

Local and National News

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# The Sojourner's Truth

Volume 19, No.10

*"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."*

December 29, 2010

## 2010 in Review Top Stories



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## This Strikes Us ...

*A Sojourner's Truth Editorial*

For historians, the year 2010 may well prove to be the defining period of the Obama presidency – be it four years or eight.

As a result of the sluggish economy, along with other problems such as the Gulf oil spill, President Obama and the Democratic Party took a huge hit during the mid-term elections, losing five seats in the Senate and more than 60 seats in the House. They also lost control of the lower chamber.

However, in spite of that November debacle and the still pathetic year-end employment numbers, 2010, in the long run, may well be remembered as the year in which the Obama presidency left an indelible mark on the direction this country takes for the next several decades.

The president's successes began early in the year with the passage of the health care bill and the financial reform package.

One cannot overstate the difficulty that the White House faced in getting the health care bill passed given the long history of health care reform failure (75 years), the lack of solidarity within the Democratic Party's own ranks and the loss of the Massachusetts Senate seat long held by universal health care advocate Ted Kennedy.

Even now Republicans are challenging the bill in the courts and threatening repeal since they will have a majority in the House come the new year. And while their chances of repeal are virtually non-existent, there are some opportunities in the courts in light of the conservative majority that sits on the U.S. Supreme Court.

In fact, there had never been a ground-swell of support for the health care bill, before or after enactment, even among Obama's own supporters. It is, after all, a compromise package in which very few find complete satisfaction.

Adding to the wide-spread disgruntlement is the fact that many in the country, Obama's close supporters among them, would wonder why the president would take on the task of health care passage when his hands were already so full with trying to repair the economy.

Obama and his advisors wisely recognized that the window of opportunity to get something done on health care would close with the mid-term elections as they always do. Presidents lose congressional seats two years into their terms – always have, always will.

So as the White House undertook its long, inexorable march to the November elections, the insurgent tea partiers convinced just enough voters that they needed to "take back their country" and turn back the tide of socialism as represented by ObamaCare and the president's plan to force financial reforms upon wealthy Wall Streeters.

Our favorite story of the mid-term elections took place in tiny McKee, KY, county seat of Jackson County with just over 9,000 registered voters. Folks in Jackson County – who gave Obama 14 percent of their vote in 2008 – were mad as hell about the way government were intruding in their lives and the "socialistic" programs that threatened to destroy the American way of life.

They gave the Republicans about 87 percent of their vote this year.

We should mention that McKee has a poverty rate of about 60 percent and about 75 percent of its residents are on some form of government assistance – welfare, food stamps, Social Security, Medicaid, etc. So many of these programs are by now so indelibly etched into lives that recipients have chosen to ignore they are in fact government programs rather than manna from above.

But just when it seems as if the White House was on the verge of limping to a bathetic two-year close to a one-term presidency, the post election, lame duck congressional session brought about an Obama resurgence.

In short order, Congress approved a tax plan extending tax cuts and unemployment benefits, a repeal of the military's don't ask, don't tell policy and the new START treaty – the centerpiece of Obama's foreign policy.

The DADT – which prevents gays and lesbians from serving openly in the nation's armed forces – repeal was the most startling turnabout for Obama who had promised during his presidential campaign that he would change this policy.

The repeal seemed dead in the water when Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid attempted to attach it to a military spending bill. Then a second effort to present it as a stand-alone ordinance met with approval in both houses.

Now as the year draws to a close, Obama seems to have mastered the ability to work with Republicans who themselves are now forced to help govern rather than merely act as obstructionists at every turn.

Next up for the president and his congressional partners? Immigration reform and an attempt to get their arms around the complicated energy issues facing the country.

After the various ways the White House has managed to get its agenda enacted in 2010 despite all the obstacles, one has to feel optimistic that the president will make some headway in dealing with both of these difficult policy issues in 2011.

## Unison Urges You To "Pass It On" Via Text: "Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving!"

### Help buzzed driving prevention message go viral through peer to peer communication

*Special to The Truth*

In an effort to get impaired drivers off the road during this holiday season, Unison Behavioral Health Group is urging NW Ohio and SE Michigan mobile phone users to text the important prevention mes-

sage, "Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving" to family and friends. Unison, in partnership with the Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Lucas County, is working to increase awareness about impaired, or "buzzed" driv-

ing. Buzzed and drunk driving poses threats to public safety, as evidenced by the number of fatal crashes each year on our highways. In Lucas County, **one in three drivers** will be impacted by a

buzzed and/or drunk driver this holiday season. "We know that the holiday season can be one of the deadliest and most dangerous times on America's roadways due to an increase in buzzed and drunk driving," said Larry

Hamme, Ph.D., chief clinical officer for Unison. "Many people just don't realize how dangerous buzzed driving really is. Increasing public awareness can help save lives."

