

North Dallas Gazette



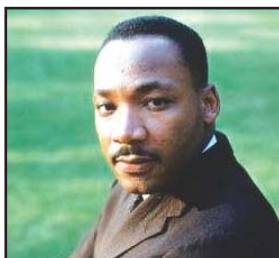
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SCLC: Commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the MLK Assassination

A moment of silence, A march to remember, A vigil to honor

Dallas, TX — Commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the assassination of civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the Dallas Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference



calls for a Citywide Moment of Silence on Friday, April 4, 2008 at precisely 6:01p.m. Following the moment of silence, the Dallas-Fort Worth community is invited to join the SCLC in a Memorial

March from the Fair Park entrance at 1300 Robert B. Cullum Blvd to the Martin Luther King Center at 2922 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, for a prayer vigil to honor the life and

See SCLC, Page 12

IRS Announces Economic Stimulus Payment Schedules, Provides Online Payment Calculator

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service announced that it will begin sending more than 130 million economic stimulus payments starting May 2. The initial round of weekly payments will be completed by early July.

The IRS also announced the availability of a new online calculator on IRS.gov to help people determine the amount of their stimulus payments.

Stimulus payments will be made by direct deposit to people who choose to receive their

2007 income tax refunds through direct deposit. All others will receive their economic stimulus payments in the form of a paper check.

"To receive an economic stimulus payment, people just need to file their tax returns as they usually do,"

said IRS Acting Commissioner Linda E. Stiff. "The payments will be automatic for the vast majority of taxpayers. Some lower-income workers and recipients of certain Social Security and veterans benefits who don't normally need to file a

See IRS, Page 11

David Patterson: "Governor of New York State"

By Herb Boyd

(NNPA) - "Let me reintroduce myself," David Alexander Paterson told a massive gathering of friends, relatives, and public officials during his swearing-in ceremony before a joint session of the State Assembly and



Associated Press(c)

Senate Monday morning, "I am David Paterson, and I am the governor of New York State."

These emphatic words came toward the end of a speech that was vintage Paterson as he became the state's 55th governor and its first African-

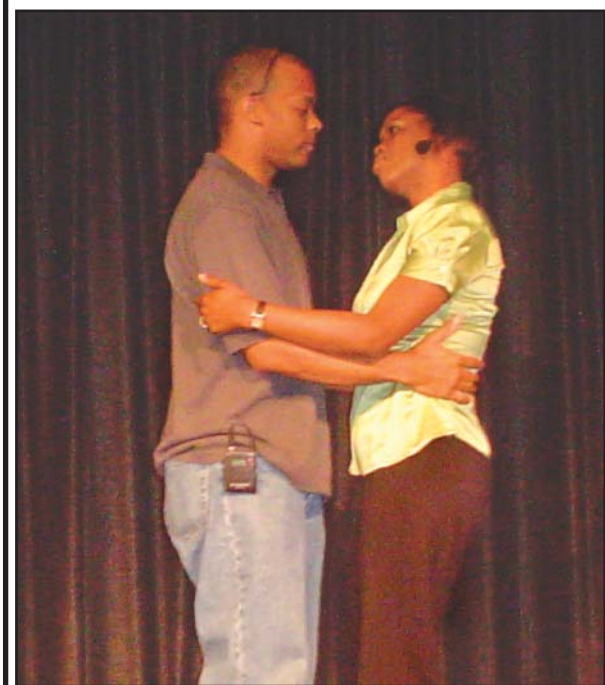
American to serve in the post, the nation's second.

The speech was a mixture of humor, self-deprecation, bonhomie, and policy statements on how he plans to tackle a welter of issues he inherited from Eliot Spitzer whose admin-

See Patterson, Page 12

Silenced No More Productions

Cover Story Page 9



Jessica Williams, Eric Johnson

See Silenced, Page 9

Blackonomics

4,000 Slain; and You Want McCain?

By James Clingman

Now that we have lost more soldiers than the number of persons we lost on September 11, 2001, and now that we are "celebrating" five years of war in Iraq, and now that we have tens of thousands of American wounded and hundreds of thousands Iraqis dead, we have a presidential candidate who wants to continue what the current leader calls a "noble, necessary, and just" war.

Let's see now: we

have \$4.00 gasoline and diesel fuel - and \$5.00 in some places, a recession, whether they want to admit it or not; a housing/mortgage crisis; a healthcare catastrophe; an unfathomable national debt; a huge deficit; a dollar that's worth about a quarter; a rising euro; oil at \$110.00 per barrel; Venezuela now doing what Sadaam Hussein did back in 2000, selling its oil for euros instead of petrodollars; cash payoffs going to our enemies in Iraq to

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People In The News...



Dvorah A. Evans, CMP



Julia Jordan



Dr. Clarence Smith

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Dvorah A. Evans, CMP

Dvorah A. Evans, CMP, Director of Conventions & Tourism with the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce was recently announced as a recipient of the prestigious "2008 APEX Award For Distinguished Service." The APEX Award recognizes business professionals for their outstanding service and contributions in their particular fields of



endeavor that not only enhance the travel and tourism industry overall but promote diversity in all aspects of the industry as well.

