



Local and National News

www.thetruthtoledo.com

Volume 37, No. 3

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

January 20, 2016

# Detroit Matters!



Can't Forget the Motor City

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# Detroit Matters!

By Terry A. Burton

The Truth Contributor

During the summer and early fall months of 2014 I periodically visited my friend Sarah's urban permaculture garden homestead (a greenhouse, pet chickens and a few neighborhood garden plots) located on the east side of Detroit, near Grosse Pointe.

I would stop by to do volunteer work on her urban garden project, later named "Thrifty D Gardens" after camping trips with friends in Michigan or while I was in Detroit for art and music festivals. By the end of January of 2015, I was persuaded to do marketing consultation and research for another "urban farm" operation named Jones Produce & Co., also located on the east side.

During those winter months we took turns feeding the wood burning stove in the basement of her old house; luckily my room was right next to the chimney area so I stayed extra warm at night.

I spent a good portion of my time that winter traveling around the city of Detroit for my new "urban farmer" client, fighting heavy snow because some neighborhoods are often left unplowed for days – one of the less desirable realities of living in Detroit.

I went to all kinds of meetings, conferences or anything related to "Urban Farming", "Local Food" or "Urban Ag". In the midst of that entire hubbub, I meant a variety of people doing a myriad of interesting activities.

One of the experiences I enjoyed the most was attending the New Work, New Culture symposium. This event was hosted by the Grace Lee Boggs Center and sponsored by numerous nonprofit organizations in the Detroit area. The aim of this multi-day event was to provide a forum to discuss the nature of work, economics and local culture in Detroit. "Urban Farming," "Art," "Capitalism" and the "Tale of Two Detroit's" were among many of the hot topics I chatted with people about.

From the conversations in this forum, I started pondering many ideas, mostly revolving around the following "Rhetorical and Conceptual Spaces":

*The First Concept Space*, Detroit is a big place and spread out, around 138 square miles. It is said to be enough land area to fit the borough of Manhattan and the entire city areas of San Francisco and Boston. Detroit is a city with a large infrastructure to support and not enough people to support it with income and taxes which causes much strain on a city government that is fighting to overcome many unique fiscal challenges. This economic situation has led to the abandonment of over 100,000 buildings and houses in Detroit. Some estimates I researched on the internet say that

roughly one in three houses are in foreclosure.

*The Second Concept Space*, Detroit is predominately African American according to U.S. Census data, comprising 83 percent of the current population of just under 700,000. In 1950, the total population of Detroit was around 1.8 million and 84 percent white. If you Google the population of "Metro Detroit" or "Metro Detroit Region" (which covers parts of Macomb, Oakland and Wayne County) you will find numbers of over 3.7 to 5 million people with different demographic features. In other words, it is whiter in the suburban areas, hence the term "white flight."

*The Third Concept Space*, according to U.S. Census data, around 40 percent of people in Detroit live at or below "poverty."

*The Fourth Concept Space*, for local urban farmers to become an industry, Detroit needs to work on developing a plan to increase the scale (planting more acres) and scope (developing locally grown value added products and farm to table restaurant menus) from agricultural production.

*The Fifth Concept Space*, art and cultural production is a more effective economic development tool when linked to a more comprehensive approach in developing Detroit neighborhoods. A city that was built or expanded to accommodate almost two million people has been in population decline for decades (since the 50s), with most people moving out of the city limits to the suburbs or elsewhere. Add to that a poor or slightly inadequate public transportation system, racism, housing foreclosures, poverty, crime, low wage work, a school system in turmoil and there is a recipe for socio-economic tension but also an opportunity to do something different.

One hot spot is the "Woodward Corridor" area which includes some sections of the more desirable real estate in Detroit like "Boston-Edison," "Midtown," "The North End," "Corktown," "Woodbridge," "New Cen-

... continued on page 14



Terry Burton

## The Sojourner's Truth

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## Community Calendar

### January 23

Warren AME 2016 Annual Gospel Extravaganza: Youth and Young

Adults; 4 pm; Praise teams, soloists, gospel rap and mime; Special guests

Abundant Life Ministries: 419-243-2237

### January 24

True Vine MBC 2nd Pastoral Anniversary: Pastor Cecil Jerome Graham; 4

pm; Guest speaker Rev. Cullian Hill or Greater Concord MBC

### February 5

City of Zion, Mt Zion Church Presents Toledo District of FGBCF Inter-

national "Fire on Friday;" 7 pm; Guest speaker Pastor Hart Ramsey of

Northview Christian Church: 419-246-1850 or cozmztzionchurch.com

### February 21

City of Zion, Mt Zion Church Family and Friends Day: 10:30 am; Guest

speaker Pastor Reginald Perry of Victorian Believers Ministry Virgin Is-

lands and the BGSU Choir: 419-246-1850 or cozmztzionchurch.com



# RecoveryPark: Creating Jobs for Those with Barriers to Employment

By Fletcher Word  
Sojourner's Truth Editor

Gary Wozniak, CEO and founder of RecoveryPark, remembers the moment vividly, the moment in October 2008 when he first discussed with others the possibility of bringing commercial-scale agriculture to the inner city of Detroit. Not just agriculture, mind you. Not just a few square feet of tomatoes and onions tended by the neighbors in an abandoned lot here and there.

Wozniak was talking about commercial-scale agriculture – of the scale that would help jump start the city's economy, that would create jobs, that would change peoples' lives.

For Wozniak, the concept couldn't make more sense for the City of Detroit for any number of reasons. First, the city, which once had a population of almost two million residents was about to find itself with a population declining to the 700,000 level in a few years leaving behind large swaths of unoccupied housing.

Then, the City of Detroit was the owner of an unusually huge chunk of that land – approximately 40 square miles or about one third of the total city land mass. Public ownership would make the land readily accessible for a worthwhile project.

The city's population not only was declining but was also becoming increasingly un- and under-skilled as those who could afford to headed for the suburbs. In the vernacular of the Wayne State urban studies department in the early 1960's those left behind, by dint of lack of such skills and education, are largely "non-productive."

"Agriculture, however" as Wozniak says now, "doesn't require a lot of skills."

Not only is Detroit a haven for the un- and under-skilled, but there are also a great number of ex-felons in the city, says Wozniak, who deserve a second chance. "The inability to find employment is a key stumbling

block for people coming out of prison," says Wozniak, who was in that very same situation himself about 25 years ago. "We don't give people an opportunity."

Urban agriculture, of course, is a modern trend in a number of Rust Belt cities, but not on the scale that Wozniak envisioned. He foresaw indoor facilities that could accommodate specialty products, particularly the specialty agricultural products that restaurants would want.

In order to make it work, he had to explore the market for such an enterprise. The market, he discovered, was there. Within 300 miles of Detroit are 49 million people who spend \$18 billion on fresh produce, 17 percent of which is locally sourced currently.

So started RecoveryPark.

The project is situated in what is officially called the Middle East Central District. The area used to be called Poletown. It is the second oldest neighborhood in the City of Detroit. RecoveryPark occupies a 22-block, 60-acre area on which sat 841 houses in 1951. As of mid-December 2015, the area had 17 homes remaining with a total of 21 residents.