Save a Life – Send a Text: Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving!

Enlisting the support of local communities to text the "Buzzed Driving" prevention message is a de  
(Continued on Page 10)

## Community Calendar

December 31

AKA Sorority New Year's Eve Masquerade Ball: Pinnacle; Dinner and cocktails; Fundraiser for scholarships and community service; 7 pm: 419-902-9884 or 419-392-4511  
Beulah Baptist Church New Year's Eve Service: 10:30 pm; Breakfast served

January 1

Happy New Year!!

January 2

St. Paul AME Zion Homecoming Celebration: "There's No Place Like Home;" 419-243-1065

January 8

West Toledo Bereavement Ministry Monthly Meeting: 1430 W. Bancroft; 10 am: 567-249-7470

January 11

Community Resource Fair: Hosted by Washington Local Schools; Whitmer Cafeteria; 4 to 7 pm; Allowing families to access community agencies in a one-stop-shop setting; Free to all Toledoans; Over 40 local agencies will be present: 419-473-8237

January 22

Warren AME 2011 Gospel Extravaganza: 4 pm; Calling all praise teams, choirs, praise dancers, vocalists, step teams. Drill and mime teams: 419-243-2237  
Toledo School for the Arts Open House: 10 am: 419-246-8732 ext 250

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# Did You Know About This....?

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq.  
Guest Column



Even at great risk to my personal safety and welfare and at the cost of possibly exposing my valuable secret sources inside the Toledo Police Department, I did obtain the police test and scoring that resulted in the promotion of Officer Diane Chandler to that of a sergeant.

Yes, this is the same Diane Chandler who responded to a call at a group home and in within five minutes of wiping her boots on the front doormat, shot Linda Hicks four times.

Did I mention that within five minutes of entering the home, Officer Chandler sent Linda Hicks into eternity?

Officer Chandler acted as jury, judge and executioner in a situation that could have been handled in such a manner that Linda Hicks would be alive today celebrating a new year with her griev-

ing family members. The below, purloined test and the answers would suggest that. For reasons of brevity, I have only included the pertinent test questions and possible answers that partly resulted in Officer Chandler being honored for her excellent marksmanship on an older, mentally ill person.

**QUESTION 17:** When confronted by a person who appears to be mentally ill, what should your response be:

- (1) wait for backup if there is no immediate danger to others or myself.
- (2) call Rescue Crisis for professional intervention and assistance.
- (3) if at all possible confine or subdue the person until assistance arrives.
- (4) take off the gun safety and commence firing at will...after all, they are mentally ill. Don't take a chance!

**QUESTION 27:** If you have options other than the use of deadly force on a mentally ill person, what should you do according to paragraph 33.23(1)(a) of the police safety manual:

- (1) use a taser to stun and subdue.
- (2) block and secure the exit of the mentally-ill person so that he or she is

confined to a safe space and can not hurt someone else.

(3) if available, get those who know this person to assist in calming him or her down until professional help arrives.

(4) disregard the stupid safety manual and commence firing!

**QUESTION 38:** When you get a distress call regarding a mentally-ill person, before you arrive at the site what should you do as per paragraph 33.75 (1)(k) of the police safety manual:

- (1) ask the caretaker about the situation and advise him or her to secure the area.
- (2) make sure that Rescue Crisis is already in progress to the site.
- (3) check to make sure that Ol' Faithful is locked and loaded!
- (4) proceed with caution since a mentally-ill person is not in control of their mental facilities.

**ESSAY QUESTION NUMBER FIVE:** Describe in detail an incident in which you were called to a home of a mentally-ill person and what happened. Remember to stay within the confines of the recommendations of the police safety manual in regards to your answers:  
Answer: I got a call to

go to the group home of a mentally-ill person.

When I arrived, I was told that a Linda Hicks was seemingly off of her meds and had a pair of craft scissors in her hands.

I got out of the squad car. My heart was beating like a runaway locomotive.

I was flushed with excitement. Who knows what was ahead. I went up to the house, knocked, went inside and was met by someone in the house who gave me the lowdown on what was happening.

I did not call for Rescue Crisis because I believed that I could control the situation without any help.

After all, what could Rescue Crisis do that I could not do? I asked where was Linda Hicks and I was told that she was in her bedroom with the scissors.