The award is presented by Black Meetings and Tourism Magazine, which is the largest and most widely distributed African-American meetings industry publication in the nation. The award ceremony will be held in April at the Travel Professionals of

Color National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Evans is responsible for the marketing and promotion of the City of Dallas as a major meeting and leisure destination for minority conventions and tourists and for increasing the business and economic opportunities created by these meetings for the local business community.

Evans has been active in the meetings industry for over 12 years. In that time,

she has won numerous awards and served on countless boards and committees; including the International board for Meeting Professionals International. She was also named a Diversity Executive Leadership Scholar (first from the State of Texas) for the American Society of Association Executives and was selected as an Association TRENDS Magazine Young &

Aspiring Association Professional, which recognizes outstanding business and industry leaders under 40 in the association community.

In the education field, Evans currently teaches meeting management courses as an Adjunct Professor at Richland College as well as serving on the Richland College Travel, Exposition and Meeting Management (TEMM) Advisory Board.

Julia Jordan

Julia Jordan amassed an amazing 48-year career as an educator with Dallas Independent School District. Twenty-two of those years were as a teacher, before being promoted to the position of counselor and eventually Director of Student Services. It's calculated Jordan personally handled well over 1,500 students throughout her career.

Jordan has been a tireless community worker



for numerous organizations, holding prestigious memberships with: Jack and Jill, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, the Priscilla Arts Club (the oldest women's club in Dallas), the CV Roman Medical Auxiliary and Links, Inc. In 2006, the Links, Inc. national chapter honored Jordan with a "Platinum Membership" and she received the Pearl C. Anderson Award for Community Service. She's also an original board member of the African American Museum and is

still active on the board. She was instrumental in organizing the Maria Morgan Branch YWCA and was a co-founder of Dallas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

Jordan, a Wiley College graduate, has also undertaken the task of helping to preserve some of Dallas' rich Black history. She worked with The African American Museum to bring, 381 Days: The Montgomery Bus Boycott Story to Dallas this year. A 53 year

member of New Hope Baptist Church, Dallas' oldest Black church, she serves as church historian and is currently working to ensure the church's rich

history is preserved. She has also directed her writing skills toward authoring Beauty and the Best, on the life of Fredericka Chase Dodd.

Dr. Clarence Smith



Dr. Clarence Booker Taliaferro Smith, now 92, has been held in deep high esteem among prominent ministers around Dallas and the country. His pastorship of Golden Gate Missionary Baptist Church spanned 45 years - through 10 different U. S. presidents - before retiring in 1997. His ministry began 72 years ago when as a 20-year-old son of a sharecropper he saw a vision he said was so intense, his clothes were soaked in sweat.

Smith gained a stellar reputation as an old-time preacher who was

able to reach out successfully to all people, regardless of their socio-economic background. Smith's powerful preaching and his unique leadership style was instrumental in helping Golden Gate grow to a congregation of over 3,000 parishioners and an average income of \$1 million annually. He's served as a mentor to dozens of other preachers, including Vincent Parker, who ran Golden Gate's drug treatment program for five years before succeeding Smith as the church's senior pastor.

The Adult Rehabilitation Ministry, established by Dr. Smith before retiring, has helped several hundred drug and alcohol addicted men and women get their lives back in order, through a one-year program that addresses all of their spiritual, emotional and financial needs, includ-

ing housing and teaching them critical life skills.

As pastor emeritus, Smith continues to provide strong guidance to current pastor, Vincent T. Parker.

During his pastorship at Golden Gate, several other outreach min-

istries were established to meet the needs of the community, including: a jail ministry, a benevolence program, the Sunday School on Wheels and a senior citizens' ministry.

Smith has been married to his wife Rosie for 65 years.

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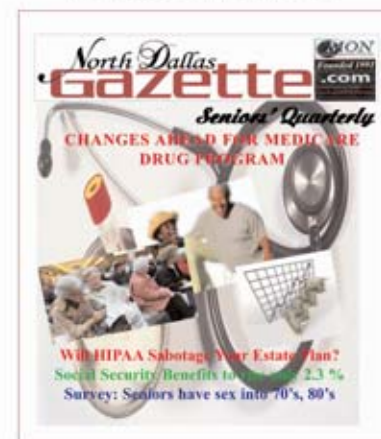
Senior's Quarterly

January-March 2008 Edition

Our first edition for 2008 of the Senior's Quarterly is now available at news outlets across the Metroplex. Senior's Quarterly provides valuable information for the Baby Boomer readers in the area.



Also available is North Dallas Gazette's October-December 2007 Edition.



To advertise in the North Dallas Gazette Senior's Quarterly, contact Ms. Terry at 972-509-9049


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MON-The Gazette assumes no responsibility for unsolicited material and reserves the right to edit and make appropriate revisions.

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 visible of many area opportunities. As always, and true to tradition, MON-The Gazette will be there carving a world of opportunity for those seeking to provide quality services. Should you dare 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!

The North Dallas Gazette formally Minority Opportunity News, was founded July, 1991, by Jim Bochum and Thurman R. Jones

THE TRUTH CLINIC

Hypocrites Casting The First Stone

There has been extreme joy in some business and political circles over the past few weeks as the sexual transgressions of Eliot Spitzer and the political blackmailing of Barack Obama captured the media spotlight.