Two successful pilot projects have already been completed. Fifteen restaurants in the metro area are paying customers for RecoveryPark's first crop which includes over 70 varieties of fresh produce. Over the next five years, RecoveryPark will be clearing blight, constructing greenhouses and hoops and ultimately bringing full-time employment to 300 people, says Wozniak, many of whom will be veterans, ex-offenders, those in recovery and other marginalized citizens – about 60 percent will be Detroit residents.

"Farming fits the general population," says Wozniak. "Food is a steady economic opportunity. And this is a business opportunity."

Currently the RecoveryPark project has

eight employees. Wozniak projects that within two years that workforce will expand to 150 providing not only jobs for residents but also \$1 million in tax revenue for the City of Detroit.

The anticipated expansion to a workforce of 300 numbers is based partly upon a \$30 million contract already secured.

"RecoveryPark isn't just about transforming this land, it's about transforming lives," said Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan in October 2015 during the announcement about the project's agreement with the city.

"It's not about the number of bodies here," says Wozniak of the blighted area he is transforming. "It's about the quality of life."



Gary Wozniak and RecoveryPark map



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# Build Institute: Fostering Detroit's Entrepreneurial Culture

By Fletcher Word  
Sojourner's Truth Editor

"An entrepreneur," declares the literature explaining Detroit's Build Institute, "is anyone with an idea and a desire to bring that idea into existence."

Detroiters, no strangers to the concept of entrepreneurship – a guy by the name of Henry Ford comes to mind – are at it with a passion in this post-manufacturing Motor City era. There to assist these budding business owners is the Build Institute.

Build was organized in 2012 as a welcome center and resource hub for the downtown area with an idea of empowering people to turn business ideas into reality. April Boyle, a founding team member and the executive director, has managed the growth of the organization and has seen more than 700 aspiring entrepreneurs graduate from its programs and courses which are offered all over the city.

"We can package a class up and take it anywhere," says Boyle. "Students might not feel comfortable coming into an incubator but may feel comfortable in a coffee shop."

Build offers several programs for prospective students.

- Build Basics is an eight-week business and project planning course based on nationally recognized curriculum and taught by experienced professionals.
- Build Social trains, develops and coaches social entrepreneurs through a nine week timeline. This program is geared for those who wish to start a for-profit company to address Detroit's social and/or environmental issues.
- Build Bazaar is a rotating pop-up marketplace that celebrates emerging entrepreneurs from the Build program and the Detroit community
- Open City is a forum for Detroit's aspiring small business owners to learn, network and exchange information with each other.
- Build Next offers ongoing educational workshops and alumni networking events.

What differentiates Build from other such programs around the nation, says Boyle, is that it relies on a limited amount of donor funds. Build, says Boyle, is an "entrepreneurial entrepreneurship program," raising about 25 percent of its own

funds – practicing, in essence, what it preaches.

Build graduates come from over 100 zip codes in metro Detroit, are about 55 percent minority, about 70 percent female and about 85 percent from low to moderate income households.

At least three Build grads have finished in the top 10 every year in the Hatch Detroit Contest – a competition designed to award the most impressive startup with \$50,000 in funds to open a storefront operation. Build grad Sister Pie won the award in 2014.

Build had eight graduates in the 2015 NEIdeas \$10K competition and Build grad Sweet Potato Sensation won in 2014.

Notwithstanding these competitions to win start-up capital, Build, says Boyle, advocates "bootstrapping – lean start ups." That's the home-as-office approach until the business is up and running and can qualify for loans to expand. Indeed, Build itself helps to raise capital for micro-loans through its Kiva Zip platform.

For more information on Build Institute, see their website – [www.buildinstitute.org](http://www.buildinstitute.org).



Mary Boyle and a street map of Detroit

## African Art Has Arrived!!

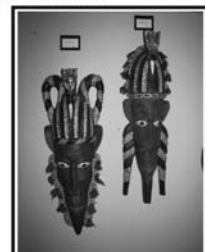
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# D is for Destruction: The Plight of Detroit Public Schools

By Vic Bell, M. Ed.

## Part One: At the State Level

The blame game is on between the governor and his administration and supporters of the Detroit Public Schools' (DPS) district. Who could possibly be responsible for the current events taking place at DPS? From the school buildings' current dilapidation, to the teachers' protests in the form of "sick-outs," what will become of the students caught in the chaos of politics and spineless, so-called leadership?

The Chinese New Year claims the monkey in their astrology for 2016, but this monkey business has got to stop...

Tom Gantert of Michigan Capitol Confidential reports that DPS has been controlled through the State of Michigan for nearly 11 of the past 15 years, starting in early 1999 to late 2005. The state resumed control over the district in early 2009, after the locally elected school board borrowed \$218.9 million (to cover day-to-day operations), when it originally began with NO operational debt to speak of, as found in the 2005-2006 State Budget Appropriations Summary and Analysis report on page 24.

In addition, Ryan Beene of Crain's Detroit Business reported in 2009 that several administrative employees were indicted on theft, fraud and the mismanagement of various funds, appropriated for students and school programming. Since then, some school employees have only become more careful in illegally padding their pockets, as in the more recent case when a principal from the Education Achievement Authority (EAA) School District (implemented by Gov. Snyder in Fall 2011) was found guilty by the feds in a vendor kickback scheme, as reported by Detroit Free Press' writers, John Wisely and Ann Zaniewski.

As a financially struggling educator myself (student loans, car payments, maneuvering around district lay-offs), I can remember approaching this woman at the local post office (having previously been introduced to her by one of her peers – she

is a Martin Luther King high School alumna). I sought to possibly network and share resources, maybe even become friends with this person.

She shut me down quickly, making a face as though annoyed and slammed the door of her black Maserati, before I could explain rightly myself. Imagine my shock and gratefulness to find that she was being tried as a white collar criminal, just a few weeks later. As they say, "rejection is the universe's protection."

The promising young principal's practice of blurring legal lines began while working at Detroit Public Schools. She states that veteran principals "mentored" her on these deceptive practices, she adopted as her own. However, her previous ownership of her black Maserati pointed to a shameless sense of inflated self-worth, as an "untouchable" in her district.

It's such a shame that a once great leader and champion of our youth made terrible decisions leading to her fall from grace. The former principal is currently an employee with the Detroit nonprofit, Franklin Wright Settlements.

Michigan's state and local governments appear to be quite unfamiliar and completely disconnected from the public school student demographic, having more interest in holding greater political power and bigger paychecks for themselves and their associates. Gus Burns of MLive.com reveals that the current Emergency Manager (EM) of DPS, Darnell Earley, will work as an independent contractor, with a salary of \$225,000 per year, per his agreement with Lansing.

EM Darnell Earley just so happens to also be the former EM over the City of Flint, where "the city switched from accessing water from the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department to the more-polluted Flint River" during his term. What could possibly go wrong?

Earley explains in an editorial for the De-

troit News, Oct. 26th, 2015:

"This plan was presented to me when I was appointed as Flint emergency manager in October 2013 – a full seven months after [the mayor's approval]

and the city council's affirmative vote [in March 2013]... When I began my term as emergency manager, it fell to me to oversee the implementation of the previously accepted and approved plans... It did not fall to me to question, second guess or invalidate the actions taken prior to my appointment."