My partner and I went to the room and saw Linda Hicks lying calmly down

on the bed with her hands concealed beneath her stomach chest area.

I called out to her to show me her hands and she either said "no" or she did not respond.

I called out again but the response was not what I was looking for. At this time, I am getting jacked up and the juices are flowing. We go further into the bedroom and try to get this woman up but she then starts to get up on her own and steps towards us.

I thought I would either club her or tase her but I resorted to Ol'

Faithful and pulled out my gun.

I felt threatened by the craft scissors and before I knew it, I heard four loud explosive sounds.

I then realized that it was me who was firing into this woman! All four slugs hit their target and she dropped like a 100-pound bag of nuts.

Could I have simply closed the bedroom door

and waited for intervention from a mental health agency? Sure, but why?

Could I have simply closed the door and made sure that Linda Hicks did not exit? Sure, but why?

About how much time elapsed from the time I arrived and Ol' Faithful did her duty? About five minutes. Why the question?

Would I do the same thing again? Probably not. I would not have fired four shots...maybe just three shots. I must admit that I got a little carried away with that fourth shot!

Hey...! I hope these answers don't hurt my chances for promotion to sergeant!

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com



## Letter

I've been gone since the late 60's but Toledo is still home. I was glad to see Mrs. Griffin is back on the job. It appears she didn't lose her fighting spirit for the years she was gone. I commend her and wish her many blessings in the future.

**Nancy Frierson-Jameson**  
Elk Grove, CA 95758

## New Year's Day

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Detroit, Michigan

"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' Doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." Acts 2:42

# Top Stories of 2010: Crime, Candidates, Cash Shortfalls

By Fletcher Word  
Sojourner's Truth Editor

As we sit back at the end of every year and contemplate the good, the bad and the ugly of the past 12 months, we always reach the same conclusion. Whew, what a year that was! When have we not said that?

There's always an election (this year's national midterms), a crisis or two (the Gulf oil spill), a war or two, a scandal or two or three and some brutal, senseless crimes.

This year was no exception both nationally and locally.

On the national level, the rise and fall ... and rise of President Obama took center stage. The insurgent Tea Party Movement, the Republican election sweep and the passage of a health care bill all qualify for top stories of 2010.

On the local level, politics and education dominated our headlines along with a crime or two, a casino and a trial.

Let's start with the trial.

Lucas County Sheriff James Telb, along with a key associate Capt Robert McBroom, were acquitted in a federal court in December of plotting to cover up a crime in the death of an inmate in 2004. The death was a result of a sleeper hold applied by retired Sgt. John Gray, who was convicted of one count of violating the civil rights of the inmate and two counts of writing false reports.

Telb, a law enforcement official for about a half a century, has led the Sheriff's Department for about half that length of



Groundbreaking for Hollywood Casino

time. With only two years to go on his current term of office, re-election would seem to be unlikely.

The Hollywood Casino is coming to town – the first casino in Ohio.

“There are those watershed moments that change the landscape of a community – this is one of those moments,” said Jerry Anderson, WTOL-11 news anchor on August 12 as he opened the groundbreaking ceremony for the Hollywood Casino Toledo.

We'll see just how much the landscape changes shortly. The construction phase brings in over 2,000 jobs during a two-year period and the casino will be adding 1,200 permanent jobs to the local economy starting in 2012.

Then, of course, we have the Toledo Public Schools. One great big story ... or four or five smaller ones, all of impor-

ance during the year.

A new superintendent was hired. Jerome Pecko, Ph.D., was the last candidate standing after at least one withdrew his name because of what he perceived to be a dysfunctional board of education. Over the last year or so, he certainly was not the only observer to come away with that perception.

Pecko took over in August after having served as superintendent of the Barberton City Schools and the Summit County Springfield Local School district – both in the Akron area.

Pecko's first charge – get a levy passed. His second – make the recent cuts in TPS services work.

As to the levy issue, TPS had tried to get an income tax measure passed on the May 4 primary ballot. That request was denied by voters by a more than 27 percent mar-

gers turned down this latest request by a more than 15 percent margin.

Meanwhile the cuts took place.

Teachers were dropped, transportation was reduced, sports were sliced and Libbey High School was closed, all to the consternation of many who had urged voters not to pass the funding initiatives.

At the end of the year, TPS is faced with a daunting challenge. The dollars aren't getting any easier to find with a Republican governor about to take office, a student population that is fleeing for greener pastures and an economy that is recovering at a snail's pace.