The Spitzer scandal erupted after federal law enforcement officials disclosed that a wiretap had caught the 48-year-old New York governor spending thousands of dollars on high priced call girls.

The resignation of Spitzer was met with outbursts of glee and celebratory champagne toasts by many Wall Street kingpins, investment bankers, mutual fund managers and insurance executives who hated him for his ferocious attacks on their onerous and abusive business practices. Spitzer became the scourge of the financial industry when his tenacious prosecution forced wrongdoers to pay huge settlements and change the way they conduct business.

Similarly, Obama has incurred the enmity of Republican status quo proponents because his high profile campaign to change the corrupt American political system has attracted huge grassroots support and made him a serious contender for the presidency.

The conservative muckrakers selected segments of fiery sermon's delivered by Obama's ex-pastor nearly seven years ago and released them to the media as evidence designed to undermine Obama's Christian beliefs and patriotism.

In this election cycle, as in each one since Watergate, the

people yearn for a plain-talking figure from outside the system. They want someone free of personal vice, someone who transcends daily politics, someone who personifies the values worthy to teach our children.

That is the partial truth put out for public consumption. In reality the public wishes are subverted by both the mercenary priorities of many of our public servants and also the negative effects of the American people's affliction with an apparent untreatable sadistic gene. For all our generosity and outpouring of compassion, Americans seem to enjoy watching public officials being pilloried and crucified.

Each time a public figure is paraded before the media cameras to become an object of public derision it is in reality a quick peek into America's skeleton closet. We see the part of our national character that takes pleasure in seeing anyone who has climbed the ladder to wealth, education, or success knocked down. There has always been a special niche in politics for punishing a high profile change advocate who can be tainted with a real or contrived flaw. Such is the case with former New York Governor Spitzer and Presidential candidate Barack Obama.

But the real issue should not be about whether Spitzer, Obama or any elected official falls short of some perceived ideal. Everyone does. American's perception about government

should not be disproportionately shaped by some inapplicable disappointment each time a public official is outed.

What is pertinent is does the flaw render a person unfit for public office? This is the national discussion that needs to take place if America is ever to replace the lynch mob action typically orchestrated by the enemies of the accused.

Over the years, whether the punishment of public officials was fueled by religious doctrine or civil law, the question remains concerning how much good have the moral police ever done?

In the case of Spitzer does dallying with a prostitute negate his years of being a hard-nosed politician hell-bent on ferreting out corporate malfeasance and cracking down on corruption?

Is Obama less qualified for the presidency because he listened to the controversial viewpoint of a zealous preacher years ago?

All of us live in some kind of shadow in which we hide all that we are ashamed to reveal in the light of day. And yet repression never heals us of the dark secrets hidden in that shadow.

That which is repressed erupts, either in one man whose sexual appetite drove him with reckless abandon or via a society that invents vengeful campaigns against the innocent. Until we learn how to own up to our own secrets and seek our own redemption the Spitzer's and Obama's will continue to be scourged.

These questionable

actions are not new. Look at the historical precedents that show that moral lapses and human vagaries, some contrived some self imposed, occurred in past cultures just as they do today.

The Christian bible does not hide the flaws of either the powerful or the common person. It provides realistic accounts of their transgressions and their path to repentance, restitution and reconciliation that lead to lives worthy of inspiration and moral example.

Consider that Rahab, the prostitute of Jericho, became a grandmother, several generations removed, in the family tree of Jesus Christ despite her past indiscretions. Or King David, one of the greatest biblical leaders, who before fulfilling his God purpose lusted after Bathsheeba and conspired to make her a widow so that he could marry her.

Perhaps the story of the adulterer brought before Jesus to be condemned best illustrates the point. Instead of condemnation she received forgiveness after her accusers were first asked to cast the first stone if they were without sin.

During this Easter season our hope should be that man will one day understand that it is more Christ like to be joyous when a fallen soul repents and is reconciled rather than reveling in the degradation of the accused.

James W. Breedlove

Comments or opinions may be sent to the writer at: www.truth-clinic.com

Black Infants Are More Likely to Be Born Preterm and to Die at Birth

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y., -- The African-American infant mortality rate is more than twice as high as white Americans and the preterm birth rate for black women averaged 17.6 percent, compared to the national average of 12.3 between 2002 and 2004.

These statistics, and others related to birth outcomes, are discussed in a new PBS documentary "When the Bough Breaks." This episode, scheduled to air Thursday, April 3, at 9:00 PM, is part of the four-hour series entitled "Unnatural Causes -- Is

Inequality Making Us Sick?" that was produced by California Newsreel and presented by the National Minority Consortia of public television. The March of Dimes is an official outreach partner for the series in conjunction with other leading public health, policy and community-based organizations.

"Racial and ethnic disparities in premature birth are troubling and persistent," said Dr. Jennifer L. Howse, president of the March of Dimes. "We face an urgent need for effective prevention pro-

grams and interventions to reverse a serious trend that has lasted too long. That's going to take influencing lawmakers to enact meaningful policy changes that will increase access to affordable health care coverage and committing more public dollars to prevention programs and to research so that we may find answers."

