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Fifty Cents

# The Gazette

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## People In The News



Mayor Laura Miller has appointed Betsy Culbreth as chair of the Dallas Housing Authority's board. She replaces Guy Brignon, who resigned two weeks ago.

Brignon had come under fire after the board elected not to extend the contract of DHA President and Chief Executive Officer Ann Lott.

Culbreth resigned her post at the Dallas Plan Commission to accept the DHA job.

Miller believes Culbreth did a good job shaking up the Plan Commission. "I think she is the perfect person for the job," Miller said, adding that this move will ensure that the DHA has adequate oversight.

She "doesn't allow any funny business or for anybody not to do their job," Ms. Miller said, adding that Ms. Culbreth has experience with housing issues as the former director of the Dallas County Health and Human Services Department. "She's just a very unusual person that way; she's very smart and she's aggressive. She's a strong woman, and I like that."

The housing agency administrators assistance programs for low-income families.

The mayor appointed Plan Commission member Robert Weiss to replace Culbreth as chair.



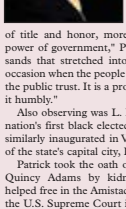
Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) has named Jerry Franklin as Vice President, Executive Affairs.

In that capacity, Franklin will serve in a variety of roles as representative and extension for the President/Executive Director in areas and activities where his presence is needed including the Agency's strategic initiatives. Franklin will also direct the investigation of issues submitted to the Executive Office while serving as the Authority's Ethics Officer.

He previously served as DART's Interim Vice President for Procurement where he directed and oversaw the agency's contract award, management, and associated administration processes. He joined DART in 2005 following a number of years with the federal government, ultimately serving as Regional Administrator in Atlanta for the Federal Transit Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Franklin holds graduate degrees in Human Relations, in Management, and in Business Administration from Webster University.

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) serves Dallas and 12 surrounding cities with modern public transit services and customer facilities. DART's network of DART Rail, Trinity Railway Express (TRE) and bus services moves more than 200,000 passengers per day across our 700-square-mile service area.



On January 4th, Deval L. Patrick was sworn in Thursday as the 71st governor of Massachusetts, the culmination of a longshot political campaign that also saw him become the state's first black chief executive and only the second elected in the nation.

"We meet today on a singular occasion, more than the passing of title and honor, more than the ritual transfer of the power of government," Patrick, 50, told a crowd of thousands that stretched into Boston Common. "This is the occasion when the people charge new leadership to steward the public trust. It is a profound responsibility and I accept it humbly."

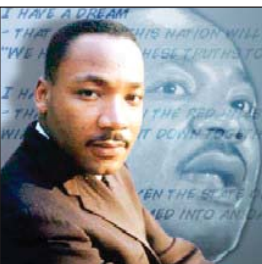
Also observing was L. Douglas Wilder, who became the nation's first black elected governor in 1990 when he was similarly inaugurated in Virginia. He now serves as mayor of the state's capital city, Richmond.

Patrick took the oath of office on a Bible given to John Quincy Adams by kidnapped Africans whom Adams helped free in the Amistad slave ship case he argued before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1841.

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## Living Up To Dr. King's Legacy



By: Hazel Trice Edney - NNPA

If he were still alive, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. would be turning 78 on Monday, Jan. 15. And more than likely, he would still be preaching the gospel on behalf of the oppressed. Even in death, his former aides say, King still provides an example for us to follow.

"Martin was theologically grounded to keep the boycott morally based and spiritually motivated," says the Rev. Joseph Lowery, 85, who co-founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference with Dr. King in 1957. "Martin's training and personal commitment to 'love everybody' came shining through in his leadership. He was willing and did endure unearned suffering without bitterness and hate..." "We must hate the sin while loving the sinner..."

The 381-day Montgomery bus boycott that began in Dec. 1, 1955 was the first major civil rights leadership role for Dr. King, a young preacher then only 26 years old. Rosa Parks, a

young seamstress, was arrested for refusing to sit in the back of the bus. But, by then, King had received his bachelor of divinity from Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pa. and was pastor of the Montgomery's Dexter Avenue Baptist Church.

He also had been severely tested.

"I was present when he addressed media following the bombing of his home," says Lowery, the dean of the civil rights movement. "I was present in Birmingham when, as he was speaking, a young White man leaped upon the stage and struck him in the face before anyone could intervene. I marveled at his refusal to insist that the confused young man be arrested, but engaged him in dialogue with forgiveness and compassion."

He not only had passion and compassion, but he always had a plan, says Jesse Jackson Sr., who dropped out of the Chicago Theological Seminary in 1965 to participate in the Selma-to-Montgomery March for voting rights.

"He planned and then acted on the plan," says Jackson. "For

*Dr. King's Legacy Page 4*

## New Beginning Center Hosting Winter Bowling Tournament

New Beginning Center of Garland recently announced they would be hosting a family-friendly, fun-filled winter "Bowling to End Domestic Violence" tournament, which will benefit victims of domestic violence. The event will be held Saturday, January 27, 2007 at the Richardson AMF Lanes at Central Expressway and Campbell Rd., from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Awards will follow after the tournament. Entry fees are \$20 per person or \$108 for a team of 6. Entry fees include three games and shoe rental.

The tournament contests will include highest scoring team, lowest scoring team, most strikes, most gutters and best team spirit. Trophies donated by Browning Trophies. Door prizes donated by local business will also be given away during the awards presentation.

"We invite the community to join us for an afternoon of

*New Beginning Center Page 7*

## Plano Senior Center Sizzles With 2007 Activities

From big band to line dancing, Skipbo to golfing, Tai Chi to mental aerobics, touring Nova Scotia to tapping your toes in Branson...being a Senior in Plano is a non-stop daily whirl of activities, travel, social support and just plain fun!

The beautiful Plano Senior Center, 401 West 16th Street, is the portal providing a rich variety of recreational, educational, wellness, volunteer and social opportunities for adults 55 and older living in Plano.

A look at the January 2007 Senior Newsletter shows the spirited and active calendar of events that provide "something for everyone." The Center seeks and supports participation by persons with disabilities in recreational programs and services.

In January alone, Tax Aid is provided free of cost. A Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance will feature inspirational speakers, performances and celebrations. The Red Hat Honors will be getting makeovers at Nordstroms with lunch at



the Cheesecake factory. The Game Gang will be playing everything from Michigan Poker, Mah Jong, Skipbo, Canasta, to Bridge. Bowling and golf leagues abound. Learning through enjoyable parks and recreation LEISURE classes provides literally hundreds of opportunities for advanced education, computer courses, crafts, music, dance.

Weekly movies at the Center,

*Plano Senior Center Page 4*

## Plano 2007 MLK Celebration



South Oak Cliff marching band at 2006 parade

For the past four months a diverse committee of community leaders and volunteers have met to plan all facets of the Plano 2007 Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday celebration.

The Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday celebrates the life and legacy of a man who brought hope and healing to America.

Nellie McGuire, a committee member and community leader, stated "We especially use these events to commemorate the timeless values he taught us through his example—the values of courage, truth, justice, compassion, dig-

nity, humility, and service. For the citizens of Plano, Texas, this celebration is a week-end of multi-faceted events of interracial and intercultural cooperation and sharing. Whether you are African-American, Hispanic, or Native American, Caucasian or Asian-American, we all join together in this national "teach-in" on such values as tolerance, reconciliation and unification."

Kicking off the celebration at 10:00 AM on Saturday, January 13, is the Annual MLK Parade. The parade will travel south on Avenue K from Parker Road to 15th Street (downtown Plano).

Immediately following the parade is the 11:00 AM City Hall Program will be held in the city council chambers. Completing the Saturday

*Plano MLK Celebrations Page 6*

## Allen Library Celebrates African-American Heritage Month With Multiple Events



Toni Simmons performing creative children storytelling

By: Tom Keene

Highly acclaimed African-American storyteller Toni Simmons shares stories at 3 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 4, at the Allen Public Library. In addition, the St. Mark Baptist Church Choir of McKinney will provide special music.

Ms. Simmons graduated Magna cum laude from Fisk University, majoring in speech and drama. After receiving a master's degree in library science, she began working as a

children's librarian. In this role, she combined her knowledge of children's literature and creative drama in storytelling sessions. Now a professional storyteller, she brings new life to the stories with the use of rhythms, songs and audience

participation, which places the audience in the story. Her work appeals to audiences of all ages and includes a wide variety of literature from different cultures.

The St. Mark Choir has sung at the Dallas Arboretum and for many City of McKinney venues. The Allen Community Baptist Church, Fellowship Baptist Church, and Jack and Jill of America

*African American Events Page 6*

## Kenya Closes Border With Somalia To Keep Militants Out

Kenya closed its border with Somalia, the foreign minister said Thursday, expressing concern about Islamic militants slipping into the country along with refugees.

"The Kenyan border is officially closed," Foreign Affairs Minister Raphael Tuju told The Associated Press, without saying when the decision was made or how long the border would remain closed.

Kenya has beefed up patrols along its 675-kilometer (400-mile) border with Somalia since troops of Somalia's transitional government, backed by Ethiopian forces, routed an Islamic movement that had



controlled most of southern Somalia, including the capital, Mogadishu.

Tuju said that many Somalia seeking asylum in Kenya recently are family members of Islamic militants.

"Kenya will not allow combatants and their families to use this country as a base," he told journalists.

*Kenya Closes Border Page 6*

## Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity Holds 32nd Annual Holiday Celebration



Mr. and Mrs. Ron White



Dr. Robert Prince, Curtis Ransom and Kerney LaDay



Mr. and Mrs. David Kelly and Kerney LaDay



Dr. Ron Calloun, James Breedlove and Irby Hunter



Karl Butler, Grady Searcy, Shirley Searcy and Kristopher Butler



Mrs. and Dr. Winfred Parnell, Mrs. and Dr. Ben Clark, Mrs. and Mr. Marcin Robinson and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Carlos

The Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity recently held its annual Holiday Celebration, "Christmas is for the Archousai". The evening featured dinner, dancing and Christmas Caroling for attendees. Dr. Wright L. Lassiter, Jr., Chancellor of the Dallas County Community College District gave the invocation.

For more pictures of this event go to [www.MonTheGazette.com](http://www.MonTheGazette.com)



Dr. Wright L. Lassiter, Jr. and Ron White

## Dallas Swears In First Black District Attorney



Craig Watkins was recently sworn-in as Dallas County District Attorney. In addition to being the first African American elected as District Attorney in any Texas county.