Welcome to Toledo, Dr. Pecko!

And what about local politics?

First we have the Mayor Mike Bell story.

Bell took office in January and immediately at-

tacked the budget deficit facing the City of Toledo. He managed to bring a certain amount of calm and transparency to the task as he worked with, and against, the unions to seek their help in closing the gap. Some went along without a squabble, others, such as the police officers, balked at every turn.

Nevertheless, it got done. This year. It won't be getting any easier in the future.

Then, of course, we had our local elections.

While the Republicans may have swept the nation and the rest of Ohio, Democrats managed to salvage another strong showing at the polls here in Lucas County. State Rep Barbara Sears was one of the few local Republicans to gain a victory.

Perhaps the most interesting race was that involving U.S. Congress-

(Continued on Page 5)



Mayor Mike Bell introduces Rep. Edna Brown at fundraiser

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## Albert Earl

Founder of Earl Enterprises, LLC, a tutoring and mentoring non-profit agency that works with more than 400 students in seven Ohio cities; organizer of the "Restoration of the Village" conference which brought hundreds of educators and youth advocates

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**Top Stories of 2010**

*(Continued from Page 4)*

woman Marcy Kaptur and her Republican challenger, businessman Rich Iott, a Tea Party favorite. Iott really never had a chance against Kaptur, who has been serving in Congress since 1983, but he certainly didn't have to self-destruct in such a manner. Nazi reenactments, denying support for the landmark 1964 Civil Rights Act, touting his credential as a jobs creator while hoping voters would have forgotten about the Food Town debacle that resulted in the loss of 5,000 jobs. The worst campaign of the year by a big spender.

The race that generated



*TPS Superintendant Jerome Pecko*



*Yvette McGee Brown*



*Carol Contrada*



little excitement prior to Election Day, primarily because of the good will extended by both candidates, caught fire afterwards and is still creating a buzz.

It looked for a moment as if Toledo City Councilman George Sarantou, a Republican, had won his race for Lucas County Commissioner against Democrat Carol Contrada, a Sylvania Township trustee. But then the absentee ballots arrived and Contrada, at this point, has the edge by 191 votes. Court battles to follow. Stay tuned.

The local candidate of the year, however, is State Rep. Edna Brown, soon to be State Senator Edna Brown.

Against all odds, she won her Democratic primary in May beating Toledo City Councilman Joe

McNamara. McNamara would have appeared to be the odds on favorite. He had the money, he had won a city-wide race on several occasions, he had served as president of City Council, garnering all kinds of free publicity. And he had the money – did we mention that?

But here comes Edna Brown, with a low-key, grass roots campaign and routed McNamara by a 12

point margin.

Then she goes after Republican City Councilman Tom Waniewski in the general election and her campaign – the little engine that could and did – tops him by 20 points!

After all the excitement of 2010, it's hard to see how 2011 can do any better from a news perspective. But well give it a try in 12 months.

Next year – same time, same place.

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# TPS Foundation Announces 11th Round of Grants, New Named Scholarships

Special to The Truth

The Toledo Public Schools Foundation, established in 1999 to enhance teaching and learning in the leading urban school district in Ohio, expects to award up to \$117,250 in its 11th round of grants this spring, announced Susan K. Zurawski, executive director of the Toledo Public Schools Foundation.

"This year, we have 11 new named scholarships that have been established by alumni and friends of the district and the Foundation for our students," said Zurawski.

Newly Named Scholarships

**Dr. Robert Brundage Memorial/Scott High School Alumni Assoc. Scholarship - \$1,000**

The scholarship is in memory of Toledo resident, activist, musician, educator, and Scott alumnus ('60) Robert Brundage, a true humanitarian who died July 7, 2009.

Brundage had earned

doctorates in sociology, music, and science.

**FirstMerit Bank Wealth Management Services Finance Scholarship - \$1,000**

The Fund has been established in conjunction with the Toledo Public

Schools Foundation Endowment, which is managed by FirstMerit Bank Wealth Management Services.

**Health Management Solutions Scholarship - \$1,000**

Racole "Cocoa Da Barber" Hill Memorial Scholarship for a Vocational Trade - \$2,000

The scholarship is in memory of Racole "Cocoa Da Barber" Hill (Scott H.S. '86), who died September 7, 2010.

**Huntington Bank College Scholarship for a TPS Minority - \$1,000**

**Medco Health Solutions, Inc., Pharmacy Scholarship - \$1,000**

**Shirley M. Sebree Scholarship - \$1,000**

The scholarship is in honor of Shirley M. Sebree, Ph.D., author, musician, and retired 30-year TPS educator.