This episode interviews many experts in the field, including a March of Dimes-funded researcher, Dr. James Collins, from Northwestern University. Dr. Collins and Dr. Michael Lu, who also

appears in the program, are members of the March of Dimes Scientific Advisory Committee. Some of those interviewed raise the hypothesis that the chronic stress of racism may have a detrimental impact on the health of African American women and on their children.

Preterm birth has been the leading cause of death for black infants for more than a decade. For those babies that do survive, approximately 25 percent of them live with serious long-term problems, such as learning disabilities, cerebral palsy, blindness,

hearing loss, and other chronic conditions including asthma. Infant mortality rates for blacks averaged 13.5 per 1,000 live births, compared to the national average of 6.9 between 2002 and 2004.

Committed to alleviating the racial and ethnic disparities in birth outcomes, the March of Dimes is involved in many activities to promote health equity including federal and state advocacy activities, funding grants for research, conducting professional education, sponsoring community-based programs, and collaborat-

ing with organizations such as Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and government agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and the Office of Minority Health within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In 2003, the March of Dimes launched a multi-year, multi-million dollar national campaign to reduce the growing rate of preterm birth among all racial groups. For the latest resources and information, visit <http://www.marchofdimes.com/> or <http://www.nacersano.org/>.

Kenya Turning the Corner on Election Violence

(NNPA) - As Kenya's political leaders patch up their disputes that brought the country close to chaos, the international Human Rights Watch has called for prosecution of those who instigated

the worst abuses.

"In many cases the chief architects of post-election violence were prominent and well-known individuals," stated HRW in a report entitled "Ballots to Bullets: Organized

Political Violence and Kenya's Crisis of Governance."

Unrest in January and February left at least 1,500 people dead and 300,000 forced into internally displaced persons' camps.

The report also faulted foreign governments for turning a blind eye to corruption, impunity and mismanagement by Kenya's government that contributed to the recent crisis.

The full report can be found online at: <http://www.hrw.org/reports/2008/kenya0308/>

Meanwhile, Kenya's president Mwai Kibaki this week signed into law two bills passed hours earlier by parlia-

ment, enshrining a power-sharing deal between his party and that of opposition leader Raila Odinga who will assume the newly-created post of prime minister.

Uganda Eliminates a Deadly Disease

(NNPA) - Hib meningitis has been virtually eliminated in young children in Uganda just five years after the country introduced a Hib vaccine nationwide, according to an independent study.

Haemophilus influenzae type b is a leading cause of pneumonia and meningitis, an inflamma-

tion of the lining covering the brain and spinal cord. It kills approximately 400,000 children under five years of age, most of them in the developing world, each year.

The Ugandan vaccination program now prevents almost 30,000 cases of severe Hib disease and 5,000 child deaths (under

five years) annually, equivalent to the successful control of measles in the country.

Said Rana Hajjeh, director of the Hib Initiative: "Uganda has been a frontrunner in the Africa region in adopting this life-saving vaccine... and reducing mortality in children."



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The Urban League of Greater Dallas Passing the Torch

The Urban League has aided African Americans in reaching their potentials for a century, and has helped shape Dallas' history for nearly half of one. On Friday, February 22, the Greater Dallas Chapter of the Urban League convened for its 2008 Annual Meeting and Luncheon. The Annual Meeting and Luncheon serves as a

report of the impact made in every day people's lives, as well as the support provided to the community at large. This year's report proudly displays millions of dollars saved and thousands of lives improved.

Over the years seventeen people have received Legacy Honors at the Annual Meeting and Luncheon, and this

year, we can add three more to the list. Mollie Finch Belt was honored this year for her devotion to building the Dallas Examiner from scratch after her father's (the paper's founder) murder in 1986. Belt has dedicated her life to creating a reliable news source for the black community. Julia Jordan, also a Legacy Honoree,

was recognized for her amazing efforts to preserve her culture, heritage, and in building a strong foundation for the communities future. Jordan spent 48 years educating students for Dallas Independent School District, all the while, serving seven additional organizations, including Jack and Jill, and Links Inc. Also rec-

ognized as a Legacy Honoree was Reverend C.B.T. Smith, pastor of the Golden Gate Missionary Baptist Church for the past 45 years.

As the Annual Meeting came to an end Mr. Marquis Barnes sent the spectators off with his performance of "Wind Beneath My Wings", an appropriate selection as

the Urban League has been the wind beneath Dallas' spread wings for the past forty years! A successful Annual Meeting marks another successful year! The Urban League continues its mission of tackling social obstacles, and securing social and economic self-reliance, and civil rights for African Americans and others.



Dr. Beverly Mitchell Brooks, President & CEO of Urban League presenting to Rev. C.B.T. Smith



Julia K. Jordan, background Skip Murphy of KRNB 105.7 FM Radio, A.K. Mago Chairperson & Dr. Barbara Mitchell-Brooks



The Honorable Senator Royce West, District 23 and Skip Murphy of KRNB 105.7 FM in the background

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Road Scholar Honors Dr. Asa G. Hilliard's Vision with Travel Scholarship for Educators

Road Scholar is pleased to announce the Asa Grant Hilliard III Road Scholar Award for Lifelong Learning — a \$5,000 scholarship named in honor of the late Dr. Asa Grant Hilliard III, world-renowned Pan-Africanist, educator, historian and psychologist, who remains an icon for his advocacy of the importance of African history, culture and influence; for his global contributions to education; and for his special affinity for conducting study tours to Egypt for thousands of travelers.