Mr. Watkins was sworn in by attorney L.A. Bedford, Dallas' first African American judge. The election of Craig Watkins as District Attorney and Jim Foster as county judge gives Democrats

control of local government. Watkins election victory marks history as Dallas' first Democratic District Attorney in 20 years.

Former Dallas mayor Ron Kirk, Senator Royce West, and members of the clergy, witnessed Mr. Watkins' swearing-in ceremony. Also present were former and current DISD school board trustees, as well as past and present Dallas City Council members.

## CCCD Hosts MLK Power Breakfast



Harry LaRosiere, Plano Councilman

The community is invited to join Collin County Community College District (Collin) and event organizers in celebrating the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the annual Power Breakfast at 7:45 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 15 at the college's Spring Creek Campus Conference Center, 2800 E. Spring Creek Parkway in Plano.

The breakfast will include a

panel discussion by community leaders. This year, the panelists have been provided with a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and a question written specifically from the quote. Each panelist will respond to their question. Panel guests include Duncan Webb, Plano Independent School District Trustee President; Pat Evans, Plano Mayor; John Roach, Sr., Collin County District

Attorney; Keith Self, Collin County Judge; Harry LaRosiere, Plano Councilman; and Florence Shapiro, Texas State Senator.

A Youth Extravaganza will follow the breakfast at the college's John Anthony Theatre. The Youth Extravaganza will feature 13 performances from Plano and North Dallas kids showcasing their talents in singing, dancing and step.

## \$69\* DIVORCE

### Criminal Defense

- DWI / Suspended License
- WARRANTS Removed\*
- 24 Hour Jail Release\*
- Occupational license, felonies
- Protective Order
- Misdemeanor/Felonies\*

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- Child Support / Paternity
- Custody Modification
- Restraining Order
- Protective Order
- Name Change / Adoption
- Domestic Violence

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If you qualify, \*Fees quoted above are minimum down payment needed to begin processing your case.

## Around The Town

### Ongoing

**Sankofa Unplugged!** Come experience the nation's best Open Mic Experience. Musicians, Poets, Actors, be ready to "Bring the heat" to the Sankofa stage Sankofa Arts Cafe & Bar 1906-1908 Martin L. King, Jr. Blvd Dallas. Every Saturday 9:00 p.m.

For info call 214-421-0013.  
[www.myspace.com/sankofakrew](http://www.myspace.com/sankofakrew)

**The Collin County Chapter of the American Business Women's Association** meets the third Tuesday of the month at Eldorado Country Club, 2604 Country Club Drive in McKinney

**Free Tenant Legal Workshops** are at 6 p.m. Tuesdays at Douglas Community Center, 1111 Ave. H in Plano. Call 972-941-7174.

**Alpha Beta Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi** a social service cultural sorority meets the second Monday of each month in members home in Frisco, McKinney, and the Plano area. Call 972-473-9089.

**Assistance League of Greater Collin County** meets the third Wednesday of each month. Visit [www.assistance-league-gcc.org](http://www.assistance-league-gcc.org).

**"EVOIVE,"** a social networking opportunity for women, meets from 7:30 to 9 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the northwest corner of Park Boulevard and Coit Road, Suite 202. Call 972-267-4452.

**A free legal clinic** is offered for residents who meet low-income guidelines, 6:00 p.m., second Thursday of each month, First United Methodist Church,

601 S. Greenville Ave. Applicants must be Collin County residents and income eligible. Call 1-800-906-3045.

**Free HIV Testing** offered by the LaSerna Foundation from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. every Thursday at two different locations. For locations and more information, call 214-928-9303.

**The Frisco Housing Authority** is offering tenant-based rental assistance to 22 eligible families and individuals for rental housing in Frisco. Call 972-377-3031 for information.

**Kumasa African Ensemble** Dance Classes from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. West African dance classes held every Saturday at the South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 S. Fitzhugh Ave. Contact S-Ankh Rasa at 214-298-5858 for more information.

**Dallas Baptist University-North Leadership Empowerment Luncheon Series**, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month at Dallas Baptist University-North, 3211 Internet Blvd., Suite 100. Call 214-333-5777 or e-mail [dbunorth@dbu.edu](mailto:dbunorth@dbu.edu).

**Straight Street** is the official home of "The Yundrae Show." Every Thursday evening at 7PM, it's the live television taping of "The Yundrae Show!" It's now, it's off the chain, and it's only at Straight Street. Artists, celebrities, who's who, sports icons, and many more. The doors open at 7pm and the show starts at 7:45pm. There are door prizes and giveaways each week. Tickets are \$15 at the door. Check it out at [www.theyundraeshow.com](http://www.theyundraeshow.com).

**Veterans Helping Veterans** 11:30 a.m. the third and fourth Saturdays of the month at the VFW Post at 3420 Ave. K, Suite 122. Topics include veterans benefits and how to receive free prescription medicine. Seniors welcome. Call 972-612-6939.

**January 11**  
15th Annual Martin Luther

**King, Jr. Oratory Competition**  
Presented by Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP, 11:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church, Criswell Center, 1707 San Jacinto St. For more info, contact Julie Meske at 214-999-4178.

**"Is Your Small Business at Risk?" Seminar**  
Employment Practices Liability and effective ways to protect your business, 9 a.m. to noon, Room 2002, Bill J. Priest Institute, 1402 Corinth St. For more info, contact Sakra at 214-860-5887.

**First Time Homebuyers Seminar**  
5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Dallas County Health and Human Services Building, 2377 N. Stemmons Freeway. For more info, call 214-819-6060.

**January 12**  
**Plano Senior Center: MLK Observance**

5th annual observance commemorating the life and achievements of Martin Luther King, Jr. Highlights will include comments and music. A small lunch will be provided for pre-registered attendees. Plano Senior Center, 401 West 16th Street, 10:00 am-12. FREE. Visit [www.planoparks.org](http://www.planoparks.org) or call 972-424-9278.

**"Through Their Eyes," MLK Celebration**  
Mothers against Teen Violence, 11:30 a.m., Union Station/Grand Hall, 300 Reunion Blvd. For more info, call 214-565-0422.

**Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. Candle Lighting Ceremony**  
6:30 p.m., Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreation Center, 2901 Pennsylvania Ave., Dallas. For more info, call 214-670-8438 or 214-670-8422.

**January 13**  
**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration**  
2:32 PM, 2922 Martin Luther King Blvd., Dallas, TX 75215

(214) 421-2460  
**Martin Luther King Jr. Parade/March** will be at 10:00 a.m. The parade will assemble at City Hall Plaza and conclude inside Fair Park at the MLK Blvd. Entrance. Participants include bands, floats, community/civic groups, churches and a live broadcast featuring Radio One 97.5 and 94.5 radio personalities. For more info, call 214-670-8438 or 214-670-8422.

**Martin Luther King Jr. Awards Banquet** will be at 7:30 p.m. at the Adam's Mark Hotel, 400 N. Olive St. The keynote speaker will be the Honorable Craig Watkins, District Attorney, Dallas County. For more info, call 214-670-8438 or 214-670-8422.

**The Black Academy Comedy Night at the Muse**  
Last Comic Standing finalist Corey Holcomb dispenses tidbits of wisdom on matters of the heart, dating, and interpersonal relationships.

Dallas Convention Center, Theatre Stage 650 South Griffin Street

9 p.m. \$15 214-743-2442  
**Dallas Area Train Show '07**  
Dallas Area Train Show Model train shows with operating layouts, dealer displays, "How-to" clinics and videos running both days. Admission \$7 per person. \*Children 11 and under are free. For more info call Dave or Chris at 817-721-5064 or visit [www.dfwtrainshows.com](http://www.dfwtrainshows.com)

Plano Centre, 2000 East Spring Creek Parkway, 10:00 am-5:00 pm. 2-Day event

**MLK Day Commemorative Program by NAACP Garland**  
The 2007 theme is "Recognizing Our Clergy on MLK Day."

Granville Arts Center, 300 N. Fifth Street in Garland  
The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) 10 am FREE

January 14

**24th Annual Black Music And The Civil Rights Movement Concert** A Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday, 14 at 7:30 p.m., Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center, Downtown Dallas Arts District 2501 Flora Street \$25, \$15, \$10. This moving performance dramatizes the Civil Rights Movement in film footage, narration and music performed by TBAAL's 200 Voice Concert Choir. The concert features famed and special guest artist Kelly Price. Hosted by Iola Johnson. Conceived and produced by Curtis King. Visit [www.tbahal.org](http://www.tbahal.org)

**Annual MLK Scholarship Breakfast of Alpha Phi Alpha, Nu Pi Lambda Chapter of Arlington**  
Will begin at 8:30 a.m. at DFW Airport Marriott South Hotel. Former mayor Ron Kirk will be the guest speaker. Or more info, contact Gregory Harrell at 817-551-4628.

**A Meals on Wheels Volunteer Training Class for Drivers**  
Will be held from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. on the fourth floor of the VNA headquarters, 1600 Victory Drive in Dallas. Free. Call Betsy Cox at 214-689-2210.

**January 16, 2007**  
**Martin Luther King Jr. Tribute Night**

7:30 p.m. at the American Airlines Center  
University of North Texas Grand Opening

A ribbon cutting and grand opening of the University of North Texas Dallas Campus will begin at 8:20 a.m. at 7300 Houston School Road. For more info call Mary Westfall at 214-969-0090 by Jan. 15.

**FREE Seminar Featuring Dr. Jacob Teitelbaum**  
Fibromyalgia and Fatigue Centers and Central Market are proud to present a FREE informational seminar

featuring renowned author and leading expert, Dr. Jacob Teitelbaum. For more info call 866-847-3301. 7:00 p.m., Plano Centre, 2000 East Spring Creek Parkway.

**January 16, 2007**  
**The Life Enrichment Boot Camp**

January 17th through Saturday, January 20th, 2007

Wednesday - Friday 6pm to 11pm and Saturday, 10am-11pm Plano Centre, 2000 East Spring Creek Parkway. An interactive workshop that uses experiential games, drills and competitions to improve relationships. Admission Charge: \$250 per person. For more info call 972-699-8886 or visit [www.lifeenrichmentbootcamps.com](http://www.lifeenrichmentbootcamps.com).

**January 18**  
**Three of A Kind: Wine, Art and Music**

The Enchanté Wine Tasting Society will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the African American Museum, 3536 Grand Ave. For more info, call 214-431-5444, visit <http://ewts.org> or e-mail [ewts@ewts.org](mailto:ewts@ewts.org).