I wonder, why didn't Earley question such a significant process and transaction that would affect an entire city? This brings a whole new meaning to the phrase "suffer the little children."

Earley initially states in the editorial, "The fact is, the river has served and been used as the back-up supply for decades, and this was the rationale given to me by staff and Mayor [during that time]."

Someone, or maybe a few, were aware of the potential consequences of these actions and have failed the people miserably. But I digress...

Citizens' Research Council's senior research associate, Craig Thiel, tells the sad tale of Detroit Public Schools' monstrous operating debt. The report titled, Detroit Public Schools' Legacy Costs and Indebtedness, documents "\$3.5 billion in outstanding debts". The Legislative Service Bureau of 2015 states the following in regards:

"It is the public policy of this state to exercise its sovereign powers with regard to debt issuance and matters of statewide



Vic Bell

...continued on page 13



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# Homeless Detroiters Take Action to Build a Warming Station

*We are building the infrastructure of the excluded people. . .*

*Intro by William Gilbreth and Personal Story by Eddie Lewis*

As we go to print, 139,699 houses have been lost to foreclosure since 2005 - more houses than the whole city of Buffalo N.Y. (*Det. News* 5/14/'15). It's a tsunami of destruction: 62,000 properties are scheduled for foreclosure this March 31. In our own Brightmoor district of Detroit, 368 houses are targeted for foreclosure.

What's worse, 40,000 of them are occupied. Syria isn't the only war with refugees - In Detroit we are economic refugees in a war to survive, the flight of jobs and predatory mortgage lending practices of banks.

The same banks that sent financial managers to take over the operation of Detroit city government and designated Michael Duggan as point man to execute their will and clean up the corruption left behind by former Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick's administration.

Now look, Fox News's Charlie LeDuff has exposed how Duggan jacked up the price of demolishing houses by thousands of dollars per house and gave the contracts to his campaign contributors.

## A Homeless Detroiters Comments:

Hello. My name is Eddie Lewis. I have lived in Brightmoor (district of Detroit) my entire life, all 49 years of it - although the Brightmoor of today is a far cry from the thriving neighborhood of my youth.

Today, Brightmoor is unrecognizable. Our city is dying from unemployment, drugs and crooked politicians from a government that sold us out right under our noses a long time ago.

My story is that I worked many years as a welder - fitter and went on to become a CAD instructor. Over time, a heroin addiction brought me to my knees and left my life unmanageable, alone and eventually homeless. Well, I did share an abandoned home with a couple of raccoons, a half dozen rats and a homeless addicted vet with three tours of Afghanistan and horrendous post-traumatic stress syndrome, being visited by people he killed in the war in his dreams.

There I was playing guitar in front of the Marathon Station to support my heroin habit when I met Bill from the *Brightmoor Survival Club LLC. (BSC)*, who was bringing back a house in Brightmoor.

Bill gave me work and a place to call home and shared his vision that people from all walks of life have to help each other and make a life for ourselves because no one is going to do it for us.

The BSC is manned by people who have experienced hardship and homelessness - some of us have issues and addictions. Bill and I and the crew have had the idea for a couple of years now to build a warming center for those who need it.

Now our group is growing and donations of wealth and materials, (thanks to City Repair), have allowed us to turn a backyard gazebo into a warming station that can soon house up to 10 people through the night.

We hope to build many more warming stations all over the city - based on our design and method. As the lead designer and builder of the warming station, I am very proud to come back from homelessness and addiction to make a difference. Thank you for letting me tell my story - I hope it inspires others.

Eddie Lewis

*Bill Gilbreth is a retired teacher, social activist and founder of the Brightmoor Survival Club and Warming Station.*

*Eddie Lewis is a homeless addict, formerly a welder and most recently, and just as importantly, a designer and builder*



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Warming Station



Eddie Lewis

# Detroit Council Member Mary Sheffield: Focused on Her City's Revitalization

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

At the ripe old age of 28, Detroit City Council Member Mary Sheffield has a well-developed perspective about why she is so bullish on her native city.

"Let's start with Detroit's uniqueness," she says. "There is no city like Detroit – the people, the resilience, the history. Even when one travels, one hears about it."

Then, of course, there is the history of her family and their long-time involvement with the city. In the 1950s, her grandfather, Horace Sheffield, Jr, a noted civil rights leader, founded the Detroit Trade Union Leadership Council, an organization that led the effort to ensure the inclusion and advancement of African Americans in the labor movement in general and the UAW in particular.

Her father, Horace Sheffield, III, is an ordained minister of some note in Detroit. Mary Sheffield, also an ordained minister and the youngest person ever elected to Detroit City Council when she won her seat in November 2013, has a resume of community activity that belies her youth.

She's a board member of the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy and the Continuum of Care, a member of the National Network to Combat Gun Violence and of the People for the American Way's Young Elected Officials. She remains involved in outreach efforts dealing with youth violence.

There are, in effect, many ways in which Council Member Sheffield can help to make a difference in the city she loves. "I want to be a part of rebuilding and its revitalization," she says of that commitment.

Serving on City Council is certainly not the only way in which Sheffield feels that she can be a vital part of Detroit's renaissance but "I understand its very important role in that process."

For Sheffield the process of Detroit's revitalization includes addressing, and correcting, several key issues facing the city's residents, especially youth violence, education and inclusiveness.

The youth violence issue is of primary concern and most of her work over the past number of years has been focused on working with young people to contain the devastation such violence causes. In a city with slightly more than twice the population of Toledo, there are, on average, 10 times the annual homicides.

Education draws a lot of her attention because as she sees it, "the entire



Council Member Mary Sheffield

system is dismantled." The Detroit wreck of an educational system, of course, and the epidemic of youth violence are not unrelated.

Then there is the critical issue of inclusiveness. So much of the emphasis on rebuilding Detroit in recent years has been placed on providing incentives to draw people into the city from other parts of the country. "A lot of people feel as if they are being pushed out, they feel excluded when so much is about bringing people here. There's resentment toward non-residents," says the council member.

Although Sheffield is at the very start of her political career, it's never too soon to speculate on the long-term possibilities and wonder what she has in mind for her future.

Another term on council, to be sure, she says. Then it's a matter of "where people want me," she says.

"I do want to continue to serve in a capacity of local politics," she adds. "I let my spirit guide me. But I want to focus on problems and solutions rather than on a particular position."



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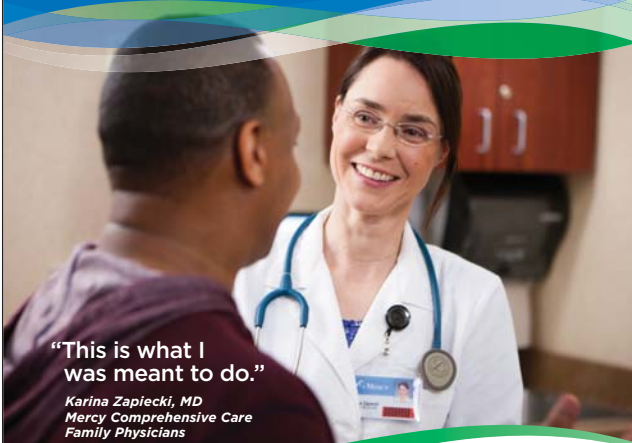




# Detroit Matters



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All Photos Courtesy Terry Burton



# Detroit Future City: a 50-Year Blueprint for Long-Term Success

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

In January 2013, after three years of research by a mayor-appointed steering committee of civic leaders soliciting the advice of national and local experts along with the opinions of thousands of Detroiters, a 374-page report was released detailing how good decisions can be made on all levels of government, business and education.