**Clarence R. Smith, Jr., and Patricia A. Smith Scholarship - \$1,000**

The scholarship is in honor of Clarence R. Smith, Jr., (Scott H.S. '66), long-time TPS teacher and administrator who devoted his 45-plus-year career encouraging and nurturing the love of music in others.

**Solutions for Documents, Xerox, Technology Scholarship - \$1,000**

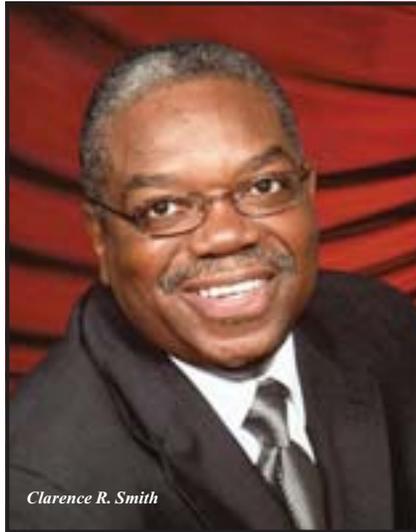
**Isaiah Thomas Scholarship - \$1,000**

The scholarship is in memory of seven-year-old Isaiah Thomas, who died June 3, 2006.

**TPS Superintendent's Scholarship - \$1,000**

The Fund has been established by current TPS Superintendent Dr. Jerome Pecko for a TPS minority student who will pursue a teaching career in K-12 public

(Continued on Page 9)



Clarence R. Smith



DR SHIRLEY SEBREE

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## Scholarships

(Continued from Page 8)

schools.

Toledo Public Schools teachers, students, schools, and organizations are invited to apply for funds by the deadline of **1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 2, 2011**. Grants generally will be made in the amount of \$500 or \$1,000. Awards will be announced in the spring at Salute to Scholars event. Funding of selected projects will be released for use at the start of the

2011-2012 school year.

"I am very pleased to announce that we are accepting our 11<sup>th</sup> round of grant applications for funding of proposals that advance the educational mission of the Toledo Public Schools," said

Deborah A. Barnett, president of the Toledo Public Schools Foundation. "This has been made possible because of generous support from individuals, businesses, community organizations, and foundations that are committed to working with the district to foster excellence."

Scholarship applications

are available in all principal offices and with all guidance counselors in the district and on the Foundation's website, [www.tpsfoundation.org](http://www.tpsfoundation.org), or by contacting Susan K.

Zurawski, executive director of the Toledo Public Schools Foundation, at 419.535.6568 or [suez@accesstoledo.com](mailto:suez@accesstoledo.com).



ISAIAH THOMAS

## Edna Brown to Take Oath of Office

Sojourner's Truth Staff

State Rep. Edna Brown will be officially moving to the State Senate on Monday January 3 when she takes the oath of office during two ceremonies in the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus.

From 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., she will participate in a private swearing-in in the North Hearing Room. A photographer will be provided by the Senate.

Then the Senate will host a buffet luncheon for members and their guests in the Statehouse Atrium starting at 11:30 a.m.

Afterwards, there will be a public swearing-in ceremony in the Senate Chamber. As a newly elected member, Brown will take her oath of office individually; incumbent members will take their in groups of three or four.



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## Album Review Last Train to Paris Diddy & Dirty Money

By Michael Hayes  
Minister of Culture



You hate Diddy.  
You're not sure why, but you're sure you do.  
Any move he makes you're pretty much against it.

You respect his business sense, even though you don't know any particulars of any of the deals he's made.

You like Sean John ... a little.

You think he and Bad Boy fell off after Biggie died.

Even though sales figures, charts, airplay and historical proof to the contrary stand between your error-laden opinion and actual fact, you cling to the comfort of the norm: hating all things Sean

Puffy Combs.  
Over a year ago news made its way through the industry that Diddy was forming a group.

You felt like it was a bad move, like he was ruining Dawn's career to save his own. I admit, I had doubts too...not about intent about if it would work.

After many delays, way too many singles and more promo than most record buyers ever need here you are hoping it fails.

But enough about you.

### THE EMOTIONAL CONCEPT:

Last Train To Paris is NOT a hip-hop album.

A love found then estranged and put to the test as one side tries to prove itself to the other. Hopping through Europe in one effort after another to withstand the trials of a frenetic affair, it keeps true to its title.