**PISD Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration**  
Students in all grade levels will be spotlighted in the program, "United by the Dream."

Highlights at this celebration of diversity will include a Parade of Nations, original letters to Dr. King, a performance by the Plano Children's Chorus and other featured student groups. Plano Centre, 2000 East Spring Creek Parkway 7:00 pm - 8:15 p.m. This event is FREE and open to the public. For more details contact the Plano ISD Communications Department at 469-752-8150.

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# Proud To Be An Active Partner In The Community





**Paul Hailey**

2007 has arrived, and I'm back to work here at the Gazette looking forward to throwing in my two cents on various issues around the metropolis. This week, the topic of discussion is the friendly suburban town of Farmers Branch and recent developments in that town's insane and intensely public war against illegal immigrants.

In politics, reality is usually formed by the perceptions of voters.

The all-white, all-male, Farmers Branch city council, (how is that possible in 2007?), has spent the past few months cementing the perception that illegal immigrants are going to find it extremely difficult to take up residence in their city.

In November, the council unanimously passed ordinances that would make English the official language in the city; impose fines on landlords that rent to illegal immigrants, and allow authorities to screen suspects in police custody to see if they are in this country illegally.

The ordinance received national media coverage, and was labeled as outright racist by a large number of rationally thinking white and non-white residents in the area. Those folks started a petition drive and collected signatures of more than 1,200 registered voters from Farmers Branch to force the measures to be put to public vote on the May 12th ballot.

In the interim, the council voted to let the new rules take effect on Friday. The measure causing the biggest stir is the requirement that property managers or owners verify the immigration of citizenship status of their tenants. Those found in violation of the ordinance face a misdemeanor charge punishable by a fine of

## Good Ol' Boy Logic In Farmer's Branch

up to \$500.

Forget racist; can you say economic stupidity? Why would you antagonize a strong business constituency simply to enact a senseless "feel good" social policy?

Elizabeth Villafranca, president of the Farmers Branch chapter of the League of United Latin American Citizens understands the point I am trying to make.

"I don't know why they're doing this," she said. There's no upside to this. They are going to lose hundreds of thousands of dollars."

Besides being an measure that will be virtually impossible to enforce, the ordinance on renting to illegal immigrants, stands to cost the city of Farmers Branch a great deal of money just in defending itself against lawsuits. And there will be plenty of lawsuits.

The Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund and the American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit last month on behalf of several Farmers Branch residents and landlords. They contend the ordinance is so poorly written that it could exclude legal immigrants and citizens from renting.

Long-time activist Domingo Garcia guaranteed additional lawsuits.

"It's a total un-American, unChristian, unTexan thing for the Farmers Branch City Council to do. We're not going to stand for it. We are going to take

them to court," Garcia said.

Three apartment complexes have also filed suit against the City Council and the City Building Inspector. They accuse the city of taking an unauthorized federal role enforcing immigration laws and making them the policing agent.

Ultimately, this whole thing is about faulty good ol' boy logic. The city wants to create the perception that by making it hard for illegal immigrants to live in Farmers Branch; they can somehow keep illegal immigrants out of Farmers Branch.

The Farmers Branch City Council is playing on the base level fears of their residents concerning the growing illegal immigrant population, while screaming the familiar suburban mantra of "not in my backyard".

Their problem, however, is that not all Hispanic people are illegal immigrants. And their failure to understand how to embrace the fact that their quiet little community of 28,000 is now 37 percent Hispanic may be their downfall.

"They're afraid that Farmers Branch is becoming Hispanic," said Christopher McGuire, of United Farmers Branch. "It's going to happen, and that's not a bad thing."

It's not a bad thing as long as you're not a good ol' boy in a changing world.

Paul Hailey can be reached at [phailey@MonTheGazette.com](mailto:phailey@MonTheGazette.com)



## James Brown Showed Blacks They Didn't Have To Hide Their Heritage

By: Marc H. Morial - NNPA

On Christmas Day, the career and life of the "Hardest Working Man in Show Business" ended. But his spirit lives on in the legions of fans that weathered rain and cold to bid him farewell. James Brown electrified a generation, an entertainer with so prolific a body of work and so distinctive a genre of style that entertainers for more than four decades have either borrowed from or have been inspired by.

From the time he first took the stage in the 1950s, James Brown, who died of heart failure at 73, proved to be a cultural tour de force - his own man with his own vision and immense pride in his heritage. In his art, he embraced the blues, gospel and R&B of his musical predecessors in forging a musical destiny that defied convention and was completely his own. He was the consummate showman until his last days. He had received clearance one day earlier to perform at a New Year's Eve gig in New York City. The tributes following his untimely death proved the perfect encore for a life that was at times difficult and painful but nevertheless important and exciting. Only the Godfather of Soul himself could make such a dramatic and riveting exit in death.

Brown emerged the Every Man in the Black community, where he forged his strongest bonds. He set aside convention and remained true to himself - warts and all. With hits like "Please, Please, Please," "Papa's Got a Brand New Bag, Pt. 1" and "I Got You (I Feel Good)," he made an indelible imprint on American culture. During the civil rights movement of the

1960s, he emerged as an icon of Black culture - reminding us to rejoice in our heritage and shout out in pride for ourselves. He showed us that we didn't need to conform to the expectations of mainstream America to take their rightful place in society. He made us realize that we are as entitled to the rights and privileges of U.S. citizenship as anyone else.

In 1968, Brown's "Say It Loud: I'm Black and I'm Proud" unified and energized the African-American community in our period of mourning over the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who had been assassinated five months earlier. It became one of the most popular Black power anthems of the 1960s and also struck a chord with mainstream America, getting to #10 on the charts. Through songs like "I Don't Want Nobody To Give Me Nothing (Open Up The Door, I'll Get It Myself)" that chronicled the challenges faced by Blacks in the United States at the time, Brown made his activism known in real and straight-forward ways.

In addition to being the godfather of various genres of music and dance moves, you could say he was the godfather of economic empowerment and equal opportunity.

While Brown had a different impact than Ray Charles or Sam Cooke on mainstream Americans, he surely struck a nerve among African-Americans. With 60 songs in the Billboard Top 10 R&B chart, he racked up more hits than any other artist. His success on the Top 10 Pop chart was not as great - less than a dozen hits - not enough to put him in the top 25 artists, something that befuddles

music critics given Brown's ability to get on the charts for more than four decades. Despite his penchant for colorful garb and larger-than-life persona, he was hardly a flash in the pan or a one-hit wonder. He continued to persevere in the music industry up until his last days. A day before his death, he had received clearance to play a New Year's Eve gig in New York City.

Where he had his greatest impact was with the countless artists, many African-Americans he inspired. Brown shines through in the work of his successors - from the guitar licks of Prince to the dance moves of Michael Jackson. He was not without his admirers among White artists. He mesmerized Rolling Stones' frontman Mick Jagger in the 1960s concert film "The T.A.M.I. Show" who built much of his own stage persona around Brown's signature style. Rappers have borrowed his beats and funk. And his unforgettable staccato of blues, gospel and R&B, unconventional rhythms and captivating life shows spawned a wide range of new musical genres. He was not only the "Godfather of Soul" but the godfather of disco, hip-hop - the list goes on.

At the various celebrations of his life - at the Apollo Theater, in his hometown in Georgia and elsewhere, James Brown left this world just the way he led his life - a consummate showman and courageous visionary. He leaves an enduring legacy that will remain forever etched in our memories.

Marc H. Morial is President and CEO, National Urban League.

## Blueprint For The Second Hundred Days

By: Ron Walters - NNPA

Much has been made of what would happen in the first days when the Democrats took control of the Congress, and Democratic politicians speak boldly about an agenda that would privilege "the middle class." But since the Democratic Party used to speak for the working class, one now wonders who speaks for them? Maybe this is a trick, since psychologists know that many poor believe that they belong to the "middle class" when they really don't. But Democrats also figured out that poor people don't vote, but the middle- and upper classes do, so why pitch to poor people.

A substantial part of the Democratic base is falling more rapidly into the lower-income category, losing out in the new knowledge-based economy where jobs are flowing overseas and where they are now the subject of intense job competition right here at home. So, newly-empowered Democrats need to fashion policies that are targeted to the working class, a substantial portion of their voting base, some of whom are indeed middle class and a substantial portion of whom are poor.

Blacks constitute a disproportionate share of the Democratic base that needs social and economic policies that work to alleviate material discomfort and now that Blacks have voted and made the difference - disproportionately - they should expect a return. So, I think that after the agenda laid out by Nancy Pelosi, that they believe they can accomplish rather quickly, is finished, they might move on to an agenda that rewards their base.

When you ask this question of Black political accountability,

the answer that often comes back is that, well, healthcare, the minimum wage, ethics reform, beefing up college tuition assistance and the other issues include Blacks as well since they are all citizens. But there is also the problem that public policies rarely have an impact on the Black community and so targeted policies are needed.

Here, Democrats need to resurrect the focus on Urban Policy, something that been out of fashion for decades, because it is associated with both the riots and with the build up of the black population. And thus, the advocacy of urban issues has become the new "third rail" of politics that may prevent officials from being re-elected in white majority districts and propels them to re-election in Black majority districts.

Raising the minimum wage from the current level of \$5.15 to \$7.25 is a good start, but it is meeting opposition from those who believe like the Federation of Small Businesses, a Republican lobbying group, and from George Bush, who will support it, if it is tied to decreasing the impact on his base. Nevertheless, a new Associated Press poll finds it wildly popular with more than 80 percent of Americans supporting it, so it will probably enable Pelosi to take the measure directly to floor for a vote rather than through the committee system.

But with that done, many will feel like they have taken care of the working class and move on. But the data shows, for example, that in the Baltimore-Washington corridor, the median income is about \$75,000, but in both cities one in every five residents are living below the poverty line. So, obviously, those cities need far more than

just increasing the minimum wage. At least, they need a living wage, and some states have passed such measures; the states need job training that helps people in a knowledge-based economy; they need increased social supports so that single-mothers with children can go to work and stay at work; and there is also a need for educational programs should be strengthened to enable that woman to earn a degree, for her children to be educated at a public school and for college students to ward off crushing tuition debt. Cities also need to be able to build affordable housing with a revenue stream that doesn't depend on a tax-abatement incentives to businesses through "Empowerment Zones" alone. The research is mixed on the extent to which this measure has led to viable urban economic development. The spigot needs to be loosened up considerably on the Community Development Block Grants that have been cut mercilessly in recent years by the Republicans.