The report, the Detroit Future City Strategic Framework, presented a detailed approach for the city's future which has been organized around five elements: Economic Growth: An Equitable City; Land Use: The image of the City; City Systems and Environment: A Sustainable City; Neighborhood: A City of District and Regionally Competitive Neighborhoods and Land and Building Assets: A Strategic Approach to Public Land Use.

One year later, a home base was established and a leadership team installed to ensure the execution of the Strategic Framework and in 2015 DFC began a transition to becoming an independent non-profit organization.

Allandra Bulger, deputy director of operations and capacity building is part of that leadership team. A University of Michigan-Dearborn graduate with a bachelor's degree in psychology, Bulger earned a masters in public administration from Oakland University and has been part of DFC for two years.

"We serve as stewards of this document," she says of the 50-year blueprint that projects success for Detroit and how to achieve it. The DFC office utilizes five approaches to implementing the elements in the blueprint, says Bulger.

First the office engages the community through activities and events. They convened local and national experts in order to have a conversation about regionalism and the equitable growth of the economy.

Second, the office provides a tool kit – a field guide to working with land – specifically the 20 square miles of vacant land. They have created 34 lot designs that can be used to repurpose that land.

Third, the office supports community-based organizations in their efforts to revitalize the city. For example, they work with neighborhood groups in their clean-up and beautification efforts.

Fourth, they help create a buzz about creative ways of utilizing vacant land.



Allandra Bulger

Fifth, they serve as strategic advisors in the effort to mitigate future disasters, particularly natural disasters such as floods.

As with any set of guidelines that attempts to foster civic improvement, the devil is in the details – and in the money. DFC's funders include the Erb Family Foundation; the Kresge Foundation (which pledged to put up \$150 million over five years towards hundred of projects, in addition to the money they fronted for the planning process); the Knight Foundation; the Americana Foundation and the Michigan State Housing Development Authority.

The office brings together a team of individuals with diverse backgrounds to work on the implementation of the framework including those with backgrounds in management, policy-making, urban planning, architecture and non-profit agencies.

A field guide on land use, for example, takes prospective users through the process of putting together a group of like-minded individuals, gathering information on the neighborhood and vacant lot, determining soil quality, budgeting and designing.

The idea behind the process of planning with the input of experts, civic leaders, residents and implementation with a team of experts still soliciting that input is to have a comprehensive and democratic effort to revitalizing the city for the benefit of its residents.

"At its core, it's about improving the quality of life for Detroiters," says Bulger.

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# Saving Souls on Sundays

By Makeeba Ellington, PhD

Guest Column

Over the last 20+ years, we have seen our world progress in several different areas, technology being the number one component in this advancement. With all this worldwide momentum, the city of Detroit is quickly finding itself a part of this fast-paced progression.

We've experienced much change in our great city, which often leaves many of us feeling as if we are often running to catch up. Our primary societal focus always seems to be on our future, giving very little attention to our present moment. Yet, with all this perpetual movement,

some old school ways are finding themselves being pulled out of the closet and, brought more and more into the forefront.

Many of these old world things like yoga, alternative medicine and energy healing are finally being taken much more seriously after many years of ridicule. Being one of these practitioners I am personally invested in holding these modalities in place.

I love that this is happening because it shows that even though we are quickly moving into the future, universal truths remain intact. This allows us to learn more about ourselves and to understand that there is a cyclical motion that is always taking place underneath. I am able to see this dynamic take place daily in my work, my city and in my personal community.

Being a person who believes that, we are all here to serve one another in some capacity, I say "seeing a need is always an opportunity to fulfill it." While in this observer mode I found a growing community of people being over-looked. This was disturbing to me because this demographic is one that I am also a part of. I call this group the "In-Betweeners."

Many of us "In-Betweeners" are care-givers of others, neglecting ourselves and our needs. In-Betweeners are ages 35-64, many of us have children and parents for whom we are responsible. Although we are a growing group there aren't many things that we can do to release tensions and have fun that don't require time off, babysitters or a boat



Makeeba Ellington



load of cash.

The problem is that in many cases the "In-Betweeners" is the breadwinner, the nurse, the chef, the chauffeur, and may be juggling all of this as a single person. The stress of this is overwhelming and can greatly affect our health. I've not only seen it but, experienced it for myself.

Since Detroit began this new uprising there have been many different community programs popping up all over town. The common denominator I see is that all of these community programs are being geared toward the youth or elders. This dynamic leaves my generation as the ones to bear the weight of the other two. It began to feel like we are just supposed to fade into the background, sacrificing our enjoyment for responsibility.

I just don't see why this has to happen and I refuse to sit idly by and allow it to continue. So the question for me was: How can I be of service? The answer came after reading an article on Native American Shamans. The first question a Shaman would ask his patient was "When did you stop dancing?" This simple question was the catalyst to combine several of my loves into a program that would be geared toward my peer group. This monthly event is aptly called Save Your Soul Sundays.

Save Your Soul Sundays or SYSS is an experiential program that includes movement, open dialogue, meditation, music and light healthy snacks. This monthly event brings people from all walks of life to-

gether to form community bonds as well as fun, alternative self-care healing in a group setting.

To complement and support the therapeutic programming our next gathering will be May 1 and will continue on every first Sunday throughout the summer. . .if you are ready to dance, have an open mind, and are looking to have some fun, love, and laughter...come join us to make our growing community better and brighter. . . All are welcome!

Makeeba Ellington, PhD, is a native Detroit who has her doctorate in Meta-physical Sciences. For more information Ellington can be found on Face Book/theabstractoracle.org./ Her blog can be found at theabstractoracle.wordpress.com.

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*Once In A Great City... continued from page 16*

Cavanaugh, the Democratic mayor of Detroit; George Romney, the Republican governor of Michigan and Lyndon Baines Johnson, the Democratic president of the United States, were waxing philosophically about the future of the city in those heady days of prosperity and hope.

"This city and its people are the herald of hope in America," said Johnson on his first appearance in Michigan as president in 1964. "Prosperity in America must begin here in Detroit. You folks in Detroit put American citizens on wheels; you have the American economy on the move. Unemployment in Detroit is down, profits are up, wages are good and there is no problem too tough or too challenging for us to solve."

However, as Maraniss tells us, even in the optimism of the early 1960's, beneath the good news, were some troubling indications of the difficult times ahead for Detroit.

Even as the Detroit auto industry was booming, it was losing market share worldwide – 1963 was the first year it did not have more than 50 percent of the world market in car sales. Worse, Detroit's auto executives were steadfastly refusing to entertain the idea of building anything but big cars dismissing the notion that Volkswagen, much less Japanese companies, could possibly pose a threat in the future.

Urban renewal was underway with all those big buildings and new highways but for black residents this meant the demolition of homes and businesses that were so important in their neighborhoods. "Negro removal" it was dubbed in the African-American community.

