and inground pool. **Subject to lender approval.**  
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# CLASSIFIEDS

February 10, 2010

Page 15

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Send cover letter and resume to [toledo@tutoringinyourhome.com](mailto:toledo@tutoringinyourhome.com) or post pre-application on [www.tutoringinyourhome.com](http://www.tutoringinyourhome.com).

## THE WILLARD APARTMENTS 2257 Upton Avenue

Preferred Properties, Inc. is accepting applications for a 1 bedroom (\$365) and 2 bedroom (\$415) apartments with a gas allowance. Section 8 vouchers accepted.

Application fee is \$25. For an appointment to apply or more information call (419) 389-0361.



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**FACILITIES MANAGER**- 40 hours/week—52 weeks/year. \$21.34 hour (post-probationary) Develop, plan, and coordinate new facilities for the Head Start Program. Assist with all Building and Capital Cost expenditures for budget. Manage Building Inspections including: Building, Electrical, Plumbing, and initial Fire Inspections. **Qualifications:** Bachelor's Degree (w/3 years of Construction/Project Mgmt experience) from an accredited College or University in Facilities Management **OR** Associate's Degree (w/ 5-7 years of exp). 3 years of excellent supervisory experience. Ability to read and interpret blueprints and floor plans. Working knowledge of contracts, leases, and inventory control.

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**Qualifications:** Associate Degree (**required**) Bachelor Degree (preferred) in Early Childhood Education. Two years of experience working with 3-5 year old children.

Application deadline: **Wednesday, February 17, 2010**. Apply at EOPA, 525 Hamilton St., Ste. 202., 8:30-3:30. Must have reliable transportation and possess a valid Driver's License with proof of auto and liability insurance. Employment is contingent upon successful completion of background check and possible drug testing. **NO RESUMES ACCEPTED WITHOUT A COMPLETED APPLICATION. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE!** Please visit [www.eopa.org](http://www.eopa.org) for more information. EOE.

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## Operations Specialist II

The Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority seeks an Operations Specialist II to perform various functions associated with the day-to-day operations of Toledo Express Airport, a non-hub passenger and international air cargo airport, and Metcalf Field, a general aviation airport, under direct supervision. Beginning salary range: \$36,000 - \$45,000.

Qualifications include:

- Bachelor degree from accredited institution in aviation management, aviation science, business administration, or relevant field, or demonstrated growth, development, and progressively increasing responsibility in operations or management in the transportation industry or comparable experience.
- One (1) year of successful operations experience at an airport.

· Satisfactory results on background investigation. **Special Requirement:** This airport-specific position requires satisfactory completion of FAA/TSA 10-year employment history verification prior to being considered for the position, which will include a criminal history records check.

· Residency in Lucas County or in an adjacent county within the State of Ohio.

A complete job description is available at [www.toledoportauthority.org](http://www.toledoportauthority.org) and [www.toledoexpress.com](http://www.toledoexpress.com).

Qualified candidates may forward their resumes electronically to [pryan@toledoportauthority.org](mailto:pryan@toledoportauthority.org) or via regular mail to the Human Resources Department, Toledo Lucas County Port Authority, One Maritime Plaza, Toledo, Ohio 43604-1865. Resumes will be accepted until February 27, 2010.

The Toledo Lucas County Port Authority is an equal opportunity employer.

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Qualifications for the position include: High school graduate GED preferred; must have valid certification from USDOL/Ohio Apprenticeship Council registered program apprenticeship program (Electrician Journeyman Card). Full time. May work nights and weekends.

To apply, submit a cover letter (include position title and job), a resume, as well as three professional references to: The University of Toledo, Human Resources Department, Toledo, Ohio 43606-3390; Fax (419) 530-1490; or email [recruit@utoledo.edu](mailto:recruit@utoledo.edu), which is preferred. Use only one method of application. **Resumes must be received by Friday, February 12, 2010.**

UT is an EEO, AA Employer and Educator.

## INTERESTED BIDDERS: TOLEDO PUBLIC SCHOOLS – WOODWARD HIGH SCHOOL – FURNISHINGS AND EQUIPMENT PACKAGE

Sealed bids will be accepted by the Board of Education of the Toledo Public School District until **1:00 p.m. on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010**, at the Toledo Public Schools Treasurers' Room, 420 E. Manhattan Blvd., Toledo, Ohio 43608, for all labor, material and supervision necessary for the Furnishings and Equipment of Woodward High School, as more fully described in the drawings and specifications for the project prepared by The Collaborative, Inc. and will be opened publicly and read immediately thereafter.

Bid Documents for the project may be examined at the F.W. Dodge plan rooms in Columbus, Builders Exchange in Toledo, University of Toledo – Capacity Building, E.O.P.A. – Hamilton Building, Northwest Ohio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and The Plan Room in Ann Arbor, Construction Association of Michigan, Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce and Ohio Construction News.

Bidders may obtain copies of the documents starting **February 10th, 2010 which can be purchased from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Rd, Toledo, Ohio 43615 Phone: 419-385-5303. Drawings may be obtained on CD-ROM for no cost with the purchase of the specifications.**

A **MANDATORY PREBID CONFERENCE** is scheduled for **February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.** at Toledo Public Schools, 420 E. Manhattan Blvd., Toledo, Ohio 43608

If you have any questions or a need for additional information, please direct all questions in writing to Jessica.Dandino@lgb-llc.com, by phone at (419) 776-5600, or (fax) (877) 281-0784.

Bid Item #1: Woodward High School School FF&E	\$704,375.00
Bid Item #2: Woodward High School Office FF&E	\$252,351.00
Total Estimate:	\$956,726.00

## Local Groups Unite to Send Assistance of Haiti

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*



Members of local groups united on Saturday, January 23, to load up a truck with supplies bound for earthquake stricken Haiti. The donations were taken to the Tireman Auto Service Center on Monroe Street where they were placed on trucks headed to ports and airports—destination Port-au-Prince.

The local chapters of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., and Jack and Jill of America all contributed to the drive for Haiti, primarily with paper products and first aid kits.

## Valentine Party, Dinner and Dance

Sponsored by



*Love and friendship are in the air,  
cupids arrows flying everywhere!  
Hearts and flowers.  
Hugs and kisses.  
Let's get together  
to share Valentine wishes*

Please join us for a

### Valentine Party

Saturday, February 13th, 6:30 pm until 12 midnight

Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres 6:30 to 8 pm

Dinner 8 to 9:15

Dancing until midnight

Entertainment by SAPPHIRE ICE (Formerly known as Desire)

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Tickets available @ Family Activities Club 6202 Trust Drive Holland, Ohio  
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**Sunday March 21, 2010**  
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