Launched in 2004, Road Scholar is an initiative of Elderhostel (www.elderhostel.org), the world's largest not-for-profit educational travel organization for adults.

Road Scholar will award the scholarship in 2008 to an African-American educator with at least 10 years of experience in education who is a member of the National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE) — the largest national association of African-American educators, a professor of African-American studies, or on the faculty of a Historically Black College or University (HBCU.) The scholarship will provide the opportunity

to experience a Road Scholar or Elderhostel program anywhere in the

In responding to the scholarship award, the honorable Patsy Jo



Patsy Jo Hilliard, former mayor of East Point, GA and the widow of Dr. Asa G. Hilliard; James Moses, President and CEO of Elderhostel; Kathy Taylor, Associate Vice President of Community Development at Elderhostel; and Dr. Quentin Lawson, executive director of the National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE).

world.

Applicants will be asked to write an essay focused on the importance of lifelong learning to the African-American community and to describe the ways in which they will utilize their learning/travel experience with Road Scholar to positively influence and make a difference in their communities — to truly reflect Dr. Hilliard's philosophy about educational travel.

Hilliard, widow and life partner of Dr. Hilliard, said, "I am pleased that travelers will have the opportunity to explore new sites and return home and make significant contributions to their communities and/or classrooms on new information gained on the program, which can improve the quality of life for all involved. This is what Dr. Hilliard focused on in his travels — study, study,

study."

Applications and nominations will be accepted until August 31, 2008. A winner will be selected by a panel that includes experts and leaders in education and lifelong learning, as well as a member of the Hilliard family. The award will be presented at the November 2008 meeting of NABSE in Atlanta, Ga. Quentin Lawson, executive director of NABSE commented, "Teachers and other educators have long known the value of lifelong learning; we are delighted to work with Elderhostel and Road Scholar to present the opportunity to learn and travel to dedicated educators."

The Asa Grant Hilliard Award III Road Scholar Award for Lifelong Learning is part of a national outreach initiative Elderhostel and Road Scholar recently launched to introduce its educational adventures to the African-American community and promote the benefits of learning through travel. The scholarship award was announced at a reception in Atlanta, Ga., where more than 300 guests including Quentin Lawson, Dr. Willie Foster, president of the NABSE

Atlanta chapter, and the honorable Patsy Jo Hilliard, were on hand to sample a taste of the Road Scholar program. Road Scholar will extend its outreach to other cities across the U.S., including Washington, D.C. Philadelphia and Chicago among others.

"Education has always been at the core of our mission," explained James Moses, president and CEO of Road Scholar and

Elderhostel. "As a lifelong learner and proponent of learning and travel, Dr. Hilliard lived the values we espouse. We are pleased to offer this scholarship in his memory to provide an opportunity for an outstanding educator to experience a learning adventure with Road Scholar or Elderhostel."

For more details on the scholarship and Road Scholar visit www.road-scholar.org/hilliardaward.



N2NE
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The program is held on Tuesday's and Thursday's, from 6:00 – 7:15 pm, in the clubhouse at Indigo On Forest Apartments, 9669 Forest Lane, Dallas TX 75243.

Topics Discussed: Family Values, Juvenile Homes & Prisons, Alcoholism & Drug Addiction, Teenage Pregnancy & Self Preservation, Date Rape, and Missions.



N2NE is expanding to Plano and Allen, TX. If you are interested in volunteering please send your information to: Rich_etta@n2ne-ym.com. We are also partnering with Plano Housing Authority Family Self Sufficiency Program to reach the parents of our future generation. These meetings will be held at Plano Housing Authority, 1740 Avenue G, Plano, TX.

For more information, please contact:
Founder/CEO – Rich Etta Weathersbee (469) 223-5618
or VP – Penny Francis (214) 793-7178.

Winstead Announces Winners of the 2008 Scholarships Targeting Diverse Candidates

Texas law firm Winstead PC selected the three winners of the Winstead Juris Doctor Scholarship program targeting first-year, top minority candidates. They are Aida Wondwessen, a student at Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law; Sameer Saxena, a student from the University of Houston Law Center; and Suparna Salil, a student from the University of Texas School of Law. Each of the Winstead scholarship recipients will receive a one-time grant of up to \$20,000 and a position in the 2009 Winstead Summer Associate Program.

Unique to this scholarship award is that a portion of the grant (\$2,000) will be presented to each scholarship recipient's student interest group of choice. In the case of these three recipients, Winstead will present a portion of the scholarship to the SMU Black Law Students Association on behalf of Wondwessen; the UH Asian

Law Students Association on behalf of Saxena; and the UT South Asian Law Students Association on behalf of Salil.

"We are very pleased with the results of this scholarship program. The candidates were impressive and the interest at the three law schools in learning about the scholarship program was enthusiastic. Winstead is looking forward to working with these three law students and future practicing attorneys as we build a future of growth and success together," said Tom Forestier, chairman of Winstead's Diversity Committee.