In the second hundred days, more attention needs to be paid to those measures that will make the voting base of the Democratic Party feel like it has something to vote for in the 2008 elections. But without some attention to their needs right now, who knows what could happen?

Ron Walters is director of the African American Leadership Institute and Professor of Government and Politics at the University of Maryland College Park. His most recent books are: White Nationalism, Black Interests (Wayne State University Press); and Freedom Is Not Enough (Rowman and Littlefield Publishers).

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## Is the sky clearest on the day it is most blue?

While you ponder that thought we would like to announce that Minority Opportunity News, Inc., formerly a Dallas based renaissance community tabloid, founded in 1991, has relocated to Plano, Texas and changed our name to MON-The Gazette. In addition to moving our offices to Plano, our editorial coverage has also shifted to encompass Dallas' Northern Corridor. The Northern Corridor is clearly the fastest growing region in Texas, if not in America. MON-The Gazette believes that the engine to continue this growth is the airport expansion in McKinney, which is the largest and most viable of many area opportunities. As always, and true to tradition, MON-The Gazette will be there carrying a world of opportunity for those seeking to provide quality services. Should you date to expand your quest for economic parity outside the southern region or just want to know what is going on up north.

Think of MON-The Gazette as your paper of opportunity!

MON-The Gazette formerly Minority Opportunity News, was founded July, 1991, by Jim Bochum and Thurman R. Jones

# The Importance Of Good Credit

A good credit rating is the most valuable thing we have when it comes to financial independence. Sadly, the information in our credit reports is often inaccurate. Surveys have revealed that nearly 80% of all consumer credit reports contain serious errors or mistakes of some kind. This prevents millions of Americans from being able to purchase homes, automobiles, and other consumer goods and services. Additionally, many people are paying high interest rates unnecessarily. This results in an endless cycle of high monthly payments, which many consumers cannot afford. Unable to pay their bills on time, they continue adding negative information to their credit rating. This puts their finances in a downward spiral, which can have a devastating effect on their lives.

VR-Tech Marketing is the marketing division of Third Eye Inc., which is the non-profit organization side, dedicated to providing financial services and solutions to consumers with less than perfect credit and debt problems. VR Tech Marketing Group meets all BBBOnLine Reliability participation and Better Business Bureau membership standards and is authorized to display the BBBOnLine Reliability seal.

Our combined expertise represents over 12 years experience in helping consumers improve their credit and lower their debt! Bad credit can be costly. Our goal is to save consumers money when buying a home or car. Just one point added to your interest rate can add up to thousands of dollars in costs for you. Your credit score tells lenders how much interest you should be charged based on risk or your credit history. Would you be willing to invest in Third Eye's low-cost credit restoration program to save tens of thousands of dollars? Don't be a victim of an inaccurate credit score when Third Eye Inc. can help you today!

Because credit reports are sold to almost anyone who requests them, it is important that the information they contain be as accurate and up-to-date as possible. Our Credit Restoration service helps consumers restore their good credit rating and achieve their financial goals. Our proven process is highly effective in producing results that enable our customers to purchase or re-finance a home, buy an automobile or start a business. Our software technology and experienced staff enable us to efficiently

process thousands of customers each month while delivering personalized service that is unsurpassed in the industry. Here are some of the features



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Angie Bynum and Sharhonda Martin

our service offers:

- Individualized dispute letters
- 24/7 online access to view the status of all of your negative accounts.
- Customer Service call center open weekdays from 9:00 AM-5:00PM, EST.
- One time-fee for five full challenge cycles.

How Credit Scores are Used

In addition to evaluating your risk level for borrowing money, credit scores are increasingly being used to determine employment eligibility, insurance rates, and in some cases the rates you are charged for utilities. Your credit score is one of the most important numbers in your life. Scores range from 300 to 900. The average American credit score is 677. The higher your score, the better the terms of the credit you will qualify for.

Below is a breakdown of score ranges and what kind of terms borrowers can expect at various levels:

650 or higher - A score of 650 or above indicates a very good credit profile. People falling into this range will usually be able to obtain credit quickly and at a good interest rate.

620 to 650 - Scores between 620 and 650 are also very good and is the range within which most credit scores fall. However, these consumers may find that potential creditors could require additional documentation for larger loans and the loan process may take longer as a result.

620 or less - This score will mean higher interest rates for borrowers. If credit is granted, the process will take longer and will be on less than ideal terms. Borrowers will pay significantly higher interest rates than those in the 700 or higher credit score range. In some cases, credit may be denied.

We can help you make good credit a reality, not just a dream. Let us show you how today!

We Can Help :

We provide consumers who are suffering from credit problems the opportunity to achieve their financial dreams. We provide a proven, one-year service to consumers who have been turned down for a mortgage, car loan, credit card, or any type of credit due to credit problems. If you have been turned down for a loan, would like to lower your

interest rates, or simply would like to remove costly inaccuracies from your credit reports, than Third Eye Inc can help!

Why Use A Professional Service?

This is not a do it yourself service like those found on the internet. It is a high-quality, professional, and personalized one-year service for consumers. Just as many Americans choose to go to a tax professional to have their taxes done to ensure they receive the maximum refund available, the same can be said about credit restoration. Any consumer can choose to do their own credit restoration if they have the time, patience and resources to aggressively work with the CRAs to remove inaccuracies; however, many choose

to employ the services of Third Eye Inc.

You pay one price, and will enjoy the peace-of-mind of a money-back guarantee if no inaccurate, erroneous or outdated information is corrected or removed on your credit reports (within one year). Please join us for a free seminar on how "Credit Scores affect you and what you can do to improve your credit scores," on 10:00am Saturday, January 13th 2007 at the Dallas Central Library, 1515 Young Street, Dallas, Texas. RSVP Please feel free to visit our web site at [www.vrting.com/fiveyear-plan.com](http://www.vrting.com/fiveyear-plan.com) and or call Angie Bynum or Doc Martin at 1-888-458-8676.

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# Beware Of Bad Tax Advice

Wesley Snipes may have been misinformed

By: Tamara E. Holmes

Actor Wesley Snipes made headlines in October when he was indicted for failing to pay millions of dollars in taxes. While Snipes raised eyebrows for claiming the "Section 861 position," an interpretation of the tax code that wrongly purports that income earned in the United States is not subject to federal taxes; tax professionals warn that anyone can be the victim of tax

scams and bad advice.

"If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is," says Gerard McKnight, owner of GDM Financial Services in Richmond, Virginia. "If someone tells you [that] you can evade taxes, you may want to do some research on that."

Snipes reportedly used the "Section 861 position" to justify not paying taxes on money he earned in the U.S. from 1999 through 2004, as well as to try to get an \$11 million refund for taxes paid in the 1990s.

According to the Section 861 argument only foreign-based income is subject to taxes.

But such reasoning should immediately be deemed suspicious, says Sheila Taylor-Clark, president of the Dallas-Fort Worth chapter of the National Association of Black Accountants and a tax manager at Deloitte & Touche in Dallas. "If you're working, you have to pay the IRS," she says. "U.S.-based income is going to be subject to tax. If someone is saying that it's not, they need to be able

to show you that exception in the Internal Revenue Code."

To avoid becoming the victim of bad tax advice, don't be afraid to do some research if someone offers tax suggestions that don't make sense.

"Go online to the IRS Website ([www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov))," says McKnight. "You may have to dig a little bit but for the most part you should be able to get what you need." You can also visit the IRS in person or give the agency a call at 1-800-829-1040.

## Plano Senior Center Page 1

knot and crochet club, billiards, financial workshops, and did we mention daily lunch options at the great Snack Bar for as little as a dollar? The Center is the one stop shop for everything senior!

Coming up are trips to the Ft. Worth Stock Show, Chinese New Year Spectacular, Grapevine Mills Mall and several theatrical productions. Annually longer trips are offered to places such as Branson, Mackinac Island, New England Autumn Color

tours. Fitness is offered daily from armchair exercise to pilates to weight training to tai chi. A weight room is one of the Center's many features, including a ballroom, library and meeting/craft/game areas.

The Yellow Rose Gift Shop in the Center sells handcrafted items year round by talented senior consignors.

The Geriatric Wellness Center of Collin County, contained in the Senior Center facility, promotes senior health through the services of a geriatric nurse practitioner and social worker/coun-

selor. Physical exams, flu shots, lab tests to screen for health problems, maintenance (foot care, etc.), medication education and a wealth of support groups including Alzheimer, Diabetic, Caregivers support, rounds out a continual source of medical education/assistance.

There is no charge to join the Plano Senior Center. Most activities are free with transportation often provided to off-site locations. Any fees charged for events, classes or activities are kept close to cost to provide the maximum opportunity for participation.

## Dr. King's Legacy Page 1

example, our last staff meeting we had with him, his last work day, we were planning a Poor People's Campaign to organize for jobs and income and health care for every American. He was pulling together a multi-racial coalition of Blacks, Hispanics, Latinos and Native Americans."

Today's leaders should take a lesson from that, says Jackson.

"The King week should be the busiest week for voter registration and voter restoration for those 5 million who have lost the right to vote. And for the ending the war in Iraq because it's taking away the budget we need for development," Jackson says. "That would be a very simple plan, a plan for action."

More than 58 years since Dr. King was assassinated at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis on April 4, 1968, many still remember him most for his melodic and powerful oratory that communicated the human misery and injustice of Jim Crow segregation amidst viscous racism and vio-

lent attacks. But, Dr. King was not always certain he would be a preacher.

Lowery, also well-known for his sense of humor, was nine years older than Dr. King, but came to respect him like an elder in both the ministry as well as in the struggle for civil rights.

"I met Martin for the first time in Boston at a seminar when he was attending [Boston University]," Lowery remembers. King received a doctorate of philosophy from Boston in 1955. "He was a warm, friendly brother whose intellect and spirituality were obvious, but not ostentatious," says Lowery, then pastor of the Warren Street United Methodist Church in Mobile, Ala.

He said they met again after King began in Montgomery, Ala. at an Alabama Council on Human Relations meeting.

"I remember that we warmly congratulated each other with the usual 'preacher' exaggerations...and agreed that we would preach for each other at the earliest possible date. We did. This was the genesis of a warm friendship that endured until his assassination."