Perhaps most tragically, the city was losing population at a rapid rate. The 1.8 million residents recorded in the 1950 census were already down to 1.67 million in 1960 and, in 1963, Wayne State's urban studies department forecast a 1970 population of 1,259,515 – a loss of one quarter of the population in one decade. They were indeed correct.

Gordy's Motown in 1963 was growing and prospering even though its soon-to-be three top acts, the Supremes, the Temptations and the Four Tops, had not yet broken out with their first blockbuster hits – "Where Did Our Love Go," "My Girl" and "Baby, I Need Your Loving," respectively. Even in 1963, however, Gordy was looking at the possibilities offered by California and Hollywood. By 1972 he would be gone, leaving behind museums to Motown's glory days in the Motor City.

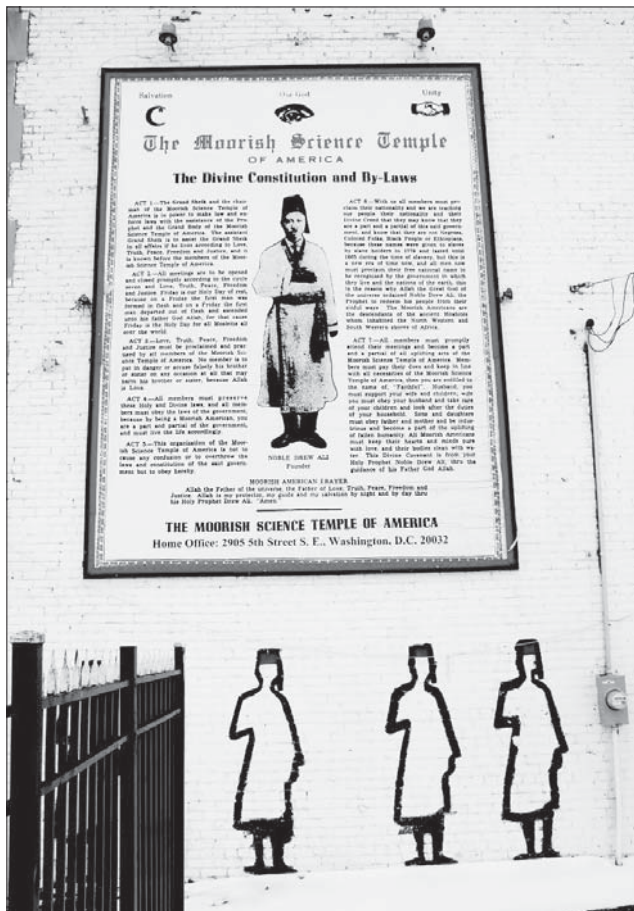
If there was one single incident that spoke of troubling times ahead it was the city's failed bid in that summer of 1963 to bring the 1968 Olympics to southeastern Michigan. In spite of a dazzling presentation by the Detroit delegation – Detroit was one of four finalists – the vote by the International Olympic Committee went to Mexico City and by 1968, the Detroit decline was evident.

A devastating race riot in 1967, sagging auto sales and the subsequent loss of jobs, the flight to the suburbs began to turn the city that President Johnson had called a "herald of hope" into a disaster that would be unprecedented among cities in the Rust Belt.

David Maraniss, a Detroit native, who is an associate editor at the Washington Post, recounts the story of the Motor City brilliantly, interweaving tales of the civil rights struggle, the musical culture, the auto industry, the politics and the mobsters – the good, the bad and the very ugly. The wonder of American might and the failure to perceive the fragility of such might. The glow and the decay.

For all the glamour of the Big Apple, the history of the City of Brotherly Love or the grit of the Windy City, no tale is more fascinating or more totally American than that of the Detroit.

"Can't forget the Motor City," sang Martha Reeves in 1964. We still can't.



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# The Life of a Traveling Comedian and the Detroit Comedy Scene

By Ron Taylor

Guest Column

I'm Ron Taylor, I'm a comedian, I live in a van. Here's

Stand-up comedy is one of the most unappreciated and underrated art forms of entertainment ever, and that's what makes it the wonderful art form it is.

So often comedy is pushed aside as a second tier form of entertainment but at the crux of all entertainment is fun. The root word of "funny" is "fun", so in essence comedy is one of, if not the, purest form of entertainment. However most people don't think of comedy that way, and that's what makes doing comedy so rewarding.

I've done countless shows, and it never ceases to amaze me how people seem to be surprised that the show was funny. When it comes to music, poetry, or acting people seem to consume it with a sense that they will enjoy it. When it comes to comedy, consumers have more of a challenging "make me laugh" attitude, but to succeed at that challenge is a wonderful feeling.

To go on stage night after night getting in front of complete strangers in hopes to make them laugh is kind of crazy. As simple as a person making people laugh seems, when you break it down, it is a rather complex task. The job of a comedian is to sync up a group of people who are generally strangers to each other, and the comedian, take them on some type of mental journey and facilitate their thoughts so that they all simultaneously come to same destination and respond with the weird reaction that is laughter.

All of that is what is necessary to get just one laugh out of a person. This can be done with something as simple as a facial expression or as complex as a long story. Either way the comedian has to take control a group of strangers' thoughts and invoke a particular emotion, and that's not easy to do!

Still why would anybody choose to pursue a career in such a difficult field. As it's been said many times before comedy is therapy for the comedian. However not only is it therapy, it is one of the greatest tools for absolute expression.

Comedy allows comedians to tackle and express issues and topics that in any other form would seem inappropriate, embarrassing or just too difficult to talk about. Comedy can be a so-

cial voice of reason and at the same time a tension breaker. People who pursue comedy often feel called to it by their desire to express themselves, their thoughts and ideas.

I started comedy in Detroit, MI. Believe it or not Detroit, and the Midwest in general, is a great place to start comedy. There are many places to go out and perform and get a decent amount of stage time. Because places like Los Angeles and New York have so many comedians, it can be difficult to find a place where you can do more than three minutes at a time. In Detroit you can find lots of places where you can get as much as 15 to 20 minutes on stage.

The more stage time you get the more you can work on finding your comedic voice. So in a way, comedians have the opportunity to get better faster in Detroit. Another great perk to doing comedy in Detroit is the large amount of diversity in the general area.

While in Detroit you are never that far from other cities with great comedy scenes, like Grand Rapids, MI, Kalamazoo, MI, Lansing, MI, Toledo, OH, and just a little further, Cleveland, OH, Columbus, OH, and Chicago, IL just to name a few.

Not to mention just 15 minutes from Detroit is an entire different country- Canada!

Last but not least of the best thing about doing comedy in Detroit is the money! A lot of people may not know but it's very hard to make money in New York or L.A. doing stand-up comedy, simply because there are so many comedians there. Some of the top comedians in the world get paid just \$15 to do a set in those cities. Where in Detroit a no name, open mic level comedian can make \$50 to \$100 a set his first year in. Comedians make their money on the road and Detroit is a road city.

As of January 2016, I have been doing comedy for six years. I have loved every second of it. I've traveled a lot and performed in many places, I've made great friends, and even made a few dollars.

However, in the last year I made the decision to move to Los Angeles where I currently reside. In short I moved for the more abundant opportunities of greater notoriety. The more people who



Ron Taylor

know you, the more people at your show. You can get good and make money anywhere, but when it comes to mass notoriety and opportunities L.A. is the mecca.

