

Community Cal

March 27 - Construction Workshop: Take part in the Government Workshop Series and learn from existing companies who have secured government contracts and understand what is needed of you from 8 a.m. - noon at ShoreBank, 540 East 105th Street. For more information call Marilyn Soltis at (216) 458-0250.

March 27 - Business Plan Writing Class #3: Final two hours of a three week, six-hour class that will help you prepare a comprehensive business plan that can be effective as part of a loan request for your business held at the WECO building 1745 Rockwell Ave. from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Call 216/458-0250 for information or registration.

March 29 - Pearl Day Brunch: AKA Sorority Inc. Lambda Phi Omega Chapter Celebrating 30th

Pearl Day Brunch Celebration "Continuing the legacy, living the pearl" starting at 10:45 a.m. at the Hilton Hotel Beachwood tickets \$30 Contact Gwen Jarvis, Chairperson (216) 671-7970.

March 29 - Free Legal Clinic: Volunteer attorneys will provide Legal Aid for civil problems, divorce, landlord disputes and many more cases. Join them at the Boys & Girls Club of Cleveland 6114 Broadway from 9:45 a.m. - Noon. Legal Aid cannot help with criminal issues. For more information call 216-687-1900.

March 31 - Financial Planning Seminar: A Comprehensive Financial Planning seminar on "The Basics of Financial Planning" presented by Bob Houston, WECO Financial Planning Program Coordinator, in partnership with the St. Clair

Superior Development Corporation from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. at St. Clair Development Corporation, 4205 St. Clair Ave. Includes how to manage spending, get out of debt, find extra income. For information or registration, call WECO at (216)458-0250.

April 1 - Shoes and Clothes for Kids: An evening of revelry and fun as they raise funds with jokers and jesters will fill your evening with fine fare and live entertainment. For more information call (216) 881-7463 ext 4.

April 2 - IDA Financial Class #2: "Establishing Goals and Objectives" - Discussion of long and short term goals held from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at the WECO building 1745 Rockwell Ave. Call 216/458-0250, x116 for more information

April 3 - Equal Opportunity Luncheon: The Lorain County

Urban League, Inc presents their annual Equal Opportunity Day featuring Dr. Cheryl Atkinson as the keynote speaker starting at 11:30 a.m. at the Spitzer Conference Center in Lorain, Ohio. Call Kathy Groner for more information at (440)323-3364 ext 21.

April 3 - Workshop Series: Understanding the path to securing Government Contracts for Service Provider companies that provide a service will learn how to develop a relationship with the government from 8 a.m. - Noon at ShoreBank 540 East 105th St. Call Marilyn Soltis at (216) 458-0250.

April 5 thru 7 - Professional Development Retreat: The Women of Color Foundation presents a Personal & Professional Development Retreat at Firestone Country

Young Democrats seekin

By **RHONDA CROWDER**
Staff Reporter

With what is being considered one of the most anticipated presidential elections in United States history, political parties are finding it necessary to attract young voters - and Cuyahoga County's Democrats are no different.

According to Thione Niang, national president of Young Democrats of America College Caucus, the Cuyahoga County Young Democrats are under new administration with a new executive board that is strong and diverse, while the goals are to set an agenda, mobilize young people around the county, and get them engaged in the election process.

"Ohio is the No. 1 swing state and Cuyahoga is the biggest in Ohio, making it the most important county in the country," said Niang. "And, it's imperative for

while it is the citizens' responsibility to elect as well as hold them accountable.

So, with that in mind, the Cuyahoga County Young Democrats plan to host a variety of social networking functions throughout the region in an effort to increase fundraising and membership. And although they are not allowed to vote, someone as young as 14 years old can become a member of the organization.

"We want to reach back and mentor young people who are interested in getting involved with the political process," said Michael Ruff, Cuyahoga County Young Democrats finance chair. "We'll also hire youth to work during the summer months. And they'll be introduced to elected officials."

The Cuyahoga County Young Democrats have linked up with America Votes who will provide voter's training, as well, he said.



Michael Ruff and Thione Niang are members of the Cuyahoga County Young Democrats. Ruff serves as finance chair with Niang as president.

"We want to be a viable organization," Ruff added. Both Ruff and Niang made it

clear that, as a political organization, they want to be in a position to help all elected officials local-