The scholarship selection process began with a written application, a 500 word personal statement, a transcript of first-semester grades, and the candidate's resume. Candidates were encouraged to submit a written legal product. Winstead attorneys then conducted follow up interviews with finalists from each school and chose one finalist

from each school earlier this month as the scholarship winner.

Wondwessen is a member of SMU's Black Law Students Association, a Dean's Scholarship recipient, and a mentor for at-risk youth. Saxena graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Houston with a B.S. in Psychology. He is a member of UH's Asian Law Students Association and an avid golfer who plays on championship courses. Salil is the treasurer and a fund-raiser for UT's South Asian Law Students Association, a staff member of the Texas Journal on Civil Liberties & Civil Rights, and an actor and singer in a student musical theater company.

In April, Wondwessen, Saxena and Salil, their families, and their designated student interest groups, will be invited to a reception in each recipient's honor, at the Dallas, Houston and Austin offices respectively.

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Experienced Texas Political Veteran to Lead Noriega General Election Campaign Team

"We earned more votes than John Cornyn once. Now I've got the team for us to do it again," says Noriega

Houston, TX - In the wake of his Senate primary victory Democratic Senate nominee Lt. Col. Rick Noriega today announced his general election team, including a seasoned veteran of Texas politics as his campaign manager.

Mark Bell, longtime campaign manager and special assistant to former Speaker of the Texas House Pete Laney, was named

Campaign Manager.

"Rick Noriega's grassroots campaign for change has shown that it's exciting people across the state, and we've seen a sea change in Democratic enthusiasm and participation. This is the year - and the candidate - we've been waiting for," Bell said on joining the campaign.

Noriega is the first candidate since 1976 to win a multi-candidate

Democratic Primary without a runoff, a victory in which he earned over 110,000 more votes than Cornyn.

Lt. Colonel Noriega welcomed the addition of Bell to a talented campaign team. "We're putting into place the team that will spread the word about John Cornyn's record of absent leadership on the issues facing Texas families: failure to take on the health care, energy,

and college costs that are spiraling out of control; failure to support our troops in the field or our veterans who have come home; and failure to put Texas families ahead of the special interests," Noriega said.

Speaker Laney also praised the selection of Bell. "I'm thrilled that Mark is signing on to run the Noriega for Senate campaign. He is a talented manager and communicator who was

instrumental in my success both legislatively and politically," Laney said.

Working with Bell will be a well-respected team of Senate campaign advisors. Nationally renowned pollster Celinda Lake of Lake Research Partners; Dawn Laguens and Dan Kully of Laguens Kully Klose Partners, who produced the media for the winning campaigns of Senators John Tester,

Debbie Stabenow and Ben Cardin in 2006; and online firm Blackrock Associates, who directed online media for victorious Virginia U.S. Senate candidate and military veteran Jim Webb. Noriega also announced that Jennifer Treat, Finance Director for Governor Ann Richards as well as to numerous other Texas campaigns, has joined the campaign as Senior Advisor for fundraising.

Dallas County Employee Health Center Named to Honor Rep. Jim Jackson & Dr. Eunice Stanfield

Members of the Dallas County Commissioners Court joined Dallas County Health and Human Services in the ceremony to officially rename the Employee Health Center the Jackson-Stanfield Health Center. The naming of the Center honors the work of former Dallas County Commissioner State Representative Jim Jackson and the late Dr. Eunice Stanfield. The Jackson-Stanfield Health Center, which was established on March 5, 1991, provides pre-employment health screenings and quality, easily accessible, and immediate health care for Dallas County employees.

Dr. Eunice Stanfield served as Director of the Employee Health Center from 1996 until her untimely death earlier this month. Dr. Stanfield was a graduate of James Madison High School of Dallas. She received her medical degree from Hahnemann University School of Medicine in Philadelphia. She began her career as a physician as a part of a medical missionary team to Haiti. She later opened a successful private medical and surgical Ophthalmology practice in Dallas. In 2003, Dr. Stanfield initiated and served as project director of the Health Vision 2010 Awards Program subcontract, with Social and

Health Services, Ltd., which collaborated with the Dallas Urban League and African American churches to screen African American adults

State House of Representatives. During his tenure on the Commissioners Court, he and Commissioner John Wiley Price led the

and his family attend the First Baptist Church Carrollton.

"Representative Jackson has always been a champion of public health issues that impact Dallas County," said Commissioner John Wiley Price. "It is only befitting that the Employee Health Center be named in honor of these two people who worked so diligently to ensure that Dallas County employees have access to free, quality, immediate healthcare."



Dedication Ceremony for the Jackson-Stanfield Employee Health Center, shown left to right: Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price, Dallas County Health and Human Services Director Zachary Thompson, Honoree Representative Jim Jackson, County Judge Jim Foster, Dallas County Commissioner Kenneth Mayfield and Dallas County Commissioner Mike Cantrell.

between 20 and 70 years of age, for three major disorders which significantly impair vision. She also served as interim Medical Director/Health Authority for Dallas County.

"Dr. Stanfield was a valuable and dedicated employee and will be greatly missed by the entire Dallas County workforce," said Zachary Thompson, DCHHS Director.

