

Local and National News

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# The Sojourner's Truth

Volume 22, No. 02

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

April 18, 2012



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## Locked Down or Locked Out?

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



The study of economic oppression led me to realize that Negroes were not alone but were part of an unending struggle for human dignity the world over. - Pauli Murray

Chief Diggs, I'm praying for you. And so is the community. We all are sick and tired of the shootings, the violence, the funerals and the tears. We also are respectful of your "bold, new" surveillance and data driven, arrest-by-association, not-a-police but community problem approach. We truly are. But the only question we have is "Will it work?"

Between just 1980 and 2000, the prison population soared from 300,000 to over two million (Alexander, 2010). Yet by 2007, one in every 31 adults or over seven million Americans were either in prisons or jails, on probation, or on parole. What is astonishing is that half a million people are now in prison for minor drug offenses

as compared to just over 41,000 in 1980.

Incarceration is certainly necessary and even openly supported by most in the community. However, the statistics suggest that the mass punitive response to urban ills, not only is not working, but may be exacerbating the real problem.

Society has made violence and crime a police problem. The police have projected the problem onto the community. The community in turn, has thrown the issue back on both society and the police.

Here are a few thoughts about inner city violence from outside this cycle of blame:

1. Punitive measures deal only with symptoms.

We have yet to align policies and strategies with those social, psychological and cultural factors that help to activate the oppositional and antisocial behaviors of many inner city youth.

2. It's not just complicated, but it is also complex.

Violence and crime (like most community issues) are inextricably tied to a complex web of causalities, consequences and complications. You cannot merely impose a regulation on a complex system such as the post-industrial urban inner city. The people in the system will adapt to the introduction of new variables and keep on going, doing what they need to do to get by and will always find ways to beat the system.

3. More than just race.

Racism is a critical unsolved problem, but there are also other community problems such as cultural domination (from rap to distorted definitions of family values), patriarchal subjugation of black women and psychological incarceration. The most threatening community problem, however, may be economic inequality and the worldwide system of economic exploitation that has taken up residence in urban America.

4. Connection between jobs, drugs.

With unprecedented and pervasive joblessness, the underground economy in the form of drugs and under-the-table hustling, is a way of life in the inner city. Being shut out of the "major leagues" of legal labor markets, youth settle for chasing the glamorous but "minor league" way of drug dealing in order to survive. Violence, fueled by easy access to guns even for kids fourteen and younger, becomes the means of enforcing community justice, settling "business" disputes and turf battles (Anderson, 1999). The threat of violence or retaliation for would-be informants and the lack of trust in police to protect them creates a "see-no-evil" wall of silence around the inner city.

5. Desperation to be a part

Perhaps the factor which has the greatest influence on the behavior of urban youth (and lurking beneath the surface of our awareness), is a culture of shame which has permeated society. Shame, is described as "convictions about one's being unacceptable and worthless; feeling unlovable, or that one's life has a basic flaw in it" (Wimberly, 1999).

Feelings of shame come from a variety of sources, including increased evil and insensitivity toward other human beings. With this increase in shame comes an increase in violence, which some understand as the "effort to break the oppressive internal and external shackles one feels."

Shame and self-worth also have to do with the failure to meet society's expectations regarding wealth, status, class or other privileged norms. Therefore it is difficult for poor youth not to internalize these unhealthy expectations. Most respond with rebellion against all that is conventional as a form of self-defense. However, it is these very cultural adaptations which generate negative stereotypes making youth even less employable.

What shall we do?

The answer, comes not from criminology but from common sense which dictates that an oversimplified war against violence, guns, or drugs will not be successful in ending the dysfunctions of an inner city at war with itself.

We have to find a way to provide equal access to the American dream through quality education and living wage jobs.

Also, we need to figure out how to change the shame-based societal framework that undergirds the lives of so many who have internalized societal expectations. We can only do this by challenging these expectations and by introducing alternative societal expectations which are healing and which move people from shame to self-worth and self-affirmation.

That is the real war.

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

## Community Calendar

### April 17-19

Calvary MBC Spring Revival: 7 pm; Tuesday – Pastor Derek Arnold of Bethlehem Baptist; Wednesday - Pastor Stanley Clark of United Vision; Thursday – Rev. Pat McKinstry of Worship Center: 419-242-8379

### April 18

Partners in Education and Pinewood Tabernacle Free Community FAFSA Drive: For high school students and their parents; Pinewood Tabernacle; 1 to 7 pm: 419-242-2122

### April 19

Tiffany Reynolds Ministries Conference: 1-855-234-9797 or [www.followingmypassion.org](http://www.followingmypassion.org)

### April 20

Glass City Gospel Celebration: 7 pm; River Life Church; Featuring Half Mile Home, Bryan Scott, Min Mark Williams, Twinkie Clark, Debra Brock, The Difference, Newsom Family Singers and many more: 419-810-2483

### April 21

"A Holistic Workshop Focused on Mind, Body and Spirit:" 11 am to 1 pm; Featuring guest speaker LaQuintta Newton; United MBC: 419-380-1455

Global Youth Service Day: Graffiti Free Project; Hosted by United Way and North Toledo Network; 9 am to noon; Friendly Center Gymnasium: 419-243-1289 ext 304

Warren AME Second Annual Community Dental Clinic: For families; 12:30 pm; Dental screenings, skin care, nutrition and exercise clinic, budgeting for health: 419-243-2237

Take Back the Night: Community rally women's march to end all violence against women; Collier Bldg at UT Health Science campus; 6 pm – resource center; 7 pm – clothesline project, silent witness project, bandanna project

Teenage Girls Summit/Luncheon: Rapture Ministries; "Making Lemonade out of Lemons;" 10 am to 2 pm; Family Activity Club; Topics – low self esteem, identity concerns, poor grades, sexual abuse, loneliness, bullying, pregnancy, depression, dating, etc; Ages 12 – 18: 419-517-9292

### April 24

"Preserving Our Neighborhood" Community Forum with Councilman Tyrone Riley: Bethlehem Baptist Church; 6 to 8 pm: 419-245-1361

### April 25

Benefit for Friendly Center: Genoa Civic Theatre; 6 pm; Benefit performance and silent auction: 419-243-1289 or [agibbon@friendly-center.org](mailto:agibbon@friendly-center.org)

### April 26

Self Improvement Workshop Series: Padua Center @ Kwanzaa Park; 6 to 8 pm; Presenters Ben Hester and Washington Muhammad; Topic of expungement: 419-322-5107 or 419-283-1017 or 419-973-0248

### April 27-29

Calvary Baptist Church Women's Ministry Spring Retreat: 419-787-9635

### April 28

NAOMI 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Health Awareness Program: "Lunch, Learn and Be Well;" Friendship Baptist Church; 11 am: 419-304-2733 or 419-343-1726

Chess Tournament: K-6<sup>th</sup> grade; Main Library – Huntington Meeting Room; 9 am to 3 pm: 419-259-5231

### April 29

Beulah Baptist Church 6<sup>th</sup> Pastoral Anniversary: 11 am Guest preacher Elder Steve Allen; 4 pm Guest Church Calvary MBC and Rev. Floyd Smith, Jr

Family Baptist Church 33<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary: 10:30 a.m.; Guest Rev. Floyd Rose

### May 1-2

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Rummage Sale: Tuesday – p am to 7 pm; Wednesday – 9 am to 1 pm

## The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's Truthful African-American  
Owned and Operated Newspaper

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# Money By The Numbers!

By Lafe Tolliver  
Guest Column



Anything wrong with this picture?

Scene One: popular local church (Cedar Creek...but it could as been just as easy, a multitude of other churches across the country) recently announced that it will give bucks to various charities depending upon the number of people that come to its worship services. (Not including their websites).

Scene Two: Few people come...few dollars donated to charities. Many people come...many dollars donated to charities.

Scene Three: Do those things that get people to come out to your worship services so you can give some big bucks to local charities.

Sounds good, right? Sounds warm and fuzzy, right? Sounds like a plan, right?

Just one slight problem. Just one fly in the ointment. It is like saying, "hey there is a frog in my tomato soup!

Now, I know each church can do its own thing and can orchestrate its programs as it sees fit but, wouldn't you think that any church that professes to be an assembly patterned after the New Testament model of the church and the teachings of Jesus, who is the head of the church,

that such a group of professing Christians would follow some basic 101's about how church is done.

I mean, come on, Cedar Creek! Let's really double down and make this donation based upon packing the pews, really get off the ground!

When I was contracted by a church growth ministry named, "It's All About ME!" as to what it takes to make a church zoom in attendance and asked to submit some ideas about getting bodies packed into the pews, I reluctantly consented and offered the following suggestions.

If any church wishes to use them, including Cedar Creek, simply give me the by line and donate just a portion of the increased revenues to my favorite charity called, Church Of The Right Now Mammon.

If that particular charity has not yet been padlocked by the IRS, then please consider my other favorite charity, Itching Ears For Scratchy Church Folks.

Both charities are hip and understand that to encourage the masses to get up on a

Sunday morning and drive out to a local church, it takes creativity and, if you will, a little showmanship.

