



Local and National News

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Volume 36, No. 9

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

December 30, 2015

# Holiday Soulcial Scene!



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*The Soulcial Scene*

# Community Gathers to Celebrate Edwin Mabry

*By Tricia Hall**Sojourner's Truth Reporter*

Hairstylists, clients, barbers, friends, family and supporters gathered on December 13, 2015 to celebrate Edwin Mabry, owner of Genesis Beauty Salon for over 18 years, which is located at 1209 Hoag Street.

Club Evolution welcomed over 100 people, who verbally and physically shared memories and words of encouragement.

"He is a self-less man. I wasn't going to miss this event tonight. He made me the person I am today," said Ray Woods, NAACP Toledo Unit president.

Suzette Cowell, Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union (TUFUCU) CEO, spearheaded the celebration fundraiser. Mabry, a longtime board member of TUFUCU, was injured several months ago when an automobile ran over his foot.

"He has helped so many people, and it's time for us to help him. He has and will help anyone that he can. I know he's loved, so many people are here. I hope he get well soon," said Cowell.

"I am humbled by what I heard today. I thank each of you," said Edwin Mabry.

*Althea and Sam Baldwin**Edwin and Dee Mabry**Edwin Mabry and Suzette Cowell**Stubblefield family**Edwin Mabry and friends**Jack, Terri, Dee Mabry**Gwen Roberts, Fionne Wright, Beverly Barnhill**Patricia Hogue and Debra Roberts**Edwin Dancers**Ron and Sharlene Roberts*

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## The Soulcial Scene

# There Are Opportunities All Around – From A to Z “NETWORKING”- Part 3

## Maintaining Our Developing Network

By Zahra Aprili

Soulcial Scene Contributor

For the past two months we have been discussing how to build a rewarding and effective network. I have shared with you my belief that having a network means having relationships and it is from this perspective that we have approached my three steps for building a rewarding network. New Year is here and I am really curious to know how all of you are doing.

We used November as our launching month, taking the time to start a conversation, meet someone new and reacquaint ourselves with someone we did not know very well.

### 1. FIRST CONTACT

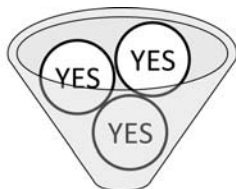


In December we begin the process of sifting through these new connections and categorizing them based on our initial purpose and continuing to add new connections.

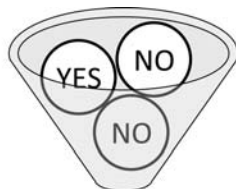
### 2. EVALUATION

Step two is **EVALUATION** of the connections that you have made. Ask yourself key questions to sort your new connections through your network funnel.

1. What was your purpose?
2. Is the contact directly engaged in your purpose?
3. Is the contact is connected with individuals, businesses or organizations that relate to your purpose?
4. Did you make a personal connection in addition to a purpose connection with the individual?



This is possible a great person to add to your network. Follow up with a detailed email, invite for coffee or lunch.



This person may not be someone you want to spend a lot of energy adding to your network. Follow up with a polite email. You are not obligated to continue seeking a connection.

If you have been following along and engaged in the process you should have three to

... continued on page 4

# Etiquette in the 21st Century: Because Manners Matter Insisting on Life: Personal Effectiveness

By Robin Reeves

Soulcial Scene Contributor

While out on the social scene during the month of December, I encountered some fantastic people celebrating the birth of Christ, anniversaries, graduations, family traditions and other events that brought lots of people together. I was also reminded by several people that this is not always a good time of year for many for various reasons. I pray all have been comforted.

Reflecting on a few conversations I've had over the past few weeks lead me to think of how being aware of our environment and how connected we are to others really does have a profound effect on how we communicate with each other.

One of my conversations was about what's fair and unfair, another about if black people were relevant in the workplace, what is success and the personal integrity of the presidential candidates who have lost control of their temperament.