Representative Jim Jackson served as a member of the Dallas County Commissioners Court for 30 years prior to being elected to represent District 115 in the Texas

efforts to make the Employee Health Clinic a reality. He currently chairs the Budget and Oversight subcommittee of the Public Health Committee and sits on the House Appropriations and Redistricting committees. The University of North Texas graduate is married to Sue, a retired elementary school teacher with the Carrollton Farmers Branch I.S.D. They are the proud parents of two children, Brad and LeAnne, both attorneys and twin grandchildren, Pierce and Vivian. Representative Jackson

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Ongoing

African American Republican Club of Collin County meets 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:00pm (Doors will open at 6:30 pm) Collin County Republican Party Headquarters 8416 Stacy Road, McKinney Call Fred Moses at 972 618 7027 or fred@tes.com for more information.

Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce General Meeting is 2nd Thursday monthly, 6:30pm - 7:30pm. McKinney Housing Authority 1200 N Tennessee St McKinney 75069 The general public is welcome. For additional information call 469-424-0120.

Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce Monthly Lunch & Learn every 3rd Thursday \$15 for members; \$20 for non-members, 11:00am-1:00pm, Ralph and Kacoos - 401 S. Central Expwy, Allen. For general information and reservations call 469-424-0120.

DFW Financially Empowered Women meet monthly for lunch or dinner and a fun, informative seminar on various financial topics. For more information call 469-952-0809 or visit www.meetup.com/378.

Marriage Prep Class 1st Saturdays monthly 423 West Wheatland Road Suite 101, Duncanville 75116 \$10 fee for materials. For more info call Karen Duval at 972-709-1180.

No Limit Network Business Networking Lunch 1st and 3rd Thursday 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. every Thursday at Texas Land & Cattle Steak House 3945 N. Central Expressway Plano 75023 Must RSVP at www.TheNoLimitNetwork.com or call Sylvia Williams at 972-898-5882.

SHARE! PISD International Exchange Student Program is in the process of finding new host families to share their hearts and home with an exchange student for the 2008/2009 School Year. For more information on or how to

become a host family, call 1-800-941-3738, or visit www.sharesouthwest.org.

The Glass Menagerie Teatro Delle Muse features all African-American cast runs through Sunday March 30th The ArtCentre Theatre Plano; Fridays and Sundays at 8:00 pm, Saturdays and Sundays at 3:00pm. All tickets \$20, purchase tickets online at GlassMenagerieTickets.com or MuseTheatre.com.

Watermarks Invitational Exhibit runs through April 12th 9:00 am - 8:00 pm Mondays through Thursdays, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Fridays, and 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Saturdays. FREE Collin College 800 E. Spring Creek Parkway. For more info call 972-881-5873, or visit www.ccccd.edu.

The National Business Women Enterprise Network (NBWEN) hosts monthly lunch and learn workshop and networking event giving members and guests the opportunity to network, build relationships, present information on their business and services, and most importantly, learn different ways to improve upon and grow their business. For more information visit www.nbwen.org or email info@nbwen.org.

Wit Women Conference Call join this weekly conference call if you need encouragement, prayer, or inspiration. Dial in Tuesdays 7:00pm - 7:15pm to 218-486-1616, Code 10984 (may change each week).

March 27

Free Estate Planning Seminar For reservations call Karen at 972-497-1010 or email karen@RichardJohnsonLaw.com.

John Witherspoon at Addison Improv March 27th - 30th Buy one ticket Get the Second Ticket Free for Sunday Show ONLY use NTK-S code when you call in! 972) 404-8501 4980 Beltline Road #250, Dallas 75254.

Visiting Nurse Association Bereavement Luncheon "Healing By Remembering" 12noon to 1:00 p.m. Church of the Incarnation 3966 McKinney Avenue Dallas.

FREE, RSVP to 1 214- 689-2633.

Shepton High School presents The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe March 27 and 28 7:30 p.m.; March 29 2:00 p.m. Tickets \$6 students and \$8 adults. For more information email laura.darce@pisd.edu or call 469-752-7754.

March 28

Plano Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Gala Honoree Brian McCall; keynote speaker Scott Sonju, President and General Manager of Frisco Rough Riders Baseball. 6:00 pm, Marriott Legacy Town Center For more information contact Judy Webster at 972-424-7547, ext. 224.

Disney's High School Musical: The Ice Tour American Airlines Center March 28-30 Admission \$65 Rinkside, \$45 VIP, \$30 or \$18. For show times and tickets visit the American Airlines Center Box Office at 2500 Victory Avenue Dallas, 75219 or call box office at 214-665-4797.

The Heart of Texas Arts and Crafts Show Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway, March 28-30 Admission \$4 for adults, free for kids, good for the entire weekend. For more info contact Earline Walters at 903-217-8081 or visit www.heartoftexasshow.com.

Collin College 7th Annual Talent Show features Collin College students performances including vocals, music, dance and more 7:00 p.m. John Anthony Theatre, Spring Creek Campus, 2800 E. Spring Creek Parkway Plano. Tickets will be sold at the door. For more information, contact Kathy Morgan at kmorgan@cccd.edu.

TBAAL Urban Writer's Conference "A Night with Zane" March 28-29 Dallas Convention Center Theatre Complex, March 28 9:00 p.m. admission \$20; March 29 10:00 a.m. admission range \$45 - \$55. For more information call 214-943-2442.