Come on. Let's agree on one thing. I can sit in the comfort of my own dormitory room or family den and watch first-run movies and news shows and do so in my pajamas and with a mug of morning joe.

So, I say to the churches, if you want my body in your pew and, of course, my greenbacks in the offering plate, you better dazzle me and don't offend me with sermons

about sin, hell and that dreary obedience stuff.

With that in mind, here are my suggestions to roust up that Sunday morning sleeper and get him or her to your church's padded pew and as a result, a church can give... Bucks For Bodies:

**One:** When people drive in to your church parking lot, make sure it is a festive occasion.

Have circus clowns, dancing bears, spotted ponies and large colorful banners greeting them with phrases like: "you are so awesome!" or "you made our day, now it is our turn to make yours!" After all, isn't the church all about me?"

**Two:** When the people arrive, smother them with goodies and choices of coffee, tea,

Colas, bagels and munchies. Nothing makes a worshipper more disgruntled than not having his favorite snacks available so he can munch and drink and burp and belch his way through the morning musings and rock songs.

**Three:** About those songs. Whatever you do, do not play any slow music or use any lyrics that speak to sin, redemption, salvation or repentance. Churchgoers do not want to get up, brush their teeth and attend a worship service where they are confronted by sermons preaching a holy God who has standards and who has given us a written moral code. Save that preachy stuff for grandma and grandpa. Rather, play loud music with a lot of strobe lights

and make it a Wow-Wow stage production show for everyone.

**Four:** Above all, make sure that you "share" (not preach or teach) with the people that they can live their best life now and that they can craft their own personal beliefs from other religions and philosophies. No one wants to be constricted to a simple and narrow gospel that does not allow you to devise your own plan of salvation. People need liberal choices...not directives.

**Five:** Atmosphere. This is critical. This will make or break your next Sunday's attendance. This will determine whether or not you can make that big impressive donation to the charities. Do not blow it on this item. Pay particular attention to this one: Make sure that when the church service is over everyone is repeatedly congratulated for coming and that attendees are told they are the

best and that all is well with them and they are the masters of their own fate.

Now, if you are angrily confronted by someone about implementing the above suggestions because you want to give monies to a charity or you want to build a bigger and better edifice or have a fat church directory, simply tell that person to go away start his own church!

And...oh. Did I tell you? It does not matter that the above is not representative of the Body of Christ as found in the Word of God because the Word of God is not concerned with being a people pleaser and it is not concerned with you having your best life now.

No, that Word of God is not concerned with how many bodies are packed into a church building so that local charities can benefit from your numbers game.

Its primary objective and goal is with you being reconciled back to God

through Jesus Christ.

I know....I know. Such preaching and teaching may not be popular with the masses who want it their way...now! But the gospel of Jesus Christ never strives to be your best friend or pop psychologist or to make you feel good in your present condition.

But. Don't tell that to churches who are on a numbers run and who concoct goofy artifices and programs that may fill the pews but do not feed your spirit.

I betcha five dollars to a donut that if any of the New Testament apostles were to return to earth and play "mystery worshipper" in many of today's so-called churches, they would outright disown a bunch of them on the grounds that they are not of the Lord and they have no part in His ministry.

Betcha.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at [Tolliver@Juno.com](mailto:Tolliver@Juno.com)

## Library Village

Homes full of life  
A neighborhood full of living

Library Village is a neighborhood rich with homes of unique character. It is home to teachers and nurses, mothers and fathers, aunts and uncles, bankers and firefighters.

The City of Toledo is committed to helping people live in neighborhoods of which they can be proud.

Renovation projects have been completed at **4349 Vermaas, 4117 Overland, 407 Pasadena and 820 Dryden**—we believe that they are an excellent addition to the neighborhood. More houses are scheduled for renovation in your area, and we'd love for you to be able to recommend them to your friends, co-workers, and family.

**To see these homes, please stop by our special neighborhood preview at 4349 Vermaas, 4117 Overland, 407 Pasadena and 820 Dryden, April 21 and April 22 from 1:00-4:00 PM.**

Refreshments provided  
\*20% downpayment assistance available for qualified buyers.  
For more information on the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, please call (419) 245-1400.

*April is Fair Housing Month!*

Celebrate with us at the Spirit of Fair Housing Awards Luncheon. Start your day with a CEU class, followed by an Awards Luncheon.

Thursday, April 26, 2012  
At the Toledo Club

Continuing Education for Realtors  
8:30-11:45 a.m.  
**Fair Housing Advertising**  
Instructor: John Zimmerman, Vice President of the Toledo Valley Fair Housing Council. Limited to 1 hour of Fair Housing continuing education credit for \$149.75/seat.

11-45 Networking  
12:00 Spirit of Fair Housing Awards Luncheon

400 Elm City  
400 Lakeshore Drive  
Toledo, OH 43606

Click here to Register: [www.fairhousing.org/india.php?unit\\_events](http://www.fairhousing.org/india.php?unit_events)

## Local Dems Encouraged Passage of Buffett Rule Legislation

By Fletcher Word  
Sojourner's Truth Editor

Local Democratic elected officials joined their colleagues from around the state of Ohio on Thursday, April 12, to urge the U.S. Senate to pass President Barack Obama's "Buffett Rule" that would purportedly end tax breaks and close loopholes that only benefit the very richest Americans.

Joining local officials at a press conference were two tax-paying middle class citizens who also urged support for the legislation that would ensure, as the president has declared, that billionaires don't pay lower taxes than their secretaries.

The proposed legislation, which went before the Senate earlier this week, was inspired by Warren Buffett himself, who has frequently derided the tax breaks and loopholes he receives that have enabled him to receive a lower tax

rate than his own secretary.

"We are engaged in a conversation about how to balance the budget in tough times," said Lucas County Treasurer Wade Kapszukiewicz. "President Obama is proposing the essence of fairness by increasing the tax rate on billionaires."

Kapszukiewicz noted that last year 1,500 millionaires paid nothing in income taxes while the top 400 wealthiest Americans paid incomes taxes at a rate of 14 percent.

"Wealthier Americans are paying the same, if not less, than middle-class Americans," he added.

"It's not about envying success," said Lucas County Commissioner Tina Skeldon Wozniak. "The bottom line is we want everyone to do well and pay their fair share. "This Obama plan makes sense and most Americans agree."

In attendance with the two

elected officials were Michelle Wall, an infrastructure specialist, and Wanda Cannon, a social worker for Lucas County.

"I strongly believe that everyone prospers when everyone pays their fair share," said Wall. "I believe we can no longer ask everything from the middle class and seniors and nothing from [the wealthiest]."

"This plan will increase the opportunity to get the deficit in balance," added Cannon.

Local hopes were dashed on Monday as Senate Republicans stymied Democratic efforts to open debate on the legislation. The vote was no surprise. Democrats have known for weeks that the legislation had no chance to obtain a super-majority in the Senate and, even if it had, would not pass in the Republican-majority House of Representatives.

## Spring Health & Wellness Women's Retreats in Celebration of National Minority Health Month

Dr. Anita M. Lewis-Sewell M. D./NMHM and The Lighthouse Road Project Director Special to The Truth

Health inequities are exacting a drastic toll on the longevity and wellbeing of minority women in America.

Education and prevention remain of utmost importance to reverse excessive rates of disability and death from heart disease, strokes and cancer; and to halt the burgeoning rates of obesity, diabetes and deaths due to violence.

For this reason women in Lucas and Sandusky County are invited to "TAKE A LEAP" and register to attend "A Spring Health and Wellness Women's Retreat" planned just for them. Please come and enjoy these two free, fun-filled, information-packed opportunities to learn how to get fit for life.

Many health care professionals and educators will share advice, insights and solutions on how to achieve ultimate, holistic health and wellness.

These upcoming events, held in observance of National Minority Health Month (NMHM), are open to all adult women at no charge.

The first event will be on Sat., April 21, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Worship Center, 2204 Collingwood Blvd, Toledo, OH.

The second retreat is on Sat., April 28, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Victory Christian Fellowship, 2051 Oak Harbor Road in Fremont, OH.

Both events are free and open to all adult women. Advance registration is requested to facilitate planning. On site registration starts at 9 a.m.

Johnnie (Chip) Allen, **Ohio Director of Health Diversity**; Albert Mensah, a nationally known motivational speaker and Rachel Watkins, Ph.D., noted anthropologist from **the American University** in Washington D.C. will be our special guest speakers.

Dr. Alvin Jackson, MD, **former director of the Ohio Department of Health**, and **City of Toledo Safety Director** Shirley Green, Ph.D., will join other health care specialists on this forum including Dr. Debra Fulton, DDM.; Dr. Hope Mitchell, MD, dermatologist; Dr. Edna Jean, MD, podiatrist; and Dr. Murthy Gokula, MD., director of the Geriatric Fellowship program at St. Luke's Hospital. Rebecca Liebes, Ph.D., RD., LD, director of nutrition and wellness with **the Area Office on Aging of NWO, Inc.**, are among other surprise guests.

The African American Women's Cancer Support Group, The University of Toledo Catherine Eberly Center, The Victory Center, Susan G. Komen Foundation of N. W. Ohio; the Circle of Friends Leadership Development Program, SCORE and CARENET will also participate.