Etiquette is the universal connector to the world. It develops our personal effectiveness which is our ability to create distraction free environments. The good news is that most people are aware of the importance of personal effectiveness. The not so good news is that people are unsure of how to develop it or how to demonstrate it.

As I acknowledge the 85th birthday (December 31) of the late Odetta Holmes, folk singer, elementary teacher, and civil rights movement leader, I'm reminded of her love of "work songs" that she said people would sing to ease the pain of the times.

She said, "They were liberation songs," she later recalled. "You're walking down life's road, society's foot is on your throat, every which way you turn you can't get from under that foot. And you reach a fork in the road and you can either lie down and die or insist upon your life

... continued on page 4



Robin Reeves

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## The Soulcial Scene

Networking... continued from page 3

four connections that you have sifted through your funnel and two to three that need sorting. Heading into January we want to bring this process full circle using the last step in our process for building a rewarding network.

Step 3 is **MAINTENANCE**. It is not enough to make just make the acquaintance of someone and place them in a category for follow up. Remember building a network is building a relationship. Relationships need to be nurtured in order to grow. Likewise, our developing networks need continual maintenance in order to grow and be of use to us. I know you're waiting for me to tell you how exactly you are supposed to maintain this growing network, right? All you need to do is remember the following:

Be **VISABLE**- You cannot make connections and then disappear. This is especially important after your initial follow up. Keep your network engaged. Set reminders to tell you to communicate with members of your network. We get caught up in our everyday lives and sometimes forget to reach out. The old saying is true, "Out of Sight, Out of Mind." Do not allow your new connections to forget you exist.

Be **VOCAL**- Send email, share social media posts, share articles and books of interest with your network. Start a discussion on a particular subject and ask for the opinions of the members of your network.

Be **VALUABLE**- Refer people in your network to others. Your ability to connect other together is an asset to anyone in your network. Remember all those "No's" you funneled? They might not be right for your personal developing network, but there is some else who may need to be introduced to that "No" connection. Send out invitations, are you going to an event that may benefit someone in your network? Have an extra ticket? Invite them along. Have a member of your network be your plus one goes a long way when you are nurturing your connections.

Be a **VOLUNTEER**- As it relates to maintaining your developing network I encourage you to be helpful and get involved. At its height this could mean joining an organization or committee of interest related to YOUR PURPOSE. Getting involved allows you to be around

like minded individuals who are a part of, or have the potential to become a part of your growing network. In addition, you are able to keep up with these individuals through structured meetings and activities. In its most base form, **VOLUNTEERING** could simply be making yourself available to assist a member of your network and actually following through. Showing that you are conscientious and dependable will go a long way in keeping maintaining your relationships.

I hope that this series has helped each of you to venture out of your comfort zones and think differently about how you approach networking with others and figuring out how to grow your networking relationships. Networking is a continuous cycle, when done correctly will enhance both your business and personal relationships.



Zahra Aprili

*Zahra Aprili is a professional consigliere. She works with individuals and businesses that have ideas for growth and change, helping them to get organized and connecting them with service providers who can help them on their journey.*

Etiquette... continued from page 3

... those people who made up the songs were the ones who insisted upon life." What do you insist upon? What "work song" are you singing?

You may be asking: Robin, what does this have to do with etiquette and image? Well, as usual, I'm glad you asked. Like Odetta said, work songs were liberation songs and the people who made up the songs were the ones who insisted upon life.

Etiquette insists that you sing songs of life, success, confidence, personal integrity and respect in every environment and situation. If your image reflects a sad, low value, irrelevant song, studies have shown that what we pour into our human media (our brain and body) will be revealed on the outside. Your personal effectiveness will elevate you into places that your professional development will not.