From my experiences of camping out as a kid I decided to turn my Ford Econoline Van into a camper and live in it instead of a house or an apartment. One of the obvious benefits of living in a van is no rent, but one of the main reasons I choose to live in a van was to show people just how much is possible with so little.

I live in West Hollywood, where rent can easily be well over \$1,500 a month, for free, and when I want to move I just start my van! I have a gym membership for showers and other bathroom duties, and I have an ice cooler and camper stove for meals.

Comedy has helped me travel the world, meet some of my heroes and that thing that people wish they could do. Part of my comedic and life goals are to show people that they don't have to wish they could do, they can just do. There is no class you have to take to do comedy, it's a free form of expression that can liberate you mentally, spiritually, emotionally and physically, even if you are living in a van!

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*Detroit Public School.. continued from page 5*

concern in a manner calculated to foster the fiscal integrity of all municipal governments and school districts to provide for the health, safety and welfare of their residents; pay principal and interest owed on debt obligations when due; meet financial obligation to their existing and former employees, vendors and suppliers; and provide for proper financial planning, procedures and budgeting practices. The inability of a municipal government to provide essential services to its citizens or a school district to provide public education services to its residents as a result of fiscal emergencies is determined to affect adversely the health, safety and welfare of not only that municipality's citizens and a school district's residents, but also other citizens of this state."

If not addressed soon, the district could run out of money by April of this year. The full report on this issue is available at no cost on the Citizens Research Council's website: [www.crcmich.org](http://www.crcmich.org).

Snyder's Detroit Public Schools' Proposal, as described via his Reinvention blog includes:

Snyder's amended proposal for the Detroit Public School district includes:

1. Break the district's operations into two:

One would assume the district's debt, while the other would focus on educating children.

2. Debt would be paid by city's property owning taxpayers

3. The new district would be paid for out of the state's School Aid Fund

4. Additional state assistance

5. "Currently, debt payments take \$1,100 per pupil out of the classroom."

Gray and Wisely of the Detroit Free Press cite that a new draft proposal will:

1. Select a nine-member school board appointed by Gov. Rick Snyder and Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan, given the power to remove the district superintendent

2. Allow for an elected school board to come into power in Nov. 2016, with no powers regarding the superintendent

3. A CEO would be appointed to run the bottom five percent of schools in the state

Those issues were looming in late 2015, but the new year has come with more terrible and frightening challenges for the students, the teachers and the district overall...

#### Part Two: DPS Administration vs. the Union vs. Steve Conn

Due to the infighting over operations within the Detroit Federation of Teachers' (DFT) Union, mediators from the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) have been called upon by Interim DFT President Ivy Bailey. The former union president, Steve Conn, was ousted via majority members' votes. His perceived unprofessional behavior and tactics have created a house divided over what some believe is the radically, strategic leadership, necessary for the immediate acknowledgement and correction of Detroit teachers and students' long-suffering.

Baily addressed the DFT members, Dec. 7, 2015, via their website in an open letter stating:

"AFT staff will be in Detroit working in the office, in schools and at work sites. They cannot be involved in local union elections, and we will not be successful if the local [union] is constantly embroiled in internal strife. It is also essential that a voluntary trusteeship be in place to give the DFT a much-needed period of stability.

Sick-outs led by Conn and frustrated teachers have resulted in a number of school closings across the district. Teachers are now being investigated by DPS administration for these actions. Should this manner of protest continue, layoffs and firings could ensue. This would only serve to deepen the already strained learning routine of DPS students, especially that of the graduating seniors.

DPS administration required teachers to once again enroll in a new health insurance policy before 2016, should they want to participate in the provided benefits. While several benefits were cut abruptly in the spring of 2015, though some have been reinstated, the union is still fighting for the more robust provisions given in the 2014-2015 school year."

Intra-office politics bloom in every industry but the real reason

for DPS' teachers' frustrations are horribly surreal, yet a daily reality they have yet to escape:

"The deplorable conditions in our schools have created a serious environmental and educational crisis that is being ignored. ... teachers, school support staff and students are exposed to conditions that one might expect in a Third World country, not the United States of America," said DFT Interim President Ivy Bailey.

The conditions she speaks of include: rat and other rodent infestations, crumbling walls, holes in ceilings, cracked sidewalks, dangerous broken boilers and no heat; overcrowded classrooms, 170 teaching vacancies, lack of nurses resulting in untrained teachers forced to give medication – all of this to endure with "poor salaries and benefits" to rely on. Then there's the mold...

Spain Elementary-Middle School has had to shut down parts of the school due to black mold. It breaks my heart to write this, as this is the school where I attended kindergarten and learned to write my first sentences with the amazing Mrs. Hamilton, supreme leader of the second grade.

Kim Russell, of Channel 7 Detroit, reported on Jan 13th, that "Patricia Hall filed a complaint with the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MiOSHA), in October informing their office and DPS administration that she was sick, her students were sick, and that doctors believed it could be due to mold in the building."

DPS administration responded that they would fix the problem within 15 days. They misspoke.

Fed up teachers brought in 7 Action News cameras last week to view the "shocking sight" for themselves.

The floorboards [in the school gym]... have been pulled up to reveal a black substance that appears to be a mixture of adhesive and mildew or black mold.... Complaints from Spain were submitted between May and October of 2015."

Could there be a correlation between the increasing cases of asthma in children and adults in Detroit (as reported in a series by writer of the Free Press in 2015) because of these and other deplorable conditions found within the school buildings? It makes my head hurt just thinking about it.

Spain is considered to be the Cass Tech of elementary/middle schools in the district, focusing on the music and performing arts. Our future creative leaders don't deserve this type of treatment, let alone to be ignored for an entire year and left to illnesses that could be easily prevented.

Aaron Foley, editor of B.L.A.C. Magazine and author of "How to Live in Detroit Without Being a Jackass," made these observations as he toured various Detroit Public Schools with state officials, the local media and the mayor:

"The reason for the sickouts could be because teachers and students are actually getting sick... The Detroit News reports that Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan spotted a dead mouse while touring DPS facilities, and was disheartened to see young students wearing winter coats in class due to a faulty boiler. Teachers say they have dealt with these problems for years."

As a former Detroit Public Schools teacher, my physical health

...continued on page 14

*Detroit Public Schools... continued from page 13*

was put in immediate danger due to the toxic air quality from moldy carpet and rotting ceiling pipes at a Detroit high school in 2015. After four trips to the Detroit Receiving Hospital's emergency room from June to late October, my doctor quite simply told me not to return. I know I can't be the only educator experiencing these acute symptoms from working in DPS' toxic school buildings.

Foley goes on to state, "It's hard not to look at the extremes here [when] you can see construction of the new [Red Wings' Hockey] arena— \$240 million of which is funded by the city of Detroit, a figure that could have easily been spent on upgrading the schools."

**Part Three: The Future of Detroit Public Schools**

America Pink's history of Detroit Public Schools mentions that in the 1970s DPS had 270,000 students.

The 2016 projected enrollment for DPS was 40,000.

The 2013 Nation's Report Card notes that in comparison "21 other large urban districts across the country, Detroit's fourth-grade students ranked last in math and reading."