Dr. King didn't just surround himself with senior warriors, he used wisdom to mix seasoned civil rights leaders with the youth, says the Rev. Willie T. Barrow, a long-time member of the Rainbow/PUSH board of directors and minister of justice at the Vernon Park Baptist Church in Chicago.

"He was able to get the weak and the strong. He put those two together. And many leaders are not able to do that. They've got to have a 'yes' person, a person that would agree with them on everything, practically, but that was not him," says Barrow.

Though fighting mammoth battles for civil rights, he also had the patience to intervene in staff conflicts, she recalls.

"He had the ability to listen with inner-city young people like Jesse Jackson and Andrew Young," Barrow recalls. "He had the ability to listen and then to think things through and then say, 'Now, I've been sitting here for an hour and I've been listening to you all.' And then he would make us look at each other, talk to each other and if somebody was supposed to apologize, they would apologize."



# Arts & Entertainment

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## Sean 'Diddy' Combs Starts Production On Tv Version Of 'Raisin In The Sun'

By: Chris Riechburg  
Sean "Diddy" Combs is transferring his Broadway experience to the small screen in a new television movie adaptation of Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*.

Production recently started on the three-hour feature in Toronto, Canada. The feature will air on ABC during the 2007 season.

Combs, who received critical acclaim for his portrayal of Walter Lee Jr. in the theatrical version of the drama, will reunite with fellow castmates Phylicia Rashad, Audra McDonald and Sanaa Lathan.

John Stamos for the TV version.

Set in the 1950s, *A Raisin in the Sun* follows a family living and struggling on Chicago's South Side, in a moving portrait

of people whose hopes and dreams are constantly deferred.

It was the first play written by an African-American woman to be produced on Broadway.

The play's original cast included

Tony Award for Rashad, a Best Featured Actress Tony Award for McDonald and a Best Featured Actress Tony nomination for Lathan.

The ABC film will be produced by Craig Zadan and Neil Meron, the pair that executive produced the Oscar-winning film, *Chicago*.

Sean Combs' Bad Boy World Wide Entertainment Group and Sony Pictures Television will also serve as executive producers.

Kenny Leon, who received a Drama Desk nomination for Outstanding Director for his staging of the play on Broadway, will be making his film debut with the movie.

The drama's TV adaptation is the latest acting achievement for Combs, who made his acting debut in the film *Monster's Ball*, which starred Halle Berry and Billy Bob Thornton.



ed Sidney Poitier, Claudia McNeil, Diana Sands, Ruby Dee and Louis Gossett Jr. when it premiered in 1959. A Columbia Pictures feature version of the production with the same cast followed in 1961.

The drama's latest Broadway run resulted in a Best Actress

## "Stomp The Yard" Shows Slice Of Greek Life

By: Nicole Jones...  
Featuring a hard-hitting soundtrack and a moving storyline, "Stomp the Yard" is a romantic, conflict-filled coming of age film that will strike a significant chord in each of its audience members.

The main character, DJ (Columbus Short), is a talented, competitive underground street dancer from Los Angeles. After winning a lucrative battle during a "double or nothing" dance-off in the wrong part of town, a disgruntled opponent exacts his revenge on DJ, changing his life forever.

In an attempt to get out of "the street" way of life, DJ moves in with his uncle and begins attending Truth University, an African-American college. His stern uncle (Harry J. Lennix) constantly motivates his nephew and uses tough love to keep DJ

active and open to new experiences.

"Stomp the Yard" has never-ending twists and a slew of unexpected turns. The film is shot in such a fast-paced, intense style that you instantly feel a connection with the characters, as well as with the music that accompanies their experiences. The soundtrack features prominent, prolific names in hip-hop, including Ghostface Killah, E-40, The Roots, Public Enemy and even the underground MC Mr. Lif.

Through the harsh trials experienced by the characters in the film, "Stomp the Yard" outlines the significance of perseverance, patience and dedication. The film also emphasizes the benefits

of organizations like fraternities and the undying loyalty between brothers.

Packed with suspense and impressive, jaw-dropping dance scenes, "Stomp the Yard" is a visual knockout. The film has



an exhilarating, authentic plotline, with a rich backbone of morals and values. Suitable for the entire family, "Stomp the Yard" is an awe-inspiring, feel-good film.

## Grandmaster Flash And The Furious Five Elected Into Rock And Roll Hall Of Fame

After being turned down for entry into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2005 and 2006, hip hop innovators Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five have been named among the five acts to be inducted this year in New York City.



The first rap act to hold court in the prestigious Hall, the group joins fellow inductees R.E.M., Van Halen, Patti Smith and the Ronettes. The ceremony will be held March 12 at New York's Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

Flash, who just turned 49 on New Year's Day, began DJing at house parties in his native Bronx, N.Y. Learning from early hip hop pioneers Kool Herc and Pete Jones, Flash - born Joseph Saddler - soon began using a mixer to extend breaks within the songs. Calling it the "Quick Mix Theory," the process of blending one music break with another by using two of the same records and a mixer caught on and became a fundamental practice in hip hop.

After various incarnations, Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five as we know it

today formed in the late 70s with Cowboy (Keith Wiggins), Melle Mel (Melvin Glover), Kid Creole (Nathaniel Glover), Rahiem (Guy Todd Williams)

and Scorpio. Their hits included the classic platinum-selling "The Message" and "White Lines (Don't Do it)."

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- Michael Ondaatje, LOS ANGELES TIMES

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## NAACP Taps Vanessa, Isaiah To Host 38th Annual Image Awards

An "Ugly" bully, two doctors from Seattle Grace and a U.S. President will join other celebs and NAACP Executives at a press conference tomorrow to announce nominees for The 38th NAACP Image Awards.

Vanessa Williams, star of the ABC comedy "Ugly Betty," joins "Grey's Anatomy" standouts Chandra Wilson and Isaiah Washington as well as "Access Hollywood's" Shaun Robinson

and "24's" new U.S. president DB Woodside among the announcers at The Peninsula Hotel in Beverly Hills.

The 38th NAACP Image Awards ceremony - celebrating the outstanding achievements and performances of people of color in literature, television, motion pictures and recording arts - will air live on Friday, March 2 (8 to 10 p.m. ET/PT) on FOX.



## Singer Gets Religious With Hip-Hop

By: Ayala Ben-Yehuda

It was after church on a Sunday, and Chrissette Michele had God and hip-hop on her mind. The 23-year-old Long Islander was on her way to a studio to write and record the hook for "Lost One,"

That's quite a statement for someone with a family full of clergy, who led the gospel choir in high school and college but never got a CD until she was 17.

But it wasn't until the day a high school track coach stopped her in the hallway - Chrissette had been jogging down the corridor singing - that her artistic fate was sealed. The coach gave her a CD of Astrud Gilberto and Stan Getz' "The Girl from Ipanema," a song that would establish her love for mixing jazz melodies with what she grew up with: gospel vocals and hip-hop beats.

"I went up to my jazz teacher in school, and said, 'I need you to give me some more of that,'" she says, recalling the discovery of a cabinet full of classic jazz music. "Every day after that, at lunch period, I would go into the piano room and practice those songs."

The first single off of Jay-Z's album "Kingdom Come." She hadn't heard the rest of the song yet, but the deacon's daughter wondered if it might be too explicit for her strong moral code.

"I was preparing in my head how I would say, 'I'm sorry, I can't do this,'" says the singer-songwriter of her meeting with the hip-hop mogul.

But after Jay-Z played the track, which deals with commitment, friendship and death, "I looked at him and said, 'Yo, this song is spiritual.' This song is about self-respect." Chrissette pauses for a moment. "He's a preacher."

With Nat King Cole, Ella Fitzgerald and Billie Holiday as newfound heroes, Chrissette went on to major in music at 5 Towns College. A show at New York City's Village Underground led to opening gigs for India.Arie, and eventually a contract with Island Def Jam.

Chrissette, who is finishing up her own album on IDJ, was featured on the Heineken Red Star Soul tour this fall and performed onstage with Jay-Z at his Radio City concert.

She also wrote and sang hooks on Nas' album "Hip-Hop Is Dead," including on single "Can't Forget About You," a nostalgic reminiscence that's bubbling under the R&B/Hip-Hop songs chart.

Being on Nas' album had particular significance for Chrissette, whose mother was raised in the same Queensbridge housing project as the rapper.

Childhood memories of her own, particularly of the homeless women and girls her family took into their home, inspired her own album. Themes include self-esteem, commitment, and abstinence.

"I don't want to come off preachy, but I'm not afraid to be a Christian in this industry and to really believe what I believe in," says Chrissette a stance made easier to take with respectful and respected artists like Nas and Jay-Z behind her.

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## Carrollton

Christ Community Connection will sponsor their Annual City-Wide Dr. Martin Luther King Day Parade this Saturday, January 13, 2007, starting @ 9:00 am on Jamestown Street (behind Carrollton City Hall) and will end @ the Ted Polk Middle School, 2001 Kelly Blvd in Carrollton.

Immediately after the parade there will be a program in the auditorium/Cafeteria. The theme for this year's parade and program is, "Unity in Our Community." The parade and program will feature city leaders including the Mayor, City Council Members, School Board Members and other community leaders.

Speaker for the event will be Attorney E. Leon Carter, a Shareholder at Munck Butrus, P. C. and is a member of the Firm's Litigation section, with over 20 years of trial and litigation experience.

Appearing in the parade will be local school bands, cheerleaders, drill teams, area Churches, clubs and organizations.

There will be refreshments prior to the program.

## Dallas

Sunday, January 14, 2007 at 4 p.m., about 16 bands from Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana will perform in the first Carter High School Battle of the Bands commemorating Dr. King at Kincaid Stadium at Interstate 20 and Polk Street. Tickets are \$10 before the event or \$15 at the door, and benefit Carter High's band department. Call 214-932-5700 or 214-932-5745.

On January 14, 2007 at 6 p.m., the Rev. Frederick Haynes, pastor of Friendship West Baptist Church, will speak at the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance's annual worship service commemorating Dr. King. The event will be at Saintsville Church of God in Christ, 2200 S. Marsalis Ave., where Bishop J. Neaul Haynes (no relation) is pastor. Call 214-375-4105.

A 6 p.m. reception will precede a symposium titled "Two Seen the Promised Land—The Legacy of Martin Luther King," on Sunday, January 14, 2007. The event is presented by Dallas Institute of Humanities and Culture. Venue is the Belo

# Area MLK Events

Mansion, 2101 Ross Ave. From 7 to 8:45 p.m., journalist, political analyst and author Juan Williams will speak at the symposium and later lead a panel of local leaders — Albert Black, Joyce King and J. McDonald Williams — who will discuss the status of civil rights.