(Continued on Page 8)

# African Art Has Arrived!!

Hundreds of wood carvings from Ghana have recently arrived at  
The Truth Gallery – masks, statues, village scenes!  
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The Gallery is open Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 4 PM

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The Truth Gallery  
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# The Truth ECONOMY

## Tackling Tough Times

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• 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY EDITION • 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY EDITION • 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY EDITION •

## The State of the Economy in the Black Community Celebrating 10 Years of Reporting on the Economy

By Candice Harrison  
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

In a city in which manufacturing has always been a dominant force and now energy has a significant presence in the area, one would assume that the economy is thriving. However, over the past 10 years, there have been many economic challenges in the region, especially within the African-American community.

Job loss, foreclosure, layoffs and businesses shutting their doors are just a few results of the economic downturn. The biggest hit came when the auto industry faced a multitude of financial difficulties forcing it to rely on the assistance of the government to get above water.

In the 2000 census, there were 128,925 households in Toledo, out of which 29.8 percent had children under the age of 18 living with them, 38.2 percent were married couples living together, 17.2 percent had a female householder with no husband present, and 40.0 percent were non-families. Additionally, 32.8 percent of all households were made up of individuals and 11.0 percent had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.38 and the average family size was 3.04.

In the city, the population was spread out with 26.2 percent under the age of 18, 11.0 percent from 18 to 24, 29.8 percent from 25 to 44, 19.8 percent from 45 to 64, and 13.1 percent who were 65 years of age or older. The

median age was 33 years. For every 100 females there were 91.9 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 87.7 males. There was a total of 139,871 housing units in the city, of which 10,946 (7.8 percent) were vacant.

The median income for a household in the city was \$32,546, and the median income for a family was \$41,175. Males had a median income of \$35,407 versus \$25,023 for females. The per capita income for the city was \$17,388. About 14.2 percent of families and 17.9 percent of the population were below the poverty line, including 25.9 percent of those under age 18 and 10.4 percent are age 65 or over.

The U.S. Census Bureau estimated Toledo's population at 297,806 in 2006 and 295,029 in 2007. In response to an appeal by the City of Toledo, the Census Bureau's July 2007 estimate was revised to 316,851, slightly more than in 2000, which would have been the city's first population gain in 40 years. However, the 2010 census figures released in March 2011 showed the population as of April 1, 2010 at 287,208, indicating a 25 percent loss of population.

The decrease could be attributed to the idea of "brain drain" the concept that former Mayor Carty Finkbeiner worked to decrease. Brain drain is the migration of intelligent young and talented individuals who move outside of the

area to establish permanent residency hence, allowing their talent to help another community thrive.

Toledo is known as "The Glass City" due to the level of manufacturing and innovation in the glass industry throughout the region. The history is deep rooted in all aspects of the glass industry including windows, bottles, windshields, construction materials and art developed with glass; a highlight of the renowned Toledo Museum of Art. Several large glass companies have their origins here such as Owens Illinois, Owens Corning, Libbey Glass, Pilkington North America (formerly Libbey Owens Ford and Therman-Tru

There are many Fortune 500 companies previously or currently have their headquarters in Toledo. Champion Spark Plug and Dana Corporation HYPERLINK "[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dana\\_Corporation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dana_Corporation)" are examples of large auto parts companies that began in Toledo. Owens Corning's World Headquarters still remains in the city.

Toledo is home to the Jeep manufacturing plant, now a campus featuring supplier plants nearby and Chrysler's Machining plant a few miles south in Perrysburg. In 2008, the auto industry collapsed causing a ripple effect of devastation. From lost wages, to lost jobs to lost homes, nationwide, families began to struggle due to the downturn of the economy as the

result of the auto industry crash.

In 2009, President Obama continued the policy initiated by his predecessor and offered the big three auto companies (Daimler-Chrysler, General Motors and Ford) a federal bailout. In 2011, General Motors was able to report earnings for the first time since the collapse. President Obama also added a Federal Stimulus Package to individuals and families as well as developed federal programs to increase housing stability and reduce predatory lending and foreclosure rates and extensive funding to train individuals to become employable or transition careers.

The most recent industry to assist in an economic increase is solar energy and "green jobs." In the mid 2000s, the city received a lot of interest and growth in

"green jobs" due to economic development around solar energy. For example, The University of Toledo and Bowling Green State University received state of Ohio grants for solar energy research. Also companies like Xunlight and First Solar opened factories in the region creating jobs and positioning the community as a haven for solar growth.

According to the United Way of Greater Toledo's website, Toledo was named the eighth poorest city in the nation with 24.7 percent of the population living below the poverty line in 2008. The strategic five year plan established by Mayor Mike Bell has established goals for improving the city's overall status. As a recipient of federal funds, the City of Toledo plans to focus on low to moderate income households and neighborhoods considered to be most

at-risk for homelessness. The plan will assist families in maintain housing while making an effort to renovate or demolish dilapidated structures.

The local workforce development office operates under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 has been instrumental in providing job training, job opportunities and other services that assist in creating jobs in the community and preparing individuals for the workforce.

The economy in Toledo and surrounding areas has not significantly improved over the past 10 years. In fact, there were several times in which there were large instances of decline. Nevertheless, the results of the stimulus, bailout and other programs, there are signs of improvement on the horizon.

**Join State Representative Michael Ashford**  
for a Ohio Department of Development Minority Business Presentation

**Presenters:**  
Ohio Department of Development: Minority Business Assistance  
Ohio Department of Administrative Services: Equal Opportunity Division  
University of Toledo  
Northern Minority Development Supplier Council  
Al Washington (Dayton)  
Jack Patrick (Toledo)

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**Friday, April 20, 2012**  
**1-5pm**  
**Mott Branch Library (1085 Dorr St. Toledo)**

**To: ALL MBE's & WBE's**  
✓ Vendors  
✓ Suppliers  
✓ Contractors

Local MBE's and WBE's can discover new avenues to support their business endeavors.

**Event Sponsors:**  
State Representative Michael Ashford  
Toledo Minority Contractors Group  
Ray Bank  
NAACP  
Former Toledo Mayor, Jack Ford  
Toledo African American Chamber of Commerce  
95.7 FM  
The Truth  
Fifth Third Bank

For more information or to RSVP contact State Representative Michael Ashford's Columbus Office at: 614/466-1401 or [mashford@ohio.gov](mailto:mashford@ohio.gov)

**Good Health Begins With You!**

**April is Minority Health Month**

For a free calendar of events contact the Toledo-Lucas County Commission on Minority Health  
At 419-213-4000 or  
[bryant@jan.lucas.oh.us](mailto:bryant@jan.lucas.oh.us)

The Black Courier, Black News 98.7, News 9, Impact, News, Economic Focus

## Fair Housing Center Celebrates Fair Housing Month, Presents Spirit of Fair Housing Awards

Special to The Truth

April is Fair Housing Month. The Fair Housing Center is a non-profit civil rights agency dedicated to the elimination of housing discrimination and the expansion of neighborhood choice for all persons. Since its inception in 1975, the Center has investigated over 11,000 allegations of housing discrimination, recovered almost \$28 million in damages for the victims, and set national precedents that have expanded housing opportunities for millions of Americans.

The Spirit of Fair Housing Awards are presented to recognize outstanding individuals and organizations in Northwest Ohio who promote equal housing opportunities.

### AWARD RECIPIENTS:

- Housing Development: A. Bailey Stanbery
- Enforcement/Litigation: Sue Sekel
- Shanna L. Smith Award: Darlene Sweeney-Newbern

The Shanna L. Smith Award is named for the first executive director of the Toledo Fair Housing Center. Smith is now the CEO of the National Fair Housing Alliance.

**This award is presented to Darlene Sweeney-Newbern, regional director of the Ohio Civil Rights Commission.**



## Get Settled with the Right Insurance Before It's too Late

By Vince Davis  
Guest Column



Life insurance is a means of paying for obligations that you have throughout your life that you have not quite saved the money to buy. The biggest deterrent to African Americans and our ability to have ordinary or preferred rated life insurance policies is our attitude and our health or rather our poor health. My fraternity brother James Bracey died at a very young age. He was in his forties when he passed away. Bracey worked and worried himself to death. Bracey owned a night club in Atlanta. Bracey thought the night club would be a huge draw when the Olympics came to Atlanta.

To his disappointment most of the Olympic traffic was routed to stay in the down town area. Despite numerous meetings with people of note, Bracey's newly-refurbished night club was in the warehouse district and this part of warehouse district was not a featured part of The Atlanta Olympics. Bracey worked 60 to 70 hour weeks like any good Rutgers man. However Bracey failed to take care of his most precious resource, himself.

One of the things that hard-working African-American men do is forget to take time to pay themselves first. We as a people forget to secure the future of our loved ones through the purchase of WHOLE life insurance while we are healthy enough to get it.

If you die, the family is taken care of and if you live long enough, you get all of your money back plus some.