Imagine you had one last chance, needing to hop that train from London to Paris to work it out. This album is emotional in content with

nearly every song exploring an element of a short-lived but intense relationship or at least infatuation. You may miss it if you're not paying attention.

Even the club songs are a tale of the mind-state in which both sides of this love affair find themselves.

### THE MUSICAL CONCEPT:

One thing I do not like about this album is all the featured guests.

It's hard to get an idea of what a new group sounds like when there are so many other collaborations that it smothers the idea of the collective.

But I give props to Diddy for not crowding the project.

Dawn and Kaleena get plenty of time, and Diddy makes his presence known when needed. The idea of offering both male/female perspectives through characters in this plot is mostly on point with only a few missteps.

From a production standpoint, this album is mesmerizing.

"Yeah, Yeah, You Would" opens up with Danjahands offering what is probably light years ahead of anything he's ever done.

Sounds that make you feel like you have superpowers, but still so effortlessly musical. Make sure you listen to the bridge.

And the concept of this song... the thought that if you gave someone a chance who would love you so much ... so deeply that it just might be too much for you to handle.

Dirty Money have found their sound on this song, and it all comes together beautifully. Euro, dance-inspired futuristic hip-hop that has harmony, melody and lyrics on par with the best of today's music yet a concept that brings artistry back to pop music.

Lyrics from the second verse:

"I can't take the blame alone, love wouldn't be free to roam.

We would be prisoners of the sheets, baby, I'd be your capture."

It's as perfect a song as can be found on any project from 2010.

The next song keeps up the pace but switches the vibe entirely.

From sweeping digital synths to natural pianos and more organic percussive el-

ements, "I Hate That You Love Me" makes it clear this is an international project. Going back and forth from glittering techno one minute to almost soulful the next minute, it's clear that every production on this project is much more than loops.

The musicality on this album is a living, breathing experiment in sound that changes and morphs all the while creating unforgettable moods.

"Hate You Now," "Yesterday," "Shades" and "Your Love" are some of the best produced pieces of music I've heard outside of Kanye in years.

Last Train To Paris is truly a roller coaster ride, with its lowest lows being the completely out of place "Angels" feat. Rick Ross and B.I.G.

When Dirty Money was conceptualized as an autotuned Bad Boy answer to Kanye's 808s & Heartbreaks, "Angels" and the accompanying video gave me chills. I loved it, but then they added Rozay on a remix and it got further from the core concept of the album and just seemed pointless.

### OVERALL

I'm not feeling the smothering cameos and the missed opportunity to truly create an identity for the group and sound, but I like this album.

A bit busy at times, and maybe only two or three forgettable tracks this album is probably one of the highest quality projects ever to have Sean Combs' name attached to it.

R. Kelly's "Love Letters" sold more units with not even a fourth of the promotion when both projects came out last week... so maybe you guys will win after all in your hater fest.

But like it or not, I think this dude is ahead of us.

Even when it comes to Dawn.

Why throw her right out there immediately after the drama of Danity Kane?

You think he's setting her up to fail, I think he just might be giving her a larger stepping stone for her own project.

This album is the only place you'll hear Lil Wayne spittin' poetry and Justin Timberlake rapping on the same track.

Far more musical than you'd expect and truly in a lane of its own.

Diddy-Dirty Money's Last Train To Paris gets a true grade of B-.

(oh, yeah ... wait to you hear "Strobe Lights")

Thanks for reading, peace.

Email or FB search: glasscitytruth@yahoo.com

# Memorium



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**Book Review**

**Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters by Barack Obama, illustrated by Loren Long**

c.2010, Knopf

\$17.99 / \$19.99 Canada

40 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

As you grow up, your parents and grandparents have many good ideas for you.

First of all, they want you to remember that you're a wonderful kid and that they're happy to

see you when you walk into a room. They hope you know that they're really proud of you and

that you're loved very much.

But as you'll see in the new book *Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters* by Barack Obama, illustrated by Loren Long, they also have lots of bigger ideas for you, too.

Are you a creative kid? Then your parents and grandparents want you to use your talents wisely, like Georgia O'Keeffe. She was an artist who moved to the desert so she could paint pictures of small, simple things.

If you're smart – and you know you are – your parents want you to be like Albert Einstein, who changed the world with his ideas about energy and light.

When you're brave, they want you to remember Jackie Robinson, who opened doors and showed everyone that dreams really can happen. Billie Holiday did that, too, only she did it with songs of "sadness and joy."

Do you know how to honor others' sacrifices?