Here are four tips to help you "insist upon life" in your workplace:

#### 1. Avoid singing the fair and unfair song:

Being fair is defined by dictionary.com as 1) free from bias, dishonesty or injustice; proper under rules... If you are faced with a situation where you believe you have been treated unfairly, evaluate the situation and start with yourself. For example, in sports, there has to be a winner and a loser. In case of a tie during regulation time then more time is put on the clock to try to break the tie. Either way, an even playing field was set but it's how you play the game that will measure your temperament or your ability to maintain control if the outcome is not in your favor. No, the field is not always fair

**2. Sing a song of relevance:** If you do not make yourself relevant you are not adding value to your company. What is it that you do that no one else can do or want to do that connects you to the company? For example, if you have a cookie-cutter resume from the resume factory or online resume temples (I have used them many times), what makes you more relevant than your competition? What stands out about you that makes you more relevant.

#### 3. Sing a song of success:

Success to me is achieving your goals. Wake up with a plan every day. If you have identified what makes you relevant it will be easier to set goals which will lead to your success. Establish your SMART Logic



Odetta

plan and work your plan.

#### 4. Sing a song of integrity:

Maintaining your integrity will help you to sleep good every night. Money, power, success are just three things that could negatively affect our morals and ethical principles. Avoid having your integrity measured by others who's standards do not challenge you to do your best. For example, just because one employee can take an extra 15 min. long lunch break does not mean you can. Fifteen minutes turns into dollars or lost production. It costs the company and could cost you your job.

I hope these four tips will help you think differently about the way you approach work and how having a song in your in your pocket can add value to the bottom line of your company.

In closing, I thank the late Odetta for her insight into how through hard times we can still sing a song that can empower us to keep on moving with confidence, personal integrity and respect.

Quote from Odetta

"The better we feel about ourselves, the fewer times we have to knock others down to feel tall".

- Odetta

Wishing you a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

## The Soulcial Scene

# Toledo Chapter of Girl Friends Celebrates the Holidays and Its 55th Anniversary

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

The members of the Toledo Chapter of Girl Friends Inc., along with spouses and friends, celebrated the group's 55th Anniversary on Sunday, December 13, at the Stone Oak Country Club with a special emphasis on acknowledging the contributions of charter members and welcoming newly installed ones.

Chapter President Marie Latham Bush greeted members and guests and, after a presentation of the chapter's history, recognized the charter members – Thelma Adams, Joan Coleman and Yvonne McGoodwin-Gandy.

Club members Katrina Barry and Angeline Murry introduced the new members: Lisa Dubose, Alisha Gant, Faith Harriston, Shari Kinnebrew, Patrice McClellan, Valerie Thompson, Richelle Watkins, Stephanie White and Cynthia Tetterton-Williams.

After dinner, the entertainment was provided by Kaydee Entertainment.

The Girl Friends officers are: Bush, president; Barry, vice president; Yolanda Gwinn-Harleston, recording secretary; Wanda Brown, corresponding secretary; Carolyn Lewis, treasurer; Lati Osinowo, chatterbox editor; Emily Monago, technology; Rochelle Rollins, parliamentarian; Comfort Ofori, courtesy & good neighbor; Lera Doneghy, historian; Angeline Murry, membership and Ireatha Hollie, chaplain



(Seated left to right): Faith Harriston, Alisha Gant, Patrice McClellan, Valerie Thompson, Cynthia Tetterton-Williams; (Standing): Marie Bush, Lisa Dubose, Richelle Watkins, Shari Kinnebrew, Stephanie White, Katrina Barry



Girlfriends President Marie Bush and Toledo Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson



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## The Soulcial Scene

# Area Office on Aging's Annual Senior Holiday Party

Over 700 seniors came together from all over Lucas County on December 4 to celebrate the Area Office on Aging's Annual Senior Holiday Party at the Premiere Banquet Center.

The mid-day event featured a formal sit-down lunch, entertainment by vocalist Marcia Bowen and the Manhattan Dance Company and, naturally, a visit from Santa Claus.

Attendees came from the Lucas County Senior Center as well as senior housing centers, churches and other organizations around the area. This was the 18th annual holiday party hosted by the Area Office on Aging.