My fellow Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. brother and Rutgers University alumnus told me before his death: "Vince, even with a Rutgers University education, this world is so tricky and elusive that by the time African Americans have it figured out we are well into our 40's or 50's."

Bracey went on to say that "if they invite us to a meeting with our best interest at heart, we had better have had the sense to know that the real meeting took place before we got there or will take place long after we have gone." All I've got to say is "Bracey, I'm sure you're right"

I have thought about Bracey's dying words over the last two decades and he is right. We often do not figure out the mysteries of this world until we are much older. Often by that time it is too late.

That means that if we wait until we need life insurance or long term care insurance, then we will not be able to get the best policy or possibly any policy. Even though that is a frightening statement, that is a true statement. We still have not figured it out yet

### There are some ridiculous reasons why people do not get life insurance and here are a few of them

- My job covers my insurance     Answer: When you retire or quit the insurance either goes down or is eliminated altogether
- My mother has insurance on me   Answer: You are grown now, son. Mom has just in case insurance on you. That Is; Momma's Policy is Just In Case You Don't Have Any
- I'll get the insurance later        Answer: Later may not be an option
- My spouse may remarry            Answer: If your spouse gets another mate, so be it. However, black women are not finding it particularly easy to find black, straight, HIV-free, non-incarcerated, hard-working, issue-free, African-American men.

Contact Vince Davis at Vince Davis Insurance, 3344 Secor Rd Suite a102 Toledo Ohio 43606; 419-244-2904. [vinedacisinsurance.com](http://vinedacisinsurance.com)

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## Capitalizing on their Assets – December, 2002

By Fletcher Word  
Sojourner's Truth Editor

ASSETS Toledo commemorated the graduation of its ninth class last week at the Owens Illinois Building and offered 14 aspiring entrepreneurs a chance for success in self-employment.

WilliAnn Moore, president of the Toledo NAACP, was on hand to give the graduates a bit of last minute inspiration.

ASSETS (A Service for

Self-Employment Training) is a business-based training program designed to help low and moderate income people get their small businesses started.

The program consists of a 13-week training course, mentors who work individually with the students and an alumni support group. After a student completes the course, a small loan may also

be part of the program.

One of last week's graduates was Kathy Jackson who is planning on entering the food business. Jackson makes sauces – barbecue sauces. Her business, Aunt Kathy's LLC, already has an agreement with the Andersons to be placed on that operation's shelves in February 2003.

Jackson's company has also reached an agreement

for a lease with a cooperative kitchen where she will be able to cook, bottle, label, experiment with recipes and, perhaps, become the Paul Newman of her generation.

Now that she has graduated, Jackson is ready to expand her staff also. At the moment, her staff consists of – Kathy Jackson. But, she feels that she is ready for a little help and, thanks to family and friends, help is on the way.

She describes her recipes as an inspiration, "Maybe it's God," she said. She wakes up sometimes, in the middle of the night, with a complete recipe having formed in her subconscious during her slumber.

The ASSETS program arrived in Toledo through the efforts of co-founders Marcus Goodwin, the Rev. Dwayne Tisdale and Phil

Ebersole. Goodwin is presently chairman of the board and Eversole served as executive director until the recent appointment of Olivia Holden to that post. Last week's graduating class was Holden's first as executive director.

There are three classes per year and applicants are taken on a first come/first served basis.

The fees are based on a sliding income scale per federal guidelines.

For Kathy Jackson, ASSEST enabled her to start and grow her business. For some years, Jackson prepared her sauces for the delight of a small circle of acquaintances who would repeatedly urge her to market her products.

And, every time, she would ask, "how?"

Finally, Jackson's sister happened to receive infor-

mation about ASSETS and brought it to her. Jackson found an opening in the next class and, according to the graduate, the class has both inspired and instructed.

Moore spoke to the graduates on the matter of continuing to strive and refusing to give up. Jackson felt that Moore was speaking directly to her.

She has no plans to give up now that she's come so far.

*Ed. Note -April 2012 – Kathy Jackson is still going strong with Aunt Kathy's LLC. The American diabetes Association gave two of her products – Lemon Pepper and Dry Rub Soul Seasoned - a thumbs up in 2009. Aunt Kathy's is currently in the Agriculture Incubator and she can be reached at 866-494-1380.*

## A Brief Look at The Truth's Past Articles on Black Business Owners The Resurgence of the Black Entrepreneur – February, 2003

By Fletcher Word  
Sojourner's Truth Editor

During the first 30 or so years of the 29<sup>th</sup> Century, entrepreneurs abounded in the black community. The middle years of the century were not quite so kind to African-American business operators, but it now appears that many in the black community are poised, in the early years of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, to re-dedicate themselves to entrepreneurship.

According to the 1910 census, African-Americans were more likely than whites to own companies and nearly as likely to be self-employed. Agriculture accounted for the huge self-employment figures among blacks during those early years of the last century.

In 1910, more than 90 percent of African-Americans lived on farms. Nevertheless, even if agriculture is excluded, black males were still more likely to be entrepreneurs in 1910 than in 1990.

Recent studies whose results were released in 2002 show that the black entrepreneur is back.

The good news is that blacks are now much more likely to start their own businesses than are whites.

The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation released its report on entrepreneurs in September of last year and concluded that 9.5 percent of black households included someone who was trying to start a business compared to just 5.7 percent of white households.

Blacks, states the report, "are about 50 percent more likely to engage in start-up activities than whites."

The U.S. Census has also compiled figures about black-owned businesses and the upsurge in total numbers of entrepreneurs in the African-American community. The census indicates that the focus of black entrepreneurs has also changed in recent times.

Traditionally, the most common form of black-owned business has been in the service sector – particularly barber and beauty shops, for example.

Now the fastest growing sectors are business services, legal services, insurance and real estate. The number of minority-owned construction firms has also helped set the pace of growth for black-owned businesses.

The bad news for black entrepreneurs is the high rate of failure of those enterprises. While the numbers on failure rates are not as precisely drawn as for start-ups, black entrepreneurs are clearly failing more often than are their white counterparts.

The Truth sat down with Karen Ashford, CEO of the Northwest Ohio Black Chamber of Commerce and owner of Ash Gallery, last week to get a sense of the entrepreneurial spirit among Toledoans.

"I don't know if there is an especially high rate of people starting businesses here, but there are certainly a high number of curious people," Ashford said. "I'm constantly being asked 'what does it take' to start a business."

Ashford believes that African-Americans are becoming increasingly aware

that their "opportunities are not limited."

So, what does it take?

First, "you have to be passionate," Ashford told us.

"You have to live, breathe, sleep and eat your business," she said. "You have to be willing to think about your business 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

She also believes that an aspiring entrepreneur has to be self-motivated and committed.

"When everyone else says 'no,' you must say 'yes.'"

Second, you have to have a desire to succeed.

Third, you have to know your business. "Do the research," Ashford said.

Fourth, you have to be inventive enough to create ways of getting things done. Involve the family. "If your family can't help financially, they can help in other ways. Don't be afraid to ask for help."

Fifth, access other assistance, said Ashford. She points to networking, in particular, as a key to success that business operators do not utilize often enough to their best advantage.

Sixth, stay on top of the money supply. Cash flow, Ashford told The Truth, is the one common source of concern to every start-up business. She recommends staying on good terms with lending institutions especially during difficult times.

In addition, Ashford advises those in business for themselves to stay alert to the possibility of attracting other investors to the operation.

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## ASK YVON

By: S. Yvon Harper, CEO Focus on Finance, LLC

Guest Column



"Time Investing or Time Wasting"

Well the 2012 tax season is coming to an end. At least this first round affording everyone who filed by the initial date time to prepare for next year's tax event. There is, however, always those who miss this initial date consistently and file for the benefit of an extra six months through extension.

Believe me, it is always interesting to hear the reasons why a person isn't quite read to file by the original due date. I've encountered excuses such as 'the date sneaked up so quickly' or 'not sure where I put my tax

papers yet' or one of my favorites 'I just haven't had time to have them done'. The last one is of particular interest to me.

Many times when I prepare tax forms I engage my clients in conversation about their year. Specifically, we talk about the activities they have accomplished in it. What always seems to surprise me is that 'time' is not treated as a commodity, but treated as a game to be played with at will. This type of approach to managing your time will never produce prosperous results that most individuals desire.

Several years ago Jeff Gitomer, an entrepreneur and author of several bestselling books was quoted in article written by Jamie Downey of Boston.com as saying "invest your time, don't spend it". Even though this though is not new Gitomer succinctly captured the essence of this in his writing. So much so that I still apply it to my life and share it with others who sit in my client seat.

I am now challenging you to do the same. The process

requires that you first take retrospect of your daily time activities. As you do, place each into a bucket of either 'time being wasted' or 'time being invested'. Now I'll caution you upfront that some things are time wasters by nature and cannot be easily changed, such as time spent commuting to work to produce a paycheck. These types of situations offer an opportunity to look for better alternatives of how the time is used in the activity. For example, you may wish to initiate a book on CD to obtain a skill or obtain useful information rather than just listen to talk radio.