Then your grandparents want you to be like a woman named Maya Lin, who created the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial so that we all can remember soldiers in war. She created the Civil Rights memorial, too, so we can recognize those who gave their lives for equality – like Martin Luther King Jr., who never gave up. The courage to never give up is another idea your grandparents have for you.

Do you like to inspire others? Then they want you to be like a man named Cesar Chavez who inspired farmworkers to stand up for their rights. Or you could be like Helen Keller, who inspired people to listen to one another; Jane Addams, who worked with the poor and inspired kindness; or Abraham Lincoln, who inspired cooperation.

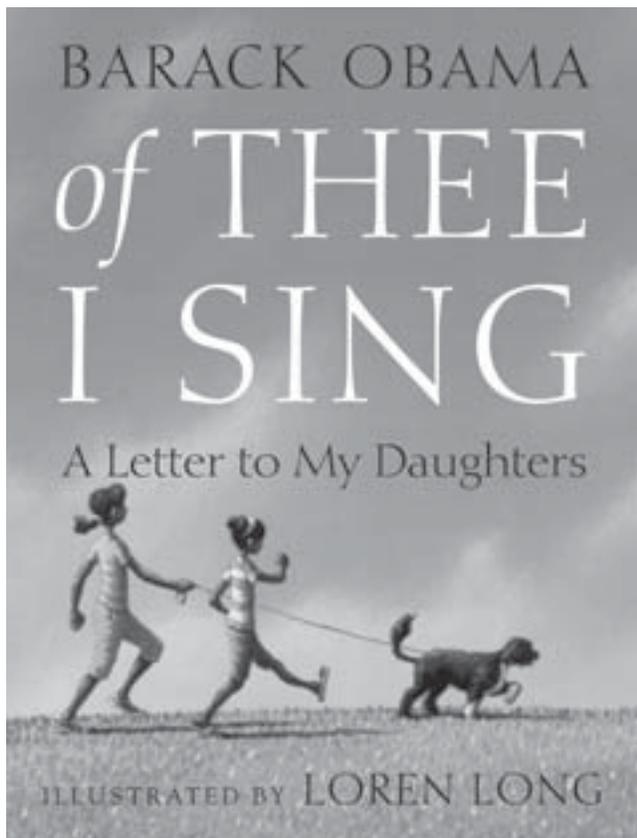
Your parents and grandparents want you to grow up to be someone great, and that's going to be easy because all these

people and their unique talents are already a part of you. It's true, because you are the future.

While *Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters* simply oozes with encouragement; and while author and President Barack Obama has written a love letter not only to Malia and Sasha, but to all children; and while I really enjoyed this book, only part of my enjoyment was for the words it contains.

Yes, Obama's story is one that children will want to hear repeatedly, but the appeal for me (and, I suspect, anyone under age five) is the artwork. Award-winning illustrator Loren Long paints life into Obama's words, and though parents will cherish the text, kids will love "reading" the pictures.

Of course you have dreams for your kids. *Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters* will reveal a few. For you and your child, having this book on your shelf is a good idea.



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# Buzzed Driving

(Continued from Page 2)

liberate strategy borrowed from the Ad Council and the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration's (NHTSA) national "Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving" campaign. Texting has become the preferred method of communication among teens and young adults—two of the groups most at risk for impaired driving. According to the Pew Internet and American Life Project, cell phones are the most popular mobile technology among young adults. 81 percent own their own cell phone and 43 percent of young adult cell phone owners own a smart phone with Internet accessibility. Seventy-two percent of all teens are text-messagers and two-thirds

of teen texters say they are more likely to use their cell phones to text their friends than talk to them by cell phone.

Most teens and young adults don't understand the risks of impaired driving. By driving home the message that buzzed or impaired driving is the same as drunk driving, Unison and the Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Lucas County hope to help save lives this holiday season. How can you help? Text the buzzed driving prevention message to your family and friends—today!

**What Does "Buzzed" Mean?**

"Buzzed" is a popular term used to describe a feeling of slight intoxication

after drinking or using drugs. Many people use the term to describe a condition that they see as being less than intoxicated after drinking or using drugs. The reality is that it impairs judgment and buzzed driving is impaired driving. Impaired driving remains one of America's deadliest social problems.

Many teens and young adults don't understand this. To help clarify the risks and dangers of impaired driving, Unison has created several landing pages with specific information, charts, videos and hotlinks to additional resources. The goal is to spread this information as widely as possible across NW Ohio and SE Michigan to help save lives during this holiday season.