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## The Soulcial Scene

# Fros, Fashions & Finds A Holiday Hair Affair

By Megan Davis

Soulcial Scene Contributor

The holiday season is upon us and there are lots of gatherings with family and friends. From Christmas dinners and corporate gatherings to New Year's Eve services and midnight soiree's, these winter holidays are filled with festive events where the perfect hairstyle is required.

Members of the Toledo Afro Club submitted pictures of their styles that can transition from a day job to an evening affair with little to no effort. In this holiday edition of *Fros, Fashions and Finds*, there are several style options featured that naturals can wear at any stage of their journey.

For short naturals, the hair can be accented with great accessories or color. If you're afraid of adding color to your hair, you may wish to try a temporary color like Marian Blanton did. She used Rave temporary spray in deep purple from *Ulta* on her TWA (teeny weeny Afro).

Roi and Tori Blackwell are twins who are wearing bold colors and high textured comb coils which can transition easily from workday to holiday. Colors like theirs are available in the Textures and Tones product line, but for those who are seeking a more natural color, try Henna or Naturtint vegetable-based hair color to achieve similar looks.

For those wearing locs, Earlean Mack Belcher



Megan Davis



Marian Blanton used temporary colors for her TWA



Mary Mason Peacock's fiery red braidout



Earlean Mack Belcher's golden locs

is wearing curls that were set on pipe cleaners, available at any craft store for under \$2 per bag. Her hair was set while damp, using one pipe cleaner per loc. They are left in for up to a week, since they can be worn as a bob, and when unfurled, tight curls are revealed and can last up to one month.

Mary Mason Peacock has her locs in a fiery red color and set in a braid-out style. Locs are braided together while damp and dried completely for this look, which can also last up to one month.

Afros will never go out of style, and there are many ways to wear them. Young Naturalista Aadya Davis is wearing a Bantu Knot-Out, that she set on her own, for soft curls and accented them with a thin



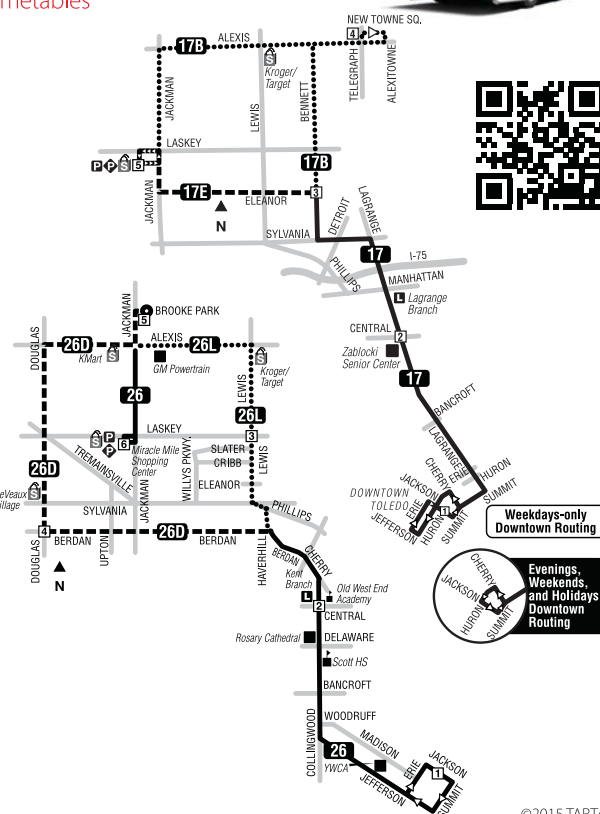
Roi and Tori Blackwell wearing bold comb rolls

... continued on page 9

## Winter 2016 updates effective January 3.

On Sunday, January 3, 2016, TARTA's winter route schedules will begin. As most routes will be affected by time changes, new timetables and maps are available at [TARTA.com/Winter2016](http://TARTA.com/Winter2016)