Other obvious time wasters can include television, shopping or sleeping. All which are not bad in and of themselves, but when overdone are obvious time wasters you may indulge in. Just think of all the other productive activities that you could be conquering such as advancing your business, solidifying investments or increasing your knowledge base with this extra time instead.

In his article Downey also offered suitable replacements, which I've included here and expounded on, such as reading for knowledge – every wealth person does this consistently, building relationships both personal and business, exercise which many are under par in this area and thinking to expand your clarity on not only what you want to accomplish, but

how you will do it.

Strive to always pursue time as an investment and its return will be endless. As we end I'll share one of my Selah Moment© quotes with you to meditate on "Time is always your friend when it's in front of you, but a ruthless enemy when it passes you by." ~ S. Yvon Harper

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## Retreats

(Continued from Page 4)

Imelda Hunt, Ph.D., New Works Writers; Nikkia Jones and Lori Price Brown, using the medium of creative arts will help to enhance the message of why women need to take time out and take better care of their selves.

Herzing University, Lucas County Colon Cancer Coalition, Community Health Services (Fremont), Neighborhood Health Association, Mercy-St. Vincent Hospital, Northwest Ohio Development Agency (NODA) housing counselor; Toledo Lucas County Health Department and fitness expert Erika White from Super Fitness will also join us for

two days packed full of music, dance, information and fun.

Minister Lorna McKinstry; Valerie Thompson, Leap Graphics and Jill Nevels-Haun, Fremont News-Messenger managing editor, will serve as moderators.

Each event will present important aspects of physical, mental, and spiritual health and wellness, along with exploring significant social determinants of health.

Ohio was the first state to develop an office of minority health in response to the issue of health disparities, although recent national and

county health assessments have documented how little progress has been made despite millions of dollars that have been poured into the tradition health care establishment.

Any health care or social service agency that would like to assist with support of this event or have a health information station is still welcome to contact Dr. Lewis-Sewell at 419-754-9642.

For more information or to register, visit [www.thelighthouse.road.org](http://www.thelighthouse.road.org) or send an email to [info@thelighthouse.road.org](mailto:info@thelighthouse.road.org)

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Wine & Cheese Hallway - 2011 East State Road - Fremont, Ohio 43420

For more details, contact Dr. Anita M. Gooden at the Lighthouse Road by Home at 419-754-9642 or by Email: [Tracy@lighthouse.road.org](mailto:Tracy@lighthouse.road.org)



## For Better or For Work by Meg Cadoux Hirshberg

c.2012, Inc. Original

\$23.95 U.S. & Canada

254 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor



Your boss can be such a tyrant.

He makes you labor extra hours; in fact, he thinks it's natural that work has consumed your life. She's a workaholic and believes you are, too. He's obsessed with the biz, hopes you're the same and by the way, he's your spouse, so now what?

How does one survive when half of a marriage embraces entrepreneurship but

that half isn't you? What do you do when you didn't sign on for workaholicism? Find out by reading *For Better or For Work* by Meg Cadoux Hirshberg.

Your spouse has a dream of being his own boss. He's filled out reams of paperwork, commandeered a corner of the basement, and quit his "day job" to throw himself into the endeavor. This, of course, affects you, your

family and your bank-book, not necessarily in that order.

So when an "entrepreneurial business sucks the entire family into its vortex" and credit cards are maxed on something you fear may fail, how do you cope? How can you trust, remain supportive and keep the faith?

First of all, says Hirshberg, expect challenges. Businesses, like babies, need constant nurturing (although probably for a longer time). Work and home will overlap (especially if you work for the biz, too) and you'll have disagreements but remember that there are "no don't-go-to-bed-angry policies" in your new HR manual.

Always, *always* communicate. Decide how much stress can you both tolerate and how much risk. Where will the money come from and are you prepared to ask relatives (a whole "nother stress-source) for funds?

Be willing to set limits. While it'll be impossible to avoid bringing work home, non-work activities are important, too. Continue to fairly divvy up childcare and household chores; know when to dumb down the smart phone and if yours is a home-based business, remember that the kids live there, too.

Finally, says Hirshberg, be prepared for surprises. Don't hide resentments. Watch for fissures in the marriage and

talk things out. Sketch out a dissolution plan, even if you're not thinking along those lines, because it's "easy to fall in love with" an entrepreneur and just as easy to fall out.

If ever there's been a must-read for starting a business, this one's it - but if you're the starter, *For Better or For Work* is not for you.

Using interviews and her

own experiences as the wife of a business-builder, author Meg Cadoux Hirshberg shows a keen understanding of what a spouse goes through when married to an entrepreneur. What's really great is that Hirshberg "tried to examine every major area where entrepreneurship and domestic life intersect..." and in doing so, she gives non-entrepreneurial spouses food

for thought and ways to steel themselves for what's surely to come. That's beneficial beyond belief.

This book is honest, it's filled with examples, it has talking points at the end of each chapter, and if you've hitched your star to a future business star, then you absolutely need it. For richer and for poorer, *For Better or For Work* can only help.

### Tickets Available



Need tickets for New Edition? The group will be appearing at the Huntington Center on April 27. Call The Truth at 419-243-0007 for more information

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## Financial Aid Outreach Provided Through Local Partnerships

*Special to The Truth*

High school seniors seeking financial aid information will be able to obtain expert help at the FAFSA Drive occurring Wednesday April 18, 2012 at Pinewood Tabernacle Church at 531 Pinewood Avenue in Toledo from 1 PM to 7 PM. Students have been scheduling their free FAFSA appointments through Partners In Education, and preparing important documents for review during their FAFSA session. Financial aid advisors from The Salvation Army, University of Toledo, Bowling Green State University, Lourdes University, and Owens Community College will advise families through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, of FAFSA.

"The FAFSA process can be stressful and overwhelming," notes Partners In Education Executive Director Becky Spencer. "There are strong partnerships occurring from many groups to support families through this necessary step toward college." Calvin Sweeney of Pinewood Tabernacle has supported the FAFSA outreach campaign through his congregation, as well as his work with United Pastors for Social Empowerment. "We are pleased to collaborate with Partners in Education to work with students in making this step towards higher educational attainment," he explains.

For Toledo-area high school seniors considering their options after graduation, the FAFSA is an important tool. The FAFSA provides families with information on financial aid packages available to a student. "The FAFSA isn't just a form you complete if you're thinking about a four-year college," explains Partners In Education Program Director Shawna Babula. "The FAFSA can help with aid for pursuing community college, vocational programs, and just about any learning opportunity after high school." Partners In Education recommends a high school senior file a FAFSA online to keep all post-high school options open. Students who delay in completing the FAFSA risk receiving less financial aid than those who file now.

The FAFSA Drive appointments can be scheduled by calling Partners In Education at 419-242-2122. Staff will also work with families to assemble all the necessary documents for successful FAFSA completion. Funding for the event comes through the Northwest Ohio College Access Challenge Grant.

Partners In Education of Toledo is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit organization that provides programs and services to strengthen students' academic success through the development of partnerships with area business and community groups. Over 600 volunteers are active tutors in local Toledo schools.

## CBTU Annual Banquet Held on March 31 at Ramada Inn Secor



*Michael Alexander, vice chairman Toledo CBTU; Cheryl Tyler-Folsom, banquet co-chairman; Cerssandra McPherson, banquet co-chairman, Ray Wood, president UAW Local 14 and the banquet keynote speaker.*

This year's Coalition of Black Trade Unionists' banquet was held March 31, 2012 at the Ramada Inn secor featuring a theme: "Never Settle for Less."

Greetings were brought by Ohio State Senator, 11th District, Edna Brown and Toledo City Councilman Tyrone Riley. Music was pro-

vided by Jesse Coleman & JAMM Band.

Community Action Award recipient was the Frederick Douglas Community Association which received a monetary award of \$500.

The Trade Unionism award recipient was Cenia Willis, retired Toledo Public Schools Security Officer and Toledo Chapter

CBTU chairman.

The Community Activist Award recipient was Robert Smith, founder and president of the African American Legacy Project and the Political Achievement Award recipient was George Shafer, former NW Ohio Field Coordinator Ohio AFL-CIO (retired).

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Special to The Truth



young, successful, entrepreneur age 28 who has authored 70 books, owns two bookstores, an alkaline restaurant, and is the founder of the Golden Ankh Global Foundation Inc. in addition to publisher of Golden Ankh Newspapers.

A former gang leader, now transformed leader, Brother Polight has taken the lecturing community by storm with his unparalleled depth of information and his unique ability to articulate the information in ways that tugs at the heart. Fluent in seven languages, Brother Polite teaches all levels of sequential calculus and six sigma resource allocation. Continuing in his legacy, Brother Polight has two teenage daughters who have also authored books.

The Truth Art Gallery & Event Center is located at 1811 Adams Street, Toledo, Ohio. Sponsored by The Mark-EtPlace, tickets at the door are \$50.00 for both days and \$30.00 for one day or can be purchased in advance from Eventbrite.com (http://

The Mark-EtPlace presents author, entrepreneur, lecturer and teacher Michael Noak also known as (Brother Polight) of the Health, Wealth & Stealth Tour April 20, 2012 from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm and April 21, 2012 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at The Truth Art Gallery & Event Center. The Health, Wealth & Stealth Tour will feature a dynamic, edgy lecture from Bro Polight on "Black Economics" which is designed specifically for urban audiences. Brother Polight is a

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etplace.com.