March 29

Denton Black Chamber of Commerce 11th Annual Banquet The Gateway Center (UNT) Campus at 801 North

Texas Boulevard, Denton 76201, 6:30 p.m. -10:30 p.m. Individual tickets \$45.00; \$360.00 table of eight, other sponsorship opportunities available. For more information contact Sharon McClellan 214-783-4401 or info@dentonblackchamber.org.

The Plano West 2008 Percussion Concert: BAT-TUTA! Will include performances by students from Frankford, Renner, and Robinson Middle Schools, Jasper and Shepton High Schools, the West Cluster Middle School Drumline, and guest artist Jamal Mohamed. Tickets \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door if available; for more information contact Matt Weyer at mattweyer@gmail.com or call 469-752-1800

The Black Vegetarian Society of Texas MEATOUT 2008 Festival a free educational and health screening event featuring speakers, food sampling, children's activities, and exhibits related to the vegetarian lifestyle, at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center, Senior Room (Bldg E), 2901 Pennsylvania 10am -2 pm. For more information call (214) 331-2812 or visit www.bvstx.org. The "Top Dogs of Comedy" 7:30 p.m. Naomi Bruton Theatre corner of Canton and Akard Streets, Dallas. Tickets available at www.ticketmaster.com, or by calling Ticketmaster Dallas at 214-373-8000.

Hearts for the Arts presents The National Business Women Enterprise Network (NBWEN) Lunch and Learn-Strategic Planning and Execution 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Bill J. Priest Institute, Room 202 A/B. \$10 members, and \$20 non-members. Registration required online at www.nbwenII0308.eventbrite.com. Register online www.nbwenII0308.eventbrite.com Additional information email info@nbwen.org.

Christ the King Catholic Church presents the Easter Series with Natasha Wells, mezzo-soprano and Sue Mitz, pianist on Sunday at 4:00 pm, in the Sanctuary at Christ the King Catholic Church, 8017 Preston Road, Dallas, Texas 75225. Admission to this event is free. For more info call 972-228-1071 or 972-765-3834.

March 30

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Southwest Dallas County Alumnae Chapter 2008 Annual Jabberwock Scholarship Pageant 3:00 p.m. Hilton Garden Inn Duncanville. For more info call 214-452-7835.

"Peter and the Wolf" 3:00 pm Eisemann Center, 2351 Performance Drive. Richardson, special reception prior to show time. Tickets range \$8.00 - \$18.00.

March 31

Saul Williams performs at The Loft Dallas 1135 South Lamar Street 7:00 -9:00 p.m. Admission \$12 in advance, \$14 at the door.

April 2

Professional and Diversity Career Fair 10:00 am -2:00 pm, Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Admission and parking free! For more information call Bill Mueller at 817-685-9850 or email bill@ineedajob.com, or you can visit www.ineedajob.com.

Addison's North Texas Jazz Festival Crowne Plaza Hotel, 14315 Midway Road Addison April 2 through 4, 6:00 p.m. - Midnight For further details call 800-233-4766 or email webmaster@addisontx.gov.

April 3

Love and Logic presents: Teacher and Parent Strategies Learn simple and practical techniques to raise responsible kids, how to put an end to backtalk, how to end power struggles and much. Admission is \$99.00. 8:30am-2:30pm Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway. For more information call 800-338-4065 or visit www.loveandlogic.com.

April 4

The Dallas Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Assassination of Civil Rights Leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with a citywide moment of silence, followed by Memorial March from the Fair Park entrance to the Martin Luther King Center for a prayer vigil. For more information contact SCLC President, Reverend Derrick Bowman at 972-792-0240.

April 5

African Cultural Festival at UNT Concert Hall Celebrate African Culture at the University of North Texas Denton 8:00 p.m. Admission \$10 For more information email galor@music.unt.edu.

8th Annual Oak Cliff Spring Fest Health Fair free children's immunizations, medical screenings, and other activities, 11:00 am until 3:00 pm All Smiles Dental Center 123 West 10th Street For more info email fmartinez@allsmilesdental-centers.com, or call 214-342-5757.

An Evening with Donnie Ray Albert 3:00 pm -8:00 pm at The Dallas Black Academy of Arts and Letters, Dallas Convention Center Theatre Complex. Admission \$15 For additional information call 214-943-2442.

Rover Dramawerks Gilligan's Island: The Musical Auditions Saturday, April 5 from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m., Monday, April 7 from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m., and Tuesday, April 8 from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Appointments, resume and head shot required, may be made via email to audition@roverdramawerks.com. For more info visit www.roverdramawerks.com or call 972-849-0358.

April 8

UNT International Week Food Fair is a special part of UNT's International Week 2008: Celebration of World Cultures. The fair will feature authentic food and drinks from around the globe at 415 Union Circle in Denton; from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm. Admission is \$0.25 per ticket. For more information please email sheenamaria@unt.edu, or call 940-369-8625.

April 9

Brookhaven College Celebration of Cultures a celebration of different cultures through arts, music, dances, and an international fashion show Brookhaven College, 3939 Valley View Lane Farmers Branch 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. Admission