Tickets are reservation only: \$15 for the public, \$10 for teachers. Call 214-871-2440 or visit [www.dallasinstitute.org](http://www.dallasinstitute.org).

A Martin Luther King Jr. Parade/March will be Monday, January 15, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. The parade will assemble at City Hall Plaza and conclude inside Fair Park at the MLK Blvd. entrance. Participants include bands, floats, community/civic groups, churches and a live broadcast featuring Radio One 97.9 and 94.5 radio personalities.

Martin Luther King Jr. Awards Banquet will be January 15, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. at the Adam's Mark Hotel, 400 N. Olive St. The keynote speaker will be the Honorable Craig Watkins, District Attorney, Dallas County. Pan-African Connection

Bookstore and Resource Center Salute Martin Luther King Jr. Saturday January 20, at 7 p.m., The Pan-African Connection Bookstore and Resource, located at 612 E. Jefferson Blvd. Dallas



Texas, will salute the Honorable Martin Luther King Jr. Youth presentations and cultural entertainment will highlight the program. The program is free and open to the public.

Garland NAACP Garland 18th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade and March on Saturday, January 13, 2007, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Parade starts on Dairy Road at Garden Drive

(near Embree Park), Garland, Texas. It proceeds north on Dairy Road to Highway 66 (Avenue D) West (Left) on Highway 66 (Avenue D) to First Street North (Right) on First Street to Highway 66 (Avenue B) West (Left) on Highway 66 (Avenue B) to Fifth Street. Parade ends at the Granville Arts Center, 330 North Fifth Street, downtown Garland.

The 2007 theme is "Recognizing Our Clergy on MLK Day." Grand marshals for the 18th annual parade and march will be: Reverend D. L. Wilson, pastor of Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church in Garland and Reverend Charles E. Franklin, pastor St. Luke African Methodist Episcopal Church in Garland.

The celebration continues with an MLK commemorative program in the main Auditorium of the Granville Arts Center immediately following the parade and march. Performances include the MLK Community-wide Youth Choir, MLK "I Have A Dream" speech

by Elder Albert Baker, St. Luke AME Puppet Ministry and the Ida Handley Elementary Choir. The event is open to the public. Admission is free. MLK Youth Extravaganza on January 14, 2007 at the Granville Arts Center Main Auditorium. Youth groups from area churches will showcase their spiritual talents in praise dance, step routines and military-style drills on Sunday afternoon in the main auditorium of the Granville Arts Center, beginning at 4:00 p.m. The Youth Extravaganza is open to the public. Admission is free.

Irving Martin Luther King Observation Sponsored by Irving Parks and Recreation on Monday, January 15, 2007, starts at 7:00 p.m. at the Carpenter Performance Hall 3333 North MacArthur Blvd, Irving, TX. FREE Event will feature the Dallas Black Dance Theatre, Joe Rogers & Members of the Jubilee Theatre, Vocalist Brenda Ellis, and MLK Scholarship Recipients.

## Plano MLK Celebrations Page 1

activities will be a free lunch and health fair at the Douglass Community Center.

On Sunday evening, January 14, at a 7:00 PM ecumenical service, The MLK All Community Choir will per-

form at St. Andrews United Methodist Church located at 1401 Mira Vista Blvd. & Plano Parkway. The program will also include a naturalization ceremony for new citizens.

The Monday, January 15, events include the Power

Leadership Breakfast at 7:45 AM and 10:30 AM Teen Extravaganza at the Collin County Community College.

Concluding the MLK 2007 Celebration is the Plano Independent School District Program on Thursday, January

18, at 7:00 PM. This event will be held at the Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway. Students in all grade levels will be spotlighted in the program, "United by the Dream." Billed as a celebration of diversity, some of the program's high-

lights will include a Parade of Nations, performances by the Plano Children's Choral and other student groups. District and community leaders will participate in this program by presenting awards for art contest winners and honoring the recip-

ient of the Diversity Leadership Award. All events are free and open to the public. For more information, log on to [www.planomlk.org](http://www.planomlk.org) or contact Earl Simpkins at (972) 422-0012, ext. 128.

## African American Events Page 1

Inc. are co-sponsors of these programs. Pastor Dave Jenkins of the Allen Community Baptist Church states, "It is an honor to participate in this distinguished cultural art series that honors Allen's diverse heritage."

Each Tuesday night during February, films with all black casts or have African-American themes will be featured. On Feb. 6 and 20, guests will be treated to extremely rare viewing of "Beulah," a television program from the 1950's. There are only two known segments that have survived. Hattie McDaniel stars in the first segment, but after her death was replaced by Ethel Waters.

7:00 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 6, Green Pastures (1936). God, heaven, and several Old Testament stories, including the Creation and Noah's Ark, are recreated supposedly from the perspective of rural, black Americans. Green Pastures ranked ninth best movie in 1936 in the Film Daily annual poll of critics. The film was banned in many countries.

7:00 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 13, Cabin in the Sky (1943). This wonderful musical has a lot going for it, including a great cast of noted black actors from stage and screen, songs by Vernon Duke and Harold Arlen, and the directorial debut of Vincent Minnelli. Above all, you have a chance to see and hear the matchless singer/actress Ethel Waters in top form, and perhaps begin to understand why many consider her the greatest and most influential jazz/pop vocalist of all time. Almost every great singer who came later, including Frank Sinatra, Billie Holiday, and Ella Fitzgerald had a style that came out of Ethel Waters influence...and that goes as well for her beautiful co-star in this film, Lena Horne. A must for fans of musicals, jazz and great music!

7:00 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 20, Pinky (1949). A light-skinned black woman, returns to her grandmother's house in the South after graduating from a Northern nursing school. Pinky tells her grandmother that she has been "passing" for white while at school in the North and the story accelerates into a tense

but thrilling ending. 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 27, Carmen Jones (1954). At an all-black U.S. Army camp, civilian parachute maker and "hot bundle" Carmen Jones is desired by many of the men. Naturally, she wants Joe, who's engaged to sweet Cindy Lou and about to go into pilot training for the Korean War. Going after him, she succeeds only in getting him into the stockade. While she awaits his release, trouble approaches for both of them. Songs are derived from the Bizet opera with modernized lyrics. This is one of Otto Preminger's best! Do not be late, the opening is considered one of the best in motion picture history.

For information about any of these programs, call Tom Keener at 214-509-4911.

An interactive installation "Ubuntu in Motion" will be on display at the Allen Public Library throughout February to

honor Africa-American History Month. The theme is based on the African word "ubuntu" meaning "humanity to others" and also "I am what I am because of who we all are." The installation features a 12x24-foot touch-sensitive dance floor containing 72 sensors. When stepped upon, these sensors trigger sounds of African musical instruments, speech fragments

from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I have a dream" speech and projects moving video images of important figures in African-American culture and history. The floor was designed and created by Dr. Christopher Morgan, professor of composition and electronic music at Collin County Community College. It will remain active each day during normal library

hours. "We hope that people who walk across the display will have fun with the rhythms while also soaking up the spirit of ubuntu," said Dr. Morgan. This project was completed with the collaboration of the Library's Production Specialist Scott Sumner. Parents are encouraged to bring their kids because the floor is a lot of fun for children of all ages.

## Career Opportunities -

Contact Marketing to advertise in our career opportunity section 972-606-7498 Fax or Email copy for quote: Fax: 972-509-9058; Email: [opportunity@monthegazette.com](mailto:opportunity@monthegazette.com)

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The Promotions Director for KWRD-FM and KSKY-AM reports to the General Manager and works hand in hand with the Operations and Sales departments in developing and implementing marketing and promotional campaigns for the radio station. This position involves interaction with local church and community leaders, listeners, advertisers and vendors. A solid understanding of Christian radio, familiarity with the Church, strong writing, telephone and interpersonal relations skills are important to success in this capacity. Duties include, but are not limited to:

- Website Maintenance
- Interfacing and promoting KWRD to local church leaders and congregations.
- Working with Operations and Sales departments in developing marketing and promotional materials for the radio station.
- Order station promotional merchandise
- Maximize station's exposure to local and national media.
- Writing and servicing station press releases
- Establishing station presence at key local events.
- Develop revenue-generating promotions in conjunction with Sales and Programming departments
- Coordinate and facilitate all station events
- Other duties as assigned by General Manager

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## Kenya Closes Border Page 1

Kenya border also closed to refugees

The minister also repeated his statement Wednesday that Kenya does not believe Somali civilians are in danger because the transitional government, which is on the ascendency, was not targeting civilians.

"If we feel and find that that civilians are in danger, we are not crazy. We will allow them free passage. But there is no danger on civilians," Tuju said. "All the information we have confirms unequivocally that there is no armed conflict in Mogadishu, Kismayo or even Dholeby and that in fact there does not exist any state of anarchy and violence as alleged by the [U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees]."

The U.N. refugee agency has said Kenya is obligated to take in civilians at risk on humanitarian grounds.

Tuju said that Kenya proposes a joint fact-finding mission with the agency to "establish the real situation on the ground."

Ethiopian troops guard checkpoint just inside Somalia

At the Harehare border post, reporters saw dozens of Ethiopian troops about 50 meters (50 yards) inside

Somalia, manning a checkpoint. Some of them were in trucks and others in pickups painted in camouflage. When reporters tried to talk to them in English, the Ethiopian soldiers did not respond.

Kenyan security officials stopped all vehicles from leaving the country and those trying to enter Kenya went through a long wait as the border officials sought clearance from their superiors.

Later Thursday, the Kenyan military commander of the border post met in a closed door session with his Ethiopian counterpart.

Philip Oluoch, a Kenyan who drove a two-carriage truck packed with wheat through the southern Somalia towns of Af Madow and Dholeby before reaching Harehare, said that he had seen many people in those towns fleeing and heading towards the Kenyan border, but believed they avoided the main border points.

"As we were leaving Dholeby, there was a lot of shooting. It took several minutes but we could not establish who was shooting who," the driver said as he waited to be cleared by Kenyan security. "The town is effectively under the control of the Ethiopians. They have established roadblocks" all the way to the border.