### Treasury Announces \$31.6 Million Increase in Small Business Lending at Ohio Banks Receiving Capital Through the Small Business Lending Fund

Special to The Truth

Yesterday, the U.S. Department of the Treasury released a report showing that Ohio banks have increased their small business lending by \$31.6 million since receiving capital through Small Business Lending Fund (SBLF).

The SBLF, which was established as part of the Small Business Jobs Act that President Obama signed into law, encourages community banks to increase their lending to small businesses to help them grow and create new jobs. Treasury invested more than \$4 billion in 332 institutions, located in over 3,000 communities in 48 states, through the SBLF. Nationwide, institutions participating in the SBLF significantly increased small business lending in the last quarter of 2011 by \$1.3 billion over the

prior quarter—for a total of \$4.8 billion over their baseline.

"This report shows that the Small Business Lending Fund is having a powerful impact," said Deputy Secretary of the Treasury Neal Wolin. "The program is helping spark new lending to local entrepreneurs looking to invest in their businesses and create new jobs."

To view the report on the SBLF that Treasury released yesterday, including a detailed list of the change in lending at banks receiving SBLF capital, please click [here](#).

Small businesses play a critical role in the U.S. economy and are central to growth and job creation. Small businesses employ roughly one-half of all Americans and account for about

60 percent of gross job creation. But small business owners faced disproportionate challenges in the aftermath of the recession and credit crisis, including difficulty accessing capital.

The SBLF helps small businesses meet this challenge by providing capital to community banks that hold under \$10 billion in assets.

The dividend rate a community bank pays on SBLF funding is reduced as that bank increases its small business lending, providing a strong incentive for new lending to small businesses so they can expand and create jobs. For more details on the SBLF program, please click [here](#).

The SBLF is one part of the Obama Administration's comprehensive agenda to help small businesses access

the capital they need to invest and hire. The State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI), which is also a key part of the Small Business Jobs Act, has allocated \$1.4 billion to small business programs in 54 states, territories, and municipalities to help spur additional lending to small businesses and manufacturers.

Last week, President Obama also signed the Jumpstart Our Business Startups (JOBS) Act into law, which will allow Main Street small businesses and high-growth enterprises to raise capital from investors more efficiently, helping small and young firms across the country to grow and hire faster. For more details on the key elements of the JOBS Act, please visit [here](#) and [here](#).

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## Spring Cleaning: Part II

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

There's always something cathartic about throwing open the windows and doors and preparing to throw old stuff out. Things you've accumulated over the winter – gone. Stuff you bought to combat the colds – outta here. You always find some treasures, don't you? There's always something discovered that you'd totally forgotten you had.

Like for instance, the bookstore gift card you got back in December.

Uh oh. What do you use it for? You have no ideas, but I do. Here in Part II of Spring Cleaning are some additional great ideas for that gift certificate you forgot you had ...

IF YOU CAN'T DO WITHOUT A NEW BIOGRAPHY...

then look for *Every Step You Take* by Jock Soto. This bio, written by the principal dancer with the New York City Ballet, tells how a Puerto Rican-Navajo gay young man survived his childhood and become a premiere dancer. He also writes about his career, his loves, and his newest adventure. If you love dance, you can't miss this book.

Here's another book about dance, but with a twist: *LeFreak* by Nile Rodgers. This is the story of Rodgers life as a songwriter and producer of an awful lot of songs you'll surely remember from the 1970s and '80s. Love to read dirt on the stars? You'll want this book, then. Stars absolutely fill it.

Here's something fun to read: *A Sawdust Heart: My Vaudeville Life in Medicine and Tent Show* by Henry Wood, as Told to Michael

Fedo. This is a true accounting of a young Wisconsin boy who ran away to join show biz at age 12. This happened over 100 years ago, and his recollections are quaint, sweet, and just right for historians and anybody who wants a peek at life so long ago.

For a little dose of patriotism with your relaxation, look for *Proud of What I Was... A Soldier by LTC. Richard Dan Hill, U.S. Army Retired*. This is a book about LTC Hill's life, his career, and what it was like to serve his country for nearly 25 years.

So you grew up in a quirky household, eh? Then you'll want to read *Burn Down the Ground* by Kambri Crews, which is about growing up with two hearing-impaired parents in a household hewn from a patch of Texasland. It's also about love, violence, understanding, and really getting to know who your parents are.

Speaking of love, if there's romance in your soul, then look for *Made for You and Me* by Caitlin Shetterly. This is a book about a young couple, newlywed and newly parents, who find themselves virtually penniless and need to figure out how to get cross-country and back home. What happens will warm your heart and make you smile...

Okay, so you found the gift certificate because it was tucked away somewhere. Find a kindred soul in *A Cluttered Life* by Pesi Dinnerstein. This memoir is about one woman's quest to simplify her life and her house in any way she can, and how a tussle with trash can make a tidy soul. Go, now. Find that gift certificate, before you

lose it again.

Can you take the city out of the country girl? The answer lies in *500 Acres and No Place to Hide* by Susan McCorkindale. This book, a sequel to "Confessions of a Counterfeit Farm Girl" tells the further adventures of an East Coast girl who lands in a pile of... Virginia farm. It's funny, it's addicting, and you can read it as a standalone if you want.

IF THE GIFT CARD BELONGS TO ONE OF THE KIDS...

and the kid in question loves the Earth, then you can't go wrong with *The Wizard Who Saved the World* by Jeffrey Bennett, illustrated by Roberta Collier-Morales. This book (for kids ages seven-14) is a budding scientist's dream because it's filled with information as well as a cute story. The good news is that part of the book will appeal to kids on the younger side of the age group, while the sidebars will appeal to older children.

If your young fashionista is more into jeans and t's, then you'll want to find *The Lowdown on Denim* by Tanya Lloyd Kyi (illustrated by Clayton Hanmer). This is a fun book because it's history-as-entertainment. How can you go wrong?

Here's a cool book for teens, especially those who love posters: *Coke or Pepsi? Poster Book* by Mickey and Cheryl Gill. This huge book (it's poster-size, get it?) is filled with rip-out art that's perfect for bedroom or – if your teen can wait – the locker. This might be a perfect going-to-high-school gift, too, and while you're at it, look for *Dude #2: The Book of Crazy, Immature*

*Stuff!*, which is also by the Gills. Think of it as a doodle-able journal. Your teen will.

If your children like adventure with a twist of realism, then look for

*Sir Haunz & Gertrude's Great Escape* by Joyce Lewis. This is a book about two kids who are sent away while their parents take care of a family emergency, but things go awry... This book is great for kids ages nine-12, especially if they've got an independent streak in them.

What do you get when you mix students and an amusement park? If it's 1963 and Martin Luther King just gave his "I Have a Dream" speech, the mixture might change the way things are done, as your teen will see in *Round & Round Together* by Amy Nathan. This little-known peek at history is perfect for kids who want to understand why making a difference is so important. And speaking of making a difference, you might also want to look for *To the Mountaintop* by Charlayne Hunter-Gault, which is a memoir of the Civil Rights Movement.

Another adventure book to find is *The Galactic Adventures of Jaedyn G.* by Andre Gaines, art by Michelle Garcia. This is the story of a girl who's snatched

by a spaceship from the Planet Bob (gotta love it).



The aliens think she's got superpowers, but she's merely super. For kids who love humor, this book is out of this world. And if your daughter loves biographies, then you're in luck: there's a whole series of them, written about "dastardly dames" throughout history, all published by Goosebottom Books. Look for bios on *Catherine De'Medici* (by Janie Havemeyer); *Cleopatra* (by Mary Fisk Pack); *Marie Antoinette* (by Liz Hockinson); *Agrippina* (by Shirin Yim Bridges); *Cixi* (by Natasha Yim) and *Mary Tudor* (by Gretchen Maurer). These books are illustrated, and are great for nine-to-12-year-old readers.

IF IT REALLY IS SOME OF YOUR BUSINESS....

then you'll want to look for *Affluence Intelligence* by Stephen Goldbart, PhD and Joan Indursky Difuria, MFT. You've no doubt heard about an emotional IQ and you've probably had your IQ tested once or twice, but do you know how your AIQ can help you in life and business? This book will tell you. Bonus: quizzes, to help you assess where you are and where you need to be.

So you recently said a few prayers to win the lottery, then you'll appreciate this book: *Money on Purpose: Finding a Faith-Filled Balance* by Shayna Lear. This book will help you find the right mix with your spirituality and your financial personality so you can grow both. Hint: nice book to share with your fellow church members.

And if you don't think you have what it takes to be successful, then get your gift

certificate and get to the bookstore, quick, to find *Big Fat Lies Women Tell Themselves* by Amy Ahlers. This wonderfully truthful book busts a few myths and it will free you to find the things you've always wanted out of life.