**What You Need to Know:**

Four people aged 16-21 die every day from drunk driving

75% of all alcohol impaired drivers in crashes were males

10,839 people were killed in drunk driving

crashes in 2009  
97 people died in alcohol impaired driving crashes over the Christmas holiday last year

187 people died last year during the New Year's holiday period in alcohol-impaired driving crashes

In 2009, 76% of drivers

killed who were alcohol-impaired occurred at night

Learn more about the dangers of buzzed driving by visiting the Unison website at [www.unisonbhg.org](http://www.unisonbhg.org) or the Ad Council and NHTSA's Buzzed Driving site.



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2 , 2010

11

## Special Notice RE: Examinations for Journeyman Wireman

Applications for the Journeyman Inside Wireman test will be accepted January 10-14, 2011 at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 8, 807 Lime City Road, Rossford, Ohio between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. The qualifications to be eligible for this examination are:

1. Must be 18 years of age or over.
2. Must live in the jurisdiction of Local 8 for one year prior to application.
3. Must have proof of 4 years employment in the commercial/industrial electrical construction industry

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### Elementary School Title I Tutors (2-8)

Star Academy is looking for quality tutors (primarily 2nd to 5th) who are creative with their craft. Applicants need to have a current Ohio License, must be creative, passionate, motivated and team oriented. We are an equal opportunity employer and individuals from underrepresented minority groups are encouraged to apply. Please send or bring a letter of interest, resume and copy of license, transcripts and references to the attention of Gaye Dobson, Principal Star Academy of Toledo 1850 Airport Hwy Toledo, Ohio 43609.

## Elementary and Middle School Positions (Various) Star Academy of Toledo

Star Academy of Toledo is looking for one K-8, Physical Education and one K-3 Title 1 Teacher. Applicants need to have current Ohio licensure must be highly motivated, passionate, team oriented and have a genuine desire to work with young people from an urban community. We are an equal opportunity employer and individuals from underrepresented minority groups are encouraged to apply. Applicants should send letter of interest, resume, copy of license, transcripts, references. All information should be sent to 1850 Airport Hwy 43609 to the attention of Gaye Dobson, Principal.

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## Legal Notice

In accordance with Ohio Administrative Code Section 5101:2-25-03 (C) & (D), Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services will hold a public hearing prior to the submission of the County's Final Social Service Plan to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services for incorporation in the Comprehensive Social Services Plan for the State of Ohio.

### PURPOSE:

1. To highlight pertinent data and information regarding identified social services problems, needs, resources, and gaps in service along with recommendations to the proposed two-year county plan.
2. To elicit public comment, suggestions, and recommendations relative to the County's proposed Social Service Plan.

DATE: January 13, 2011

TIME: 3pm-5:30pm

LOCATION: Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services, 3210 Monroe Street, Toledo Room on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor. Individuals wanting to provide verbal testimony at the hearing should register either by email or phone with Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services before 4pm on January 11, 2011 to assure that a time slot will be available. You must provide the name(s) of the presenter(s), a brief description of the issue, phone number(s) and email address(es). Individuals and organizations must submit written copies of their comments at the hearing. At the time of the hearing, individuals providing testimony will be asked to identify themselves and who they represent. Written statements of funding recommendations will be accepted from those who choose not to present a verbal testimony until 5:30pm on January 13, 2011. These statements should be submitted to Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services, Attention: Associate Director of Client Services, 3210 Monroe St., Toledo, OH 43606 or via email to the address below.

### REGISTRATION CONTACT:

Attention: Associate Director of Client Services  
Email: [wawrz@odjfs.state.oh.us](mailto:wawrz@odjfs.state.oh.us)  
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## Dunkin 4 Donations Does It Again

By Monique Ward  
Special to The Truth  
Photo Credit: RM Imagery

The 2nd Annual Dunkin 4 Donations tournament took place Sunday, December 19 at Owens Community College. The game started at 6 p.m. with a kids tournament and another one for the women. By 7 p.m. the gym was packed to capacity with fans of the competing teams. R&B celebrity and Toledo native Jay Rush sang a soulful rendition of the national anthem before the start of the main event. Teams ATL, Green Team, Top Knotch, Hustle Hand, Money Hungry, U.G.E., Ollie Nicole & Swagga Boyz went head to head the rest of the night for a shot at the D4D trophy. ATL and Top Knotch made it to the finals and ATL took the crown as the winning team this year. The majority of the proceeds from the tournament went to purchase Christmas presents for the children of Family House Shelter in Toledo. The rest of the funds were utilized to help a local family, whose house recently burned down, purchase presents for their children. The event was spon-



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