Is there a conspiracy behind the atrocious state of Detroit Public Schools, once a model of excellence across the U.S, where one could easily obtain a great job with only a high school diploma? One would think that, if it weren't for the fact that the entire state of Michigan is losing rank in education when compared to the rest of the U.S. The most recent National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) data for 2013, [puts] Michigan in the bottom third of all states [for] fourth grade reading and math, and eighth grade math.

According to data compiled by the non-profit group Education Trust-Midwest, Michigan's student achievement rank has fallen in the last decade for ALL groups of students – white, African American, Latino, low-income, higher-income." The state itself is losing population in the amount of 20,000 persons per year, as observed via

the latest U.S. Census.

If there's a way to fix education in Detroit, let alone the state of Michigan, I'm pretty sure the governor would love to hear it. With all the chaos and instability that non-existent leadership and ineffective decision-making can bring, an intervention is in order in the form of a miracle wrapped inside of a revolution.

Perhaps a team of innovative educators will gather together and enter Laurene Powell (Steve Jobs' widow) Super School contest to redesign an effective high school, building a powerful model that will lift Michigan's education ranking to top 10 status: <http://xq-superschool.org>. One can only hope, as hope seems to be the only way to save our students now.

*Vic Bell, M.Ed. is principal of Right Brain Connections: Consulting and Coaching; the founder of The Detroit S.T.E.A.M. Project at Osborn Evergreen High School ; a 2016 Economic Justice Alliance of Michigan (EJAM) Fellow and is a State of Michigan, secondary education, certified teacher since 2007 [www.linkedin.com/in/coolrightbrain/](http://www.linkedin.com/in/coolrightbrain/)*

*Detroit Matters... continued from page 2*

ter" and the "Eastern Market Area."

The "Woodard Corridor" is home to many of the cultural institutions like the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit. This is also the area of Wayne State University, Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Detroit Institute of Arts and the Detroit Tigers Stadium. But there is one problem with this picture; some of the other neighborhoods are often side notes to the development in downtown or the near downtown areas of Detroit and thought of by some groups as forgotten pieces of the economic and community development puzzle.

I was made acutely aware of this while participating in the Slow Roll with new friends I made in Detroit. The Slow Roll is Michigan's largest weekly bike ride that takes place in the spring, summer and fall months every Monday. It seems as if everybody loves to ride bikes in Detroit. It was reported in local and national news that one ride attracted 2-3,000 people (which I participated in).

During those rides and talking to people I discovered Detroit has many hidden and not so hidden gems like the Algers Theater, Grosse Pointe Village, the old Black Bottom neighborhood area, Brightmoor, Belle Isle State Park, Roma Café, Harper Woods, East English Village, Indian Village, the Jefferson Chalmers area, Mexicantown, Pewabic Pottery, Cadieux Café (a great place for feather bowling) and Greektown.

One of my favorite places not on that list of hidden and not so hidden gems is Hamtramck. I was given an inside look into the dynamics of Hamtramck or this "city within the city of Detroit" by one of its residents Bill Meyer, a famous Detroit jazz musician, community activist and film buff.

Hamtramck was historically a Polish enclave but now many Arab, Yemeni, Pakistani and Bangladeshi people in addition to African Americans have taken up residence there. It is widely reported by local and national news outlets that Hamtramck just became the first U.S. town or city with a "majority Muslim city council."

This has stirred the cultural melting pot of Detroit in many interesting ways but I think it is one of the places to be if you are visiting or want to live in Detroit. It is a tight knit community with many shops and full of life with a very diverse population where as many as 30 languages are spoken.

As the old saying goes, "necessity is the mother of invention" and here are some opportunities I see from my experiences in Detroit:

1) *There are approximately 32,000 African-American owned businesses in Detroit according to U.S. Census data. So that means over 60 percent of the 50,000 plus businesses in Detroit are owned by African Americans.* This sometimes overlooked statistic is well above the national numbers for African American business ownership. I think this is an opportunity to build on and an integral part of the economics of Detroit.

2) *Use Data Collection to your advantage.* There are organizations like Data Driven Detroit (D3), [www.datadrivendetroit.org](http://www.datadrivendetroit.org), collecting a wealth of open sourced information along with other data projects produced by Loveland Technologies, [www.makeloveland.com](http://www.makeloveland.com). I think it was Thomas Jefferson who said, "Information is the currency of Democracy."

3) *The nature of work is changing and local economies are changing.* Access to the "means of production, education and information" is more important than a "job of production". Organization like the Center for Community Based Enterprise (C2BE), [www.c2be.org](http://www.c2be.org), Incite Focus, [www.incite-focus.org](http://www.incite-focus.org), Detroit Future City, [www.detroitfuturecity.com](http://www.detroitfuturecity.com) or The Build Institute, [www.buildinstitute.org](http://www.buildinstitute.org) are helping to address this notion and producing results by helping entrepreneurs, artists, students, makers, engineers, community organizers and teachers with educational, vocational and economic programs designed to address Detroit's changing economic landscape.

4) *The city has a large amount of vacant land that could be used for urban farming operations,*

anywhere between 25-40 square miles depending what or who you Google. The only caveat to that parlay is to study the data concerning this subject and come up with a more concerted plan for helping people who want to become "urban farmers" to acquire contiguous plots of farm land, farming education, small business training, equipment and the facilities needed for reaching economies of scale. Some of the biggest expenses killing most small urban farm operations are farm labor, access to land, access to capital and marketing services.

I think all of this could be addressed to greater success if more people worked together to achieve greater agricultural production numbers for market ready crops, value added products and Detroit grown farm to table restaurant menus. Also, organizing to share equipment expenses and established trade circles to save on everyday living expenses like food, clothing, water and shelter would help too. Common sense tells me that aggregating food production through a network of city wide agricultural cooperatives or community supported agricultural models might be a good idea to help with the everyday costs associated with farming smaller scale operations. If agricultural cooperatives help rural farms, why not "urban farmers"?

5) *Detroit is a great place to make art and develop studio space. It also has a vibrant local arts scene.* I have seen some great "street art" or "urban contemporary" art around the city. It seems like there is always something going on in Detroit and my artist friends there are always busy doing this or that creative project. There are many art spaces, murals, potential art spaces (there are many abandoned buildings in Detroit) and artist lofts throughout the city.

*Terry A .Burton is a Toledo native and man of many trades: visual culturalist, painter, photographer, experimental filmmaker, poet, graphic designer, musician, producer and marketing consultant. He currently divides his time between his Toledo studio space and working with Detroit @ City Repair in addition to Thrift D Gardens L3C (Detroit, Michigan). [www.terryaburton.com](http://www.terryaburton.com)*



# CLASSIFIEDS

January 20, 2016

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Phillips Temple CME Church 565 Palmwood Ave. is hosting a Super Sunday Party Feb. 7, 2016 along with our 2nd annual "Chili & Cornbread Cook-Off." The Cook-Off begins at 3 PM. Kick-Off-6:30 PM. Admission is <12-\$5 adults-\$10 Competition fee is \$20 for chili \$10 for cornbread or \$25 for both. Trophies awarded. Big Screen-Games-Prizes For more info or entry, please call 419-242-7906/419-242-7906 or 419-902-5772/419-902-5772.