- **2C Sylvania-Centennial/Franklin Park Mall**
  - interlined with Route 3 at Franklin Park Mall;
  - schedule adjustments
- **3 North/South Crosstown**
  - interlined with Route 2C at Franklin Park Mall;
  - schedule adjustments
- **11/12/13/14 East Toledo**
  - Sunday and holiday schedule adjustments
- **17B Lagrange/Bennett via Miracle Mile**
  - all 17B trips will stop at New Towne Square Drive;
  - schedule adjustments
- **17E Lagrange/Eleanor via Miracle Mile**
  - schedule adjustments
- **26D Berdan/Douglas/Miracle Mile**
  - schedule adjustments
- **26L Lewis/Alexis-Miracle Mile**
  - all 26L trips will no longer stop at New Towne Square Drive;
  - schedule adjustments
- **27A/B/C Reynolds Road Crosstown**
  - schedule adjustments
- **34A/B/C Airport Highway Crosstown**
  - 34A morning schedule adjustments



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## The Soulcial Scene

# The Movement Church Presents a Holiday Fashion Show

The Movement Church held a fashion show on December 12 to feature items collected by the congregation to be donated to women living in the YWCA of Greater Toledo Supportive Housing. There was an interesting twist, however. The models in the show were those women who will be receiving the clothes they modeled.

The fashion show was held at the church's facility at 5650 Central Avenue. Pastor Rodney and First Lady Tameka Jackson welcomed attendees. Genise Lindsey served as the mistress of ceremonies and Jacqueline Jackson presented her original poetry and a praise dance.



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## The Soulcial Scene

Fros, Fashions and Finds... continued from page 7

headband.

In regard to accessories, head wraps are being worn more and more by people of all ages.



Jonelle Massey's Senegalese twists



Marian Blanton's Genie Locs

Here, Ivy Fullilove is wearing the Braided Rapunzel Wrap, representing a Tribal Trend called Eembuvi Braids originating in Namibia by the Mbalantu Tribes. Today, many women wear box braids which is an American version of the style.

Her daughters, adorned in organic locs, are wearing lightweight, woven head wraps with the braided accent as well. For similar head wraps, visit [www.TheKitchenSalon.com](http://www.TheKitchenSalon.com), a Toledo-based company, to shop for similar wraps.

If you're wearing a protective style this season, Genie Locs, also referred to as yarn braids, are a great, lightweight style. As seen in the photo, Marian Blanton is wearing her Genie Locs swooped to one side to showcase the shaved sides of her head. She accented them with gold cuffs and cowry shells, available at Powell's Beauty Supply store in Toledo.



Ivy Fullilove's Braided Rapunzel

Jonelle Massey, is wearing long length Senegalese twists, installed by African Braids & More Salon. This is a popular trend in protective styling this year. Jonelle, is the owner of the Style 5:16 Consignment Boutique located at 3142 Markway Plaza in Cricket West. At her boutique, you will find vintage jewelry, fur coats, boots, leather apparel, and couture handbags. She also carries menswear and a variety of accessories. Her boutique has many items that would make a great ensemble for your holiday gatherings. Hers is a local, small, African-American-owned business, open to serve your fashion needs. For more information about Style 5:16, visit their website at [www.style516.com](http://www.style516.com).

No matter which holiday or event you are celebrating this season, high fashion and style is possible with natural hair.



Aadya Davis' DIY Bantu knot curls

## Who's New in Town? Welcome Eric Williams!

Eric Williams, who arrived in town from Florida three months ago to assume the position of executive director at the Wayman Palmer YMCA is clearly excited by the opportunities his new job presents.



Eric Williams

"We are looking to go back to a more full-service organization," he says noting that recently the services offered by the Wayman Palmer Y have been limited to child care. Those services are certainly extensive, however. The Y is a licensed child care facility and, on a typical day, has between 75 and 85 young clients in the building – pre-schoolers, after schoolers – and is open for business until 11:00 p.m. for parents who work the second shift.