TO YOUR HEALTH.... You're not going to want to plant your butt anywhere after you've read this book: *Sitting Kills, Moving Heals* by Joan Vernikos, PhD. Written by the former director of NASA's Life Sciences Division, this is a book that proves the moves to help you stay well... and alive.

If taking care of yourself is important (and you know it is), then read *Medicine with a Human Touch: Putting Patients First* by Richard Dew, M.D. This book explains why your doctor does what he does, and how she deals with the challenges that arise when taking care of patients like you. It'll help you understand how to better partner with your doc.

You already know how music really puts you in a good mood. What would you think if you knew it could help you stay healthy? In *Scales to Scalpels* by Lisa Wong, M.D. with Robert Viagas, you'll see how an orchestra – made up of doubly-talented physicians and health-care workers – use music to change the way they heal. If you loved Oliver Sacks' book on this subject, you'll be equally in tune with this book.

And finally, if you sometimes feel as though you've been sick since forever, there may be a reason. In *Scared Sick: The Role of Childhood Trauma in Adult Disease* by Robin Karr-Morse with Meredith S. Wiley, you'll get some insight to why your health is the way it is. This is a great book for you, but it could also help your kids someday.

And now... if these suggestions don't help you spend that gift certificate, then find the nice bookseller behind the counter and ask for help. He or she will know exactly what to do to find exactly what you'll want.

Happy Reading!

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B. Wills – The Long-Awaited Interview

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

The Young Scholars Program was one of those things government got right.

The program took inner-city elementary kids who had above average grades and started preparing them for higher learning at an early age.

Before getting kicked out, I spent the early 90s in this program and loved it. Then, at the end of the 90s, my little sister Kai'lah received her invitation to join the program.

At this point, I was 20 or so and in my first full year at The University of Toledo but I made sure to take time to be with my parents and sister as she attended her introductory luncheon. Seated at our table was another new inductee to the Young Scholars Program, the future B. Wills.

Our families had a ball, even traced family trees with the far-off possibility someone had married someone else that may have made us relatives. From being pre-teens and over the years into adulthood, I watched my sister and B form a fam-like friendship.

They've held each other down through ups and downs even as both of them found not many of their friends were life-long. Because I'm involved in the local music scene, I remember the buzz around B.Wills starting to bubble even in the early Myspace days.

Then I watched him grow, evolve and get better and better until he's someone you HAVE to mention when you speak of music in this city.

My company has always shown him love and respect and he's always returned it.

We've supported each other's music, events and successes.

We've discussed situations we've both faced. We've both had people say stuff about us to each other,



unaware that we have been tight for years.

So now, with a new project and a new event on the horizon... Toledo's own Mr. 106 & Park is ready to break his silence on a few things.

Here you go, Toledo. This is for y'all.

MICHAEL

How did you become one of the hottest rappers in the area? It's a direct question, but just spell it out for everyone. How did you do it?

B. WILLS: I remained true to myself and consistently outworked everyone while still showing love. I paid attention to all of those that came before me from around my area and made sure to never repeat the mistakes they made. Truth is a lot of cats only want to be "Local Celebrities." They'll have a hot single, get it played in the club a few times and then that's it, they've made it. That's totally fine, just not for me. The things rappers

speak of in their rhymes, I do it. Every rapper claims to "Put on for their city" and "have the city on their back" but in actuality only care about themselves getting on. It's a never ending joke, they do everything in their power to get the people behind them and the second they have that support and reach a certain amount of success their like "Peace, see y'all when I see y'all". Toledo to me is like that chick that everyone talks bad about but regardless you still love her. Say what you want but she's mine and I'm proud of her.

MICHAEL

I've watched you become a household name in Toledo. Which is something very few artists have done.

What are the pros & cons that come with being this known in this city?

B. WILLS:

It's a love/hate thing. There's people that truly appreciate me repping the city

like because of that, 'why should I be the one leading Toledo?'. Guess I should rap about selling drugs and Coogi, yea, then they'll definitely love me lol.

MICHAEL:

What is your overall goal as an artist?

B. WILLS:

To inspire and influence anyone with a dream that's scared to be themselves due to what most people would think. That's worldwide, not just Toledo. Everyone's so scared to be themselves and I hate it. At the end of the day I want to show the world the positive side of Toledo that anyone rarely talks about and gets to see. The last few times Toledo was on national TV I took part in that, that's a true blessing. From Glenwood Ave. to television, you can't tell me nothing.

MICHAEL:

What music do you listen to? Like, what five artists are most frequently on your personal play lists?

B. WILLS:

Top 5 would be Rick Ross, Sade, Drake, Wiz Khalifa & Nipsey Hussle.

MICHAEL:

What makes the perfect single? What makes the perfect mixtape?

B. WILLS:

The perfect single to me is the one that you're most comfortable with performing. That single can open so many doors for you but if you can't bring that song to life in person there's no point. Far as the perfect mixtape, I'd have to say individuality. Straight like that. If you need an example make sure you download my new mixtape "Shawn Michaels" April 27 via LiveMixtapes.com. Just keeping it real as the kids say.

MICHAEL:

What are some of the ridiculous rumors you have heard about you and please take a moment to set the record straight.

B. WILLS:

Here we go! Funny thing is that I never take the time to set records straight cuz I could care less if people know a truth. The NUMBER one rumor is that I'm gay, by far. For the record I love gay people as much as any others but no I'm not gay myself. Maybe it's because of the hair or maybe even the fact that my clothes fit, who knows? All they gotta do is ask their chicks, they know what it is! The other rumors vary so much, that's pretty much the main one. Maybe I

(Continued on Page 14)

Advertisement for Gamesavvy.com featuring a group of people and the text 'STOP BEING SO SURPRISED!' and 'WATCH GAMESAVVY LATE NIGHT'.

Large advertisement for B. Wills' mixtape release party featuring a photo of him and text: 'B. WILLS (SHAWN MICHAELS) MIXTAPE RELEASE PARTY/CONCERT FRIDAY APRIL 27TH @ THE ZOOBAR'.

Advertisement for 93.1 FM Jam Packed Magazine Radio Show featuring a photo of a man and text: 'Always Broadcasting on Location Live! Now Broadcasting Tuesday - Saturday from the Central City 6pm - 10pm Tune in!'.

## B. Wills – The Long-Awaited Interview

(Continued from Page 13)

should rap about being in the trap with my Tall T and goons.

**MICHAEL:**

Professionally, a lot of people want to be down with you. Say they've worked with you, all kinds of stuff. What are your past/present professional relationships with various companies or entities in this area? Set the record straight on who and has not been a part of your success so far.

**B. WILLS:**

DOPE question. Most don't know but I've been without any management or team for about two years now. Everything from BET, the touring, mixtapes, it was all me. Not looking for a pat on the back but I want for people to know the truth. Embrace of Embrace Enterprises definitely played a huge role in my success. I learned so much from her, it was more than business. Charlie Mack and

the entire Juice 107.3 family, I look at them as my actual family for real. There's so many people, from all the DJ's to club owners, I'm appreciative of each and every person, sincerely. Far as people claiming they've worked with me and saying I'm affiliated with them, I appreciate the compliment but keep it 100. To anyone that truly wants to work with me, let's get this money!

**MICHAEL:**

Explain the idea behind "Derwin Davis" and how it's been received so far.

**B. WILLS:**

I had gotten the email that I would be going back on BET's 106 & Park for the W.O.W Championship and I couldn't think of what song to perform. I was literally watching "The Game" on DVR and it hit me. I'm about to go back on BET, why not make a song about their highest viewed

show? It's the championship, the world will be watching. Next thing you know I performed the song and a producer backstage informed me that I was third biggest trending topic worldwide on twitter and I won. Then Pooch Hall (who plays "Derwin Davis") began tweeting about me and since we've formed a cool friendship, one of the coolest and most supportive people I've ever met. The rest is history. The song is currently on radio and iTunes, the response has been better than I could ever dream. Shouts out to DJ One Tyme for being the first to spin it on radio, greatly appreciated that.

**MICHAEL:**

The alias "Beverly", the streaked hair, the clothes... no matter what anyone says, you or someone around you understands packaging.

You at one point were known just as much for fashion and image just as much

for music.

Explain how you've been able to create that lane for yourself.

**B. WILLS:**

I always did what I wanted to do. I really don't care what people think of me, dead serious. I'm not trying to be different or follow any trends, this is me. People don't understand that it's not about talent in this industry, your actual talent only plays a portion. You have to appeal to the masses all the way around. Don't get it twisted, if I wasn't doing music I'd still be rockin skinnys with the funky hair. It was easy musically to create my line because I speak on true events from my life. It's impossible to sound like anyone else when you're doing that.

**MICHAEL:**

What does the rest of 2012 hold for B. Wills?

**B. WILLS:**

Well they say the end is near so hopefully a lot before but December. Seriously though, 2012 will be the greatest year of my career so far, I'm more than sure of that. My new mixtape "Shawn Michaels" releases April 27 on line and I'm actually having the release concert in Toledo that same night @ The Zodiac. Most concerts are expensive so I made sure that the tickets are only \$10 and it's an all ages show so everyone from junior high school kids to adults can come. It's gonna be a HUGE night for me and Toledo. Tickets are on sale now @ HotKixx (5250 Monroe St. across from Krogers). I've got a few surprises for that night so just make sure you're in the building!