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## Church News

### Scriptures For January 2007



**Sister Tarpley**

From the monthly calendar of Full Gospel Holy Temple, Apostle Lobias Murray, Founder/Pastor: GOD can use me more effectively when I rely on HIM for strength and courage. Joshua 1:6-7. Secret sin on earth is open scandal in Heaven. Ephesians 5:12. The wicked win; then God judges them. Psalm 37:12 & 13. It is easy finding reasons why other folk should be patient. Matthew 7:3. Live the gospel first; tell about it afterward. 1 Thessalonians 1:7. Faith keeps the sails of our lives filled with the breath of Heaven. Matthew 8:26.

Courage and strength are available to those who depend on GOD daily! Isaiah 40:28-30. Praying for leaders makes the public business of the nation the private business of the Christians. Romans 13:1-3. Something happens behind closed doors when we pray with hearts open to GOD. Mark 11:36. GOD who prepares the answers to our prayers also prompts the asking. 1 Timothy 2:1. Profession without possession is like having the label without the contents; and like clouds without the rain. Titus 1:16. No enemy can come so near that GOD is not nearer! Hebrew 13:5. With the peace of GOD in our hearts, we can face troubled times in assurance! Philippians 4:7.

Christians who deserve love the least, may need it the most. 2 Corinthians 2:7. GOD still

speaks to those who take the time to listen. Hebrews 1:2 and Samuel 3:9. The radiance of the life of one born of the SPIRIT has its source in something shining inside. John 3:5. When you wait on GOD, HE stretches your patience that HE may enlarge your soul. 1 Peter 4:7 and Luke 21:19. When at night you cannot sleep, talk to the SHEPARD! John 10:14 and Psalm 127:2. A thankful heart is an offering to

16:11. No sin is so small it can be overlooked or so large it cannot be forgiven. Romans 3:23 & 6:23. Who loves me, follows me! John 10:4 & 5. The folly of one man is the fortune of another. Proverbs 10:1 & 14:18. He that contemplates on his bed hath a day without a night. Psalms 36:4. The kiss of GOD'S forgiveness can change a prodigal son into a profitable one. Luke 15:20.



**Picture of the Week**  
Sister Rose Fielding, Sister Tarpley and Sister Eloyd Avery

GOD! Daniel 8:10. Praising the Lord in adversity changes burdens into blessings. Acts 16:25 and Hebrew 13:5.

With all certainty before us, let us be meek, alert, serious and joyous. Matthew 5:5 and Romans 12:11. Do you have a burden for the lost, or have you lost your burden? Matthew 9:36. To cure a sick soul, put it back into its native element of prayer and communion with CHRIST. 1 Corinthians 10:16. Praying frequently helps us to pray fervently. 1 Thessalonians 5:17. GOD can turn winds of adversity into showers of blessings. Genesis 50:20. Let GOD'S love fill your cup and you will find no difficulty of letting it overflow to others. Psalm

**Something to Ponder:** A story was told about a lady in a hospital near death when a young female Chaplain came to visit. She listened to the ill lady and left a tiny ceramic frog as a gift.

The next day a church member came to visit. The patient told her friend about the young Chaplain who had come to visit her. The friend was impressed wanted to talk to the Chaplain. In her search, she was told that chaplains are never young and there was never a lady that fit her description.

Returning to the patient, a nurse entered the room and noticed the ceramic frog and said, "I see you have a Guardian Angel with you," as she held the little frog. When asked, she said that the frog stood for: (F) Forever (R) Really (O) On (G) God

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Let MON-The Gazette help your church accomplish the Prayer of Habes, "Enlarge our territory to expand opportunities that may impact in such a way that we touch more lives for God's glory. Let us do more for Him."

We do so through crisis intervention, counseling, shelter, education, advocacy, and diverse community partnerships. The vision of New Beginning Center is to promote social change that will lead to the elimination of domestic violence.

New Beginning Center

serves Garland and other cities in the east Dallas metropolitan area. Their 24-hour emergency hotline number is 972-276-0057.

For registration information and sponsorship opportunities, please contact Colleen Halbert at 972-276-0423 ext. 245.

## Church Happenings

### COALITION OF CHURCHES IN PRISON MINISTRY

*On-Going Minister Program*  
True Lee Baptist Church, 3907 Bertrand Avenue, Dallas, TX 75210, 214-421-9435, Rev. Donald Parish, Pastor, is working with a mentor program for children of parents that are incarcerated. Come or call to find out how to get involved.

For more information, donations, and volunteering, please call Carolyn Johnson @ 972-235-6432.

### Coalition of Churches In Prison Ministry

Rev. Isaac Johnson, Coordinator  
P.O. Box 225863  
Dallas, TX 75222-5863  
972-235-6432 or 214-632-6519

### FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALLEN

*Starting January 7, 2007*  
God has increased our membership and enlarged our territory; and because of this, along with our friends and visitors, we now have new worship hours, from 8:15 - 9:30 am, and from 11 am - 1 pm. Sunday School changed to 9:45 am - 10:45 am. We invite you to join us in our praise and worship service.

January 26, 2007 @ 7 pm  
We are justified by Faith presents, "Holy Women of God" at our 3rd Annual Women's Conference. Our first guest speaker will be Rev. Marilyn Price, Pastor of God's Refuge Church in Dallas.

January 27, 2007 from 9 am to 1 pm  
You will be blessed and spiritually fed as we honor GOD with a Praise Dance by Sister Britany Thomas from Little Bethel Baptist Church. Rev. Lisa Autry, Co-Founder of Eirene Christian Fellowship in Richardson, TX, will speak on, "A Woman Transformed: The Woman at the Well." Minister Veronica Perry, Co-Pastor of True Image Ministry in Dallas, TX, will speak on, "Women Working and Worshipping: Mary and Martha." Our own First Lady Tasha Stafford, will speak on, "A Woman of Courage: Queen Esther."

January 28, 2007 @ 11 am  
Our guest speaker for the conclusion of our conference will be Minister Cheryl Coleman, Pastor of St. Paul AME Church in Harrington, Delaware. Don't miss this Spirit-Filled Conference!

February 17, 2007 @ 5 pm  
You don't want to miss our First Annual Collin County Gospel Explosion @ the Allen Civic Center Auditorium, 300 N. Allen Drive, Allen, TX 75013. Tickets are only \$15 per person and will feature FBCA Sanctuary Choir with special guests: Charles Luster, Mashond Payne, Pastor Niya Adams, and Elder Daniel Davis.

For a small business, The seminar will be taught by Annette Evans Smith, 214-495-0544 or Sis. Beachum @ 214-495-0544.

972-809-3533.

Fellowship Baptist Church of Allen  
Rev. W. L. Stafford, Sr., M.Div.  
Senior Pastor  
200 Belmont Drive  
Allen, TX 75013  
972-359-9956

### FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS MINISTRIES, INC. (FBOBC)

January 28, 2007 @ 3:30 pm  
You are invited to our "50 Men in Black & Red" @ Community Outreach Church, 526 Compton Road, Irving, TX 75061, Pastor L. Tarpley, Overseer. Theme: "Men After God's Own Heart." Theme Speaker, Minister Earnest Hale, Duncanville First Baptist Church; Guest Speaker, Elder James McCrary, Greater El-Bethel COGIC, Garland, TX. Please RSVP on or before January 22, 2007. God's Leading Ladies are welcome!

For more information call Sis. Joel Anderson @ 214-723-4828.  
Fellowship of Believers Ministries  
Bishop Gregory Crawford  
Founder and Senior Pastor  
501 Wynnwood Village, #423  
Dallas, TX 75224  
214-372-3624

### FRIENDSHIP-WEST BAPTIST CHURCH

January 19, 2007 @ 7 pm  
Start the New Year off with a Blessed event, come and celebrate with us as, Something Out of the Ordinary (SOTO) will present The Legends of Gospel Tour, "The Legacies of Dr. Martin Luther and Mrs. Coretta Scott King." Tickets are \$25 in advance and VIP tickets (includes reserved seating and dinner with the Artists) are only \$65. A portion of the proceeds from the VIP tickets will be donated to the MLK Center. Featured guest includes: Doc McKenzie & The Hi-Lites; Lee Williams & The Spiritual QCs; Keith "Wonder Boy" Johnson & The Spiritual Voices; and Slim & The Supreme Angels.

For more information, call 972-228-7233.  
Friendship-West Baptist Church  
Dr. Frederick Haynes, III  
Senior Pastor  
2020 West Wheatland Road  
Dallas, TX 75232  
972-228-5200

### GOD HAS A PLAN (G.H.A.P.)

January 27, 2007 from 9 am to 4 pm  
We will host a Small Business Grant Writing Seminar @ Ryan's Grill, Buffet and Bakery, 909 Tripp Road at Hwy 80E & Galloway, Mesquite, TX. It is open to individuals, organizations and churches; we will cover all aspects of starting a small business. The seminar will be taught by Annette Evans Smith,

Eric Edison, and Edward Smith. You MUST register by January 21, 2007; lunch is FREE with a \$65 registration fee. For more info, please call 214-497-4260.

G.H.A.P.  
Edward & Annette Smith, CEO  
P.O. Box 850691  
Mesquite, TX 75149  
214-497-4260

### PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVERS FOR COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE (PACE)

February 11, 2007 @ 4 pm  
We are sponsoring an African American Read-In. Bring the family to the Carrollton Library @ Josey Lane Ranch to hear selections being read by African American Authors; experience great stories and story tellers. Refreshments will be served. For more information contact Roxanne Foster @ 972-416-8148.

### PACE

Patricia Hempstead, President  
P.O. Box 112721  
Carrollton, TX 75011-2721  
972-236-1337

### SPRIT AND TRUTH MINISTRIES

January 13, 2007 @ 6 pm  
Come to our 2nd Anniversary "PraiseFest '07. We will celebrate in a big way with great music, friendly people, and an engaging and relevant message.

January 14, 2007 @ 10:30 am & 3:30 pm  
Join us at the conclusion of our 2nd Anniversary Services with guest minister Elder Robert L. Sample, Pastor of Holy Tabernacle COGIC.

Spirit & Truth Ministries  
Elder Quentin Draper, Pastor  
2220 Gus Thomasson Road  
Building A, Suite A  
Mesquite, TX 75150  
972-279-1559

### WESTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH, LEWISVILLE

January 20, 2007 from 9 am to 3 pm  
Our Marriage Ministry will host the 2007 Blended Family Conference. The theme is "God Breathes on Blended Families." Registration is \$23.50 per person or \$30 per couple; and includes lunch, a book, and a workbook.

Please contact Minister Vincent Williams @ 469-384-6610 for more information.