Williams wants to expand membership now and offer adults wellness and fitness services. "We are going to take the Y back to the community," the new arrival says.

Williams, a Pittsburgh native has been with YMCA for a number of years starting in his home town. Most recently – for the past six years – he and his wife Victoria, also a Pittsburgh native, have been in Jacksonville, Florida where Eric served YMCA as a district vice president. The move to Toledo places the Williams close to their family again, particularly their children and grandchildren.



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## The Soulcial Scene

# At Home With Mary Louise – Season After Season That Special, Enchanted Time – The Wedding Day

By Mary Louise

Soulcial Scene Contributor

As the big day approaches, the mind moves a mile a minute. Budget, themes, color schemes, entertainment, menu --- you name it. As a wedding planner, event specialist and event decorator, my job is to make sure your event is spectacular.

Follow my wedding check list. At the top of that checklist, for our discussion today, my advice to you is - balance the budget and do things in moderation. Your top concern should be budget. From my experience married couples don't like budgeting, but then, later they wonder why they're spending too much. My advice to them, to you if you are planning a wedding, is to stay focused on what is important and stay within your budget

Spending within your means determines everything - what, when and where! Usually wedding planning comes in packages such as:

**Platinum Package:** The sky is the limit. The bride asks for it and it's done. All the bells and whistles. However, all those bells and whistles come at an outstanding price tag.

**Silver Package:** Some of the bells and whistles. It should look expensive but not be. This is what most of my clients select since it has a lavish look but stays within most budgets.

**Economy Package:** The basic white cotton look - table cloths, floating candles for centerpieces, few if any flowers. An exchanging of vows while keeping things extremely simple. Nevertheless, the economy package can still be very presentable with nice clean lines.

Your planner also has three to four packages. When selecting what you want on your dream day, keep in mind that you will be feeding a lot of people and, regardless of the package you select, that can get expensive. Think, think, think ... Be mindful at all times of pictures, color schemes, wardrobes, transportation, honeymoon, bachelor party, bachelorette party, rehearsal dinner - they are also factors. So stay mindful while spending. Keep things within reason for you. And budget, budget, budget!!

Meanwhile, your wedding will be a wonderful, outstanding day regardless of the amount spent on it! The bride and groom should get creative. Attend wedding shows for ideas. Invite the wedding party over to participate in making centerpieces together - that will cut down on costs. Creativity is the key.

In the wedding planning world, we use a term - "finalizing." That is adding and subtracting from the wedding list while being mindful in focusing on the important things that really matter.

If these suggestions are followed, the bride will have an outstanding day and save lots of money along the way. May your memories of this awesome day last forever ... Remember - your day, your way!



Mary Louise and a wedding gown







## Alpha Phi Boule's Annual Christmas Party

The men – Archons – of the Alpha Phi Boule held their annual holiday party at the Toledo Country Club on December 5 honoring as always the Archousai – wives and partners of the members.

The annual Christmas party, always a black tie affair, is an opportunity for the Boule members and wives to display their finery and revel in the festive holiday spirit with their friends. And, as always, music, fine dining and conviviality mark the occasion.



*Annika Naime-Awls and Terry Awls*



*Dr. Joseph and Olivia Sommerville*



*Comfort Ofori, Dr. Kwaku Nantwi, Dr. Jason Ofori, Dr. Constance Okoye Nantwi*



*Joseph and Jettie Sansbury*



*Freeman Hudson and Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson*



*Dr. Traci Watkins, Pariss Coleman, Kaye Patten, Frank Aldridge*



*Elbert and Paula Stewart*



*Richard and Yolanda Jackson*



*Judge C. Allen and Tempie McConnell*



*Lancelot and Naomi Thompson*



*Mellia and Chris Jackson*



*Richard Jackson and Thomas Winston*



*Vickie and Calvin Lawshe*



*Robin Barclay and Paul Hubbard*