So there you have it. Be in the building for his show, make sure you get the mixtape and if you can... try to calm

down the hatred. Producing and packaging my own artists, I always use B. Wills and a few others as examples. Because no matter what has been said about them, they are more polished and ready than most in this area. And if you know anything about getting close to that deal, and what it really takes to gain access to those majors, it should be easy for you to appreciate and hard for you to hate.

Oh yea, let me give my little shout-out to the WJUC family as well.

I'll be in touch soon y'all. Toledo, let's have a good summer

Peace.

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# CLASSIFIEDS

April 18, 2012

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**Notice to Bidders:** Inquiry # FY12-112, (Project #0031-12-790) Glass Bowl Press Tower & N. Larimer Roof Replacements for the University of Toledo Main Campus. Sealed bids for this project must be clearly marked with the project number on all inner and outer envelopes and/or shipping containers. Bids must be addressed and delivered to the University of Toledo, Main Campus, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 8, 2012. Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 3:05 p.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000. Copies of Plans, Specifications, and Bid Forms may be obtained from Rossi & Associates, LLC, 970 S. Byrne Road., Toledo, Ohio 43609. Call 419-385-6633 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of \$20.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Brad Rossi of Rossi & Associates, LLC at 419-385-6633. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, May 1, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. in Plant Operations Building Room 1000, at the University of Toledo, Main Campus, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, Toledo, Ohio 43606. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 10%. Project Estimate: \$301,545.00; Breakdown: General Const: \$301,545.00.

**Notice to Bidders:** Inquiry # FY12-109, (Project # 0054-12-737) for McComas Village Roofs for the University of Toledo. Sealed bids for this project must be clearly marked with the project number on all inner and outer envelopes and/or shipping containers. Bids must be addressed and delivered to the University of Toledo, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations, Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 8, 2012. Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 2:05 p.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000. Copies of Plans, Specifications, and Bid Forms may be obtained from Rossi & Associates, 970 S. Byrne Road, Toledo, Ohio 43609. Call 419-385-6633 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of \$20.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from Brad Rossi of Rossi & Associates at 419-385-6633. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, May 1, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000, at the University of Toledo, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, Toledo, OH 43606. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 10%. Project Estimate: \$255,000.00; Breakdown: General Const: \$255,000.00.

**Notice to Bidders:** Inquiry # FY12-113, (Project # 1020-12-818) The University of Toledo Residence Life Surveillance for the University of Toledo Main Campus. Sealed bids for this project must be clearly marked with the project number on all inner and outer envelopes and/or shipping containers. Bids must be addressed and delivered to the University of Toledo, Main Campus, Facilities and Construction, Plant Operations Room 1100, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, MS 216, Toledo, Ohio 43606 before 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 8, 2012. Bids will be publicly opened that same day at 1:05 p.m. in the Plant Operations Building, Room 1000. Copies of Plans, Specifications, and Bid Forms may be obtained from Becker Impressions, 4646 Angola Road, Toledo, Ohio 43615. Call 419-385-5303 for an appointment to pick up bid package. A cost of \$45.00 will be charged per set. Any further information may be obtained from David Desjardins of JDRM Engineering at 419-824-2400. One Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, May 1, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. in Plant Operations Building Room 1000, at the University of Toledo, Main Campus, 2925 E. Rocket Drive, Toledo, Ohio 43606. Total Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond are required per section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. EDGE Participation Goal: 10%. Project Estimate: \$450,000.00; Breakdown: Electrical: \$450,000.00.

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### Production Supervisors

Sunrise Windows, a Temperance, MI manufacturer of premium-performing windows and patio doors, seeks to fill Production Supervisor positions on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> shifts. Qualified applicants should have at least 3 years' experience in production leadership supervising a large hourly workforce in a manufacturing or distribution environment and a Bachelor's Degree in business, operations or other closely related field. In lieu of degree, a combination of equivalent knowledge, skills and experience may be substituted.

Supervisors must be able to meet daily production targets, while meeting expectations for safety, quality and continuous improvement and creating a positive environment of teamwork and mutual respect with employees. Supervisors must maintain a hands-on, highly visible presence on the shop floor with extensive employee interaction. A "whatever it takes for our customers" mentality is a must! In return, Sunrise offers competitive compensation, including incentive-based pay, excellent insurance and retirement plan benefits. To apply, send letter of interest with shift preference, resume and salary requirements to [employment@sunrisewindows.com](mailto:employment@sunrisewindows.com). Applications without salary requirements will not be considered.

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419-917-1156

### Abundant Life of Perrysburg is a sub-

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

### Older Home

Set on approximately one acre  
2 bedrooms - \$30,000  
Holland area  
419-865-5766

### NORTHGATE APARTMENTS 610 STICKNEY AVENUE

Now Accepting Applications for 1 and 2 Bedroom Apartments  
Mature Adult Community for Persons 55 and Older. Rent Based on Income. Heat, Appliances, Drapes, Carpeting Included.  
Call (419) 729-7118 for details.

### Alpha Towers Apartments 525 E. Woodruff

Now accepting applications for 1 and 2 bedroom apartments.  
Mature adult community for persons 62 and older. Rent based on income. All utilities. Appliances. Blinds. Service coordinator on site. Call 419-246-1258 for details

### Finish Drywall and Painting

Residential and commercial  
Patch and match existing textures  
References upon request  
419-280-2967

### Wanted to Buy: Diabetes Supplies

Earn up to \$12 per box of 100 test strips. Must expire after September 2012. Leave labels on boxes. We remove and shred. Call 419-740-7162 and leave message.

### Part Time Maintenance Person

For medical equipment maintenance of power wheelchairs and power scooters  
Part-time  
Call Ken at 419-865-0089

# “Fun through Fitness”

## Jack & Jill National Day of Fitness With Boys and Girls Club of Greater Toledo

“The physical and emotional health of an entire generation and the economic health and security of our nation is at stake.”  
 - First Lady Michelle Obama at the Let's Move! launch on February 9, 2010

**Background**

Children today have sedentary lifestyles. Statistics show an alarming increase in childhood obesity due to lack of exercise and poor diet, increasing children's risk of diabetes, heart disease and cancer.

To address this threat, Jack and Jill of America, Inc. developed the AIM for Healthy Living Initiative, a comprehensive, collaborative and family oriented program to empower our families and communities to make their own health a top priority.

Beginning in 2010, as a national organization Jack and Jill has participated in various Healthy Living Programming Events. On April 21, 2012 the Toledo Chapter of Jack & Jill will be participating in the Jack & Jill National Fitness Day—a nationwide event where every chapter across the country participates in a fun and exciting fitness extravaganza where our families and the communities we serve will come together and celebrate fitness and health.

On this day we will join forces with The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Toledo in our collaborative “Fun through Fitness” program - a fun and exciting fitness event where over 175 youth from our respective groups will come together to celebrate fitness and health through exercise sessions, organized sports and nutrition education.

**Program Highlights**

- Date: Saturday, April 21, 2012
- Time: 1:00pm – 4:00pm
- Place: Boys & Girls Club Greater Toledo  
 Homer Hanham Club  
 2250 N. Detroit  
 Toledo, OH 43606

“Fun through Fitness” will coincide with National Minority Health Month and National Boys & Girls Club Week (April 15-21, 2012). During this week hundreds of Boys and Girls Clubs around the country open their doors to the community, inviting them to special events and fun activities. Many Clubs host open houses and performances to highlight their vital role in the community. Our “Fun Through Fitness” event will be the culmination of a week of programs the BGC of Toledo will have focused on healthy living.

- There will be something for everyone!
- Exercise sessions (zumba, aerobics/hip-hop dance)
  - Organized sports (volleyball, double dutch contest, basketball)
  - Kids Olympics (obstacle courses, tug-of-war)

- Youth nutrition (portion control, healthy choices)
- Healthy Snack preparation

Through this event our hope is that we will have an impact on our children of the importance and life-saving connection between being healthy, fit and living well.

*Jack & Jill of America, Inc. is a national membership organization of mothers with children ages 2 to 19, dedicated to nurturing future leaders by supporting children through leadership development, volunteer service, philanthropic giving and civic duty.*

## Mt Nebo Hosts Event for Elder Rance Allen



Mt. Nebo Baptist Church held a special service on Sunday April 8, 2012 to celebrate the achievements of local gospel star, Elder Rance Allen.

*Seated (l. to r.): Sabrina Prince, Debra Brock, Nikki Coley  
 Standing (l. to r.): Rev. Mark Smaw, Rev. Michael Prince, Rev. Cedric Brock, Deacon Ivan Coley, Rev. Alan Crawford*

## Miss Candace F. Willis

10/24/65 – 02/16/12

The family acknowledges with deep appreciation, the comforting messages, prayers, flowers, calls, visits and other expressions of kindness shown during her homegoing celebration.



Words truly cannot express how much our hearts were lifted by many.

*Gratefully,  
 Nathan Sr.  
 & Cenia Willis*

*Nathan Jr.  
 & Charssie Willis*