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## Clerical Specialist

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority is seeking experienced applicants for a Clerical Specialist position. Visit [www.lucasmha.org/Employment](http://www.lucasmha.org/Employment), click on "Housing Choice Voucher Program" link for details. **Only on-line applications received at the above website by Sunday, January 31, 2016, will be accepted.** This is a Section 3 covered position. HUD recipients are encouraged to apply and are to indicate on the application if you are a LMHA Public Housing resident or Housing Choice Voucher Program participant. Persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply. **NO PHONE CALLS.** An Equal Opportunity Employer.



## CLINICAL THERAPIST- CHILDREN AND FAMILY PROGRAMS

### FULL-TIME (MULTIPLE POSITIONS AVAILABLE)

Unison is seeking experienced therapists to provide services to children with severe mental and emotional disorders in various schools and other community sites. Work may include providing services in an early intervention and partial hospitalization programs. Duties will include completing diagnostic assessments, developing/coordinating treatment plans, providing individual crisis management, group therapy, advocacy, and outreach. Qualified candidates must possess a Bachelor's degree, Ohio license as a LSW and a minimum of two years' experience working with children with mental health issues. Master's Degree and Ohio License as LSW, LISW, LPC or LPCC preferred.

Minimum \$3,000 signing bonus

Human Resources -CT  
Unison Behavioral Health Group, Inc.  
2310 Jefferson Ave.  
Toledo, OH 43604  
Fax: 419-936-7574  
Email: hr@unisonbhg.org

EOE

## MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Braden United Methodist Church has a position open for a Director of Music. The candidate must have a high school and some formal musical education and/or training. Must be able to read music, have excellent keyboard skills namely piano, organ, etc., have experience in directing a choir, and be able to work with the pastor, staff and ministries and church members to maintain a smooth flow of worship services and other activities.

Please send your resume by **February 1, 2016 to Braden United Methodist Church, 4725 Dorr Street, Toledo, Ohio 43615, Attention: Elbert Stewart.**

## PH Therapists- Children's Partial Hospitalization Program

### Full-time

Unison is seeking Therapists to provide services to children with severe mental and emotional disorders in the Outpatient Partial Hospitalization Program. Duties will include completing diagnostic assessments, developing and coordinating treatment plans, and providing individual crisis management, group therapy, advocacy, and outreach.

Candidate must possess a Bachelor's Degree and current Ohio License as LSW. Master's Degree and current Ohio License as LSW or LPC preferred.

Minimum \$3,000 signing bonus

Unison Behavioral Health Group, Inc.  
Human Resources - PHP  
2310 Jefferson Ave.  
Toledo, OH 43604  
Email: hr@unisonbhg.org  
Fax: 419-936-7574

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## Program Manager, Children and Family Services

Unison Behavioral Health Group is seeking a Program Manager to develop and manage therapy programs and services focused on children and families. Services are provided primarily in community settings. Selected individual will participate as a member of the management team, oversee daily program operations, provide clinical supervision to staff, participate in program development and evaluation, serve as liaison to external partners and assist in marketing services provided.

Qualified candidates must have current clinical licensure from Ohio as a LPCC or LISW, previous experience working with children and families and at least five years experience as a clinician in a mental health setting. Previous supervisory experience is preferred.

Minimum \$3,000 signing bonus

Unison Behavioral Health Group, Inc.  
Human Resources - PM  
2310 Jefferson Ave.  
Toledo, OH 43604  
Email: hr@unisonbhg.org  
Fax: 419-936-7574

EOE

# Once in a Great City: A Detroit Story, By David Maraniss, c 2015 Simon & Schuster 375 pages

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

Nineteen Sixty Three was a "momentous" year for Detroit, said Mayor Jerome Cavanaugh in his 1964 New Year's address. He spoke to his constituents of the economic prosperity the city had experienced, the new buildings that were underway and the optimism that such good times would continue under his guidance.

30 percent African American had taken an unexpected turn for the better when an historic summer Walk to Freedom had brought Martin Luther King Jr. to town that summer to tell thousands of peaceful marchers about his dream.

Berry Gordy, Jr's Motown had broken into the big time with artists aplenty and recordings that were topping the charts. Good times indeed, Maraniss tells us.

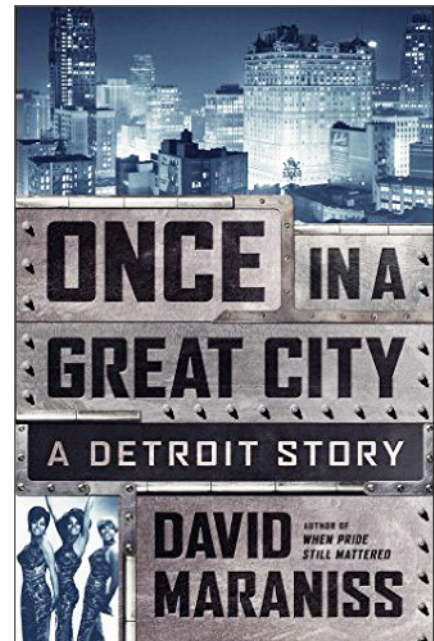
... continued on page 11

Why wouldn't Mayor Cavanaugh, and Detroiters generally, feel good about what 1963 had wrought in the Motor City and feel optimistic about what future years might bring? As David Maraniss recounts in his book published last year, *Once in a Great City: A Detroit Story*, 1963 indeed was a year to savor.

The auto industry had sold more cars than in any other year previously. Ford, in fact, was about to introduce the Mustang and bring a new level of excitement to American drivers. Racial harmony in a city that was almost



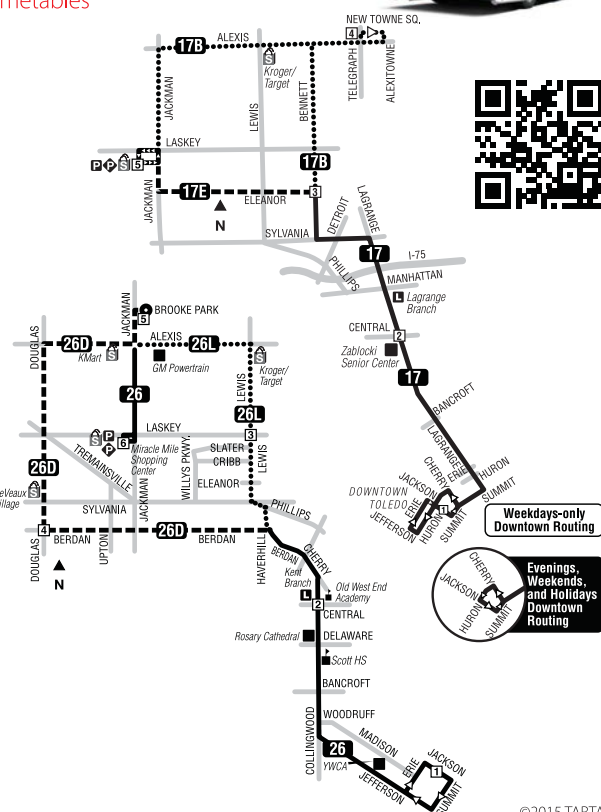
1965 Ford Mustang Fastback



## 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



419 243 RIDE | [TARTA.com](http://TARTA.com)

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