Westside Baptist Church  
Rev. Kenneth Blake, Pastor  
802 Bellaire Blvd.  
Lewisville, TX 75067  
972-221-5668

## Church Directory

**Temple of Faith Christian Chapel C.M.E. Church**  
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Sunday Morning Worship/Children's Church ..... 11:00 am  
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Missions 7:00 pm  
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Bible Study 7:45 pm  
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Pastor's Office: (972) 792-0240  
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6:30 p.m. Prayer Service  
7:00 p.m. Church School  
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# Keith "Wonderboy" Johnson Brings "New Wave" Gospel Quartet Sound To Upcoming Legends Of Gospel Tour

**Johnson's Quartet is Among Powerhouse Performers to Appear at Friendship West Baptist Church January 19**

With hands holding tight to the Good Book, and ears locked solidly into the sounds of both contemporary and traditional music, Keith "Wonderboy" Johnson is giving a new, fresh face to modern Gospel Quartet music. And Dallas gospel lovers will have an opportunity to experience Johnson's unique sound live in concert as one of the featured performers during the Legends of Gospel Tour on Friday, Jan. 19 at 7 p.m. at Friendship West Baptist Church, 2020 Wheatland Rd.

Keith Wonderboy Johnson and the Spiritual Voices leads a stellar lineup that will showcase some of today's hottest gospel quartets including: Lee Williams and the Spiritual QCs; Slim and the Supreme Angels and Doc McKenzie

and the Gospel Highlights. For the first time ever, these gospel greats will be in concert on the same Dallas stage for an exciting performance that promises



Keith "Wonderboy" Johnson is giving a new, fresh face to modern Gospel Quartet music.

Johnson and his Spiritual Voices are ever-popular local favorites, and the group returns to Dallas this month after participating in the Gospel Music Workshop's Annual Conference

held in the Metroplex last summer. After Johnson's rousing performance during the workshop, it makes sense that his participation in the upcoming

Legends of Gospel Tour is met with much anticipation among local fans.

Since his last visit to Dallas, Johnson has been nominated for the 2006 Stellar Music Award for his latest release, *Just Being Me*. Johnson has taken an overview of the last several decades of Gospel music, and what he's come up with is a remarkable mix of straight-ahead, foot-stomping Sunday morning church, soulful ballads, and a contemporary spin on the timeless sound of Gospel Quartet music. In fact, with a perfect mix of yesterday, today and tomorrow all working together, *Just Being Me* carries "Gospel Quartet" to altogether

new and fresh terrain.

According to Johnson, often-times people hear the term "Quartet" and think it's going to be old-fashioned and tired. "They don't realize that it's the most rocking Gospel that's out there," said Johnson. "It was gospel quartet music that played a major role in the birth of R&B, soul and rock'n'roll. They all borrowed from us. We've cranked it up considerably since the old days, but the heart of our sound has been consistent for years. This is where it all started," he said.

"I could buy myself a nice car if I had a dollar for every person who has come up to me after a show and said, 'You know what? I never gave Quartet a chance, but listening to your music, I really like this. The way you incorporate other musical styles is something different, and I can really get into it.' It is something different. I call it 'New Wave Quartet,'" Johnson added. Having spent his life witness-

ing the almost magnetic appeal of Gospel Quartet music to masses of people across all lines of age, race and religion, Keith sees himself very much on a mission to carry modern Quartet to an ever-wider audience. But his greatest goals are set on even higher things.

"Above anything and everything else, I would hope people knew of me as a man who loved God, loved his family, loved and encouraged people, and tried to let them know that Jesus is the way," he said. "And also did his very best to turn them on to Gospel Quartet music!"

Tickets for the Legends of Gospel Tour are \$25 for general

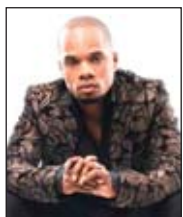
admission and \$65 for VIP tickets, which includes preferred seating and private dinner with the musical artists. Tickets are available online at [www.ticketweb.com](http://www.ticketweb.com) or by phone at 1-866-468-7621.

Concert tickets are also available at the following locations: Friendship West Baptist Church, 2020 Wheatland Rd.; Dan-u Salon (1-758 Spring Valley) 13999; Goldmark Dr (214) 575-4759; and Sams Records 3434 Sunnyvale St., in Dallas 75216; (214) 375-1376.

For more information about the Legends of Gospel Tour call (866) 468-7621.

## Biggest Names In Gospel Music To Descend On Music City USA

**For the 22nd Stellar Gospel Music Awards Show Stated For January 13, 2007 At The Grand Ole Opry House**



22nd Stellar Gospel Music Awards co-host, Kirk Franklin

Gospel music lovers are in for a treat once again as the Stellar Gospel Music Awards brings back its annual star-studded event bringing together some of the biggest names in Gospel music and noted celebrities to the nation's most renowned city for all things music, Nashville.

Undoubtedly one of the industry's most anticipated gospel music award shows, the Stellar Awards will kick-off a night of soul-stirring, hand clapping, foot stomping praise on Saturday, Jan. 13, 2007 at the historic Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville. This year's co-hosts include a trio of Stellar Award favorites, who are among today's hottest and most innovative gospel artists - the incomparable Kirk Franklin, the energetic Tye Tribbett and powerhouse sister-duo, Mary Mary.

Sure to be one of the most

highly-buzzed events of the New Year, the Stellar Gospel Music Awards has confirmed a number of performers, presenters and celebrity guests, along with a distinguished list of award recipients.

Internationally acclaimed Gospel quartet legends, The Mighty Clouds of Joy, will receive the distinguished Allstate James Cleveland Award, which is given annually to someone who has made a major impact in the development and advancement of gospel music. Bringing their own bit of sunshine to this year's award show is yet another dynamic Gospel quartet. The Clark Sisters are tapped to receive the Chevrolet Most Notable Achievement Award for their pioneering work in song writing, outstanding performances and record sales success in the gospel music industry.

"We are excited about the consortium of artists and celebrities we've assembled for our 22nd Annual Awards show this year," said Don Jackson, CEO of Chicago-based Central City Productions, Inc. & Executive Producer of the Stellar Awards. "We have an incredible line-up of enthusiastic hosts, as well as, some of the most noted performers in gospel music, along with a diverse, all-star cast of presenters representing film, music and theatre. Once again, viewers can expect an outstanding, spirit-filled show which brings us back to a city where music lives and

breathes."

Additionally, among this year's star-packed roster of artists set to perform at The 2007 Stellar Gospel Music Awards live in Nashville include the legendary Patti LaBelle, Myron Butler & Levi, Richard Smallwood, Kirk Franklin, Mary Mary, Tye Tribbett, gospel favorite Vickie Winans, Bishop Paul Morton featuring Kurt Carr and Lew Bartholomew, Byron Cage, The Caravans, Keith "Wonderboy" Johnson, Kiera "Kiki" Sheard, Youthful Praise and Ziel. The slate of who's-who celebrity presenters and gospel music various which include actor and come-



Mary Mary to co-host with Kirk Franklin and Tye Tribbett

dian Flex Alexander, big screen starlet Gabrielle Union and actor Idris Elba (both featured in the upcoming Tyler Perry movie, "Daddy's Little Girls"), gospel diva Yolanda Adams, gospel music favorite Israel, harpist Jeff Majors, jazz and gospel music sensation Jonathan Butler, comedian Jonathan Slocumb, Da Truth, Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, Lamar Campbell, Micah Stampley, Vanessa Bell Armstrong, and girl group Virtue to name a few.

The Chicago-based Central City Productions, Inc. (CCP) produces the Stellar Gospel Music Awards. It has been 21 years since the first awards show was taped at the Arie Crown Theater in Chicago, and the Stellar Awards has now become the premier Gospel event that recognizes and honors African American artists. This one of a kind award show has showcased top Gospel artists and many television and film stars.

Founded in 1970 by Don Jackson, Chicago-based Central City Productions is a distributor of original programming to television and cable networks. This year's "Stellar Awards" sponsors include Chevrolet, American Airlines, Daimler Chrysler, Ford, McDonald's, S.C. Johnson, Toyota, Allstate Insurance, Coca Cola, and Wal-Mart.

You can purchase tickets at Ticket Master 615-871-7756 and at Ticketmaster.com. The ticket prices are \$200 (Main Floor & Mezzanine), \$125 (Balcony) and \$55 (Upper Balcony). Please visit [www.thestellarawards.com](http://www.thestellarawards.com) for more information.

The 22nd Annual Stellar Gospel Music Awards Show will air in syndication from January 27 - March 4, 2007. Please check local listings for dates and times. For further information, please contact A. Jalila Larsuel at JL Media Relations at (626) 398-5028, or e-mail: [jlmidiapr@aol.com](mailto:jlmidiapr@aol.com). For additional celebrity photos, contact [JLMidiapr@aol.com](mailto:JLMidiapr@aol.com).



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Rev. Clarence J. Ford, Jr., Pastor

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Men's Fellowship: Friday 7:00 p.m.  
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Email: [church@bwhc.org](mailto:church@bwhc.org)  
Web: [bwhc.org](http://bwhc.org)

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Sunday Worship Services	Wednesday
8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.	12:00 p.m. Bible Study
9:45 a.m. Sunday School	7:00 p.m. Prayer Hour
6:00 p.m. Baptism Training Union	7:30 p.m. Bible Study



**Friendship Baptist Church**  
Dr. C. Paul McBride, Pastor

**Schedule of Services:**

**Sunday**  
Early Morning Worship 8:00 a.m.  
Sunday School Classes 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.  
Evening Worship (1st Sunday) 6:00 p.m.

**Tuesday**  
Early Bird Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

**Wednesday**  
Morning Bible Study 9:30 a.m.  
Prayer Meeting and Evening Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

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Saturday: Intercessory Prayer @ 7:00 am  
Sunday Services: Sunday School @ 9:30 am • Morning Worship @ 11:00 am  
Monday Service: Men's Group & Women's Group Bible Study @ 6:30 pm  
Wednesday Service: Family Bible Study @ 6:30 pm



**New Life Fellowship Church of Rowlett**  
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New Worship Home  
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Sunday Life Celebration Worship Service ..... 10:45 a.m.  
First Sunday: Ingredients for Life ..... 4:00 p.m.  
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Schools are starting; students are college-bound, and people are joining the workforce. We wish you good health and prosperity. Now do "The Simplicity Plan" for family security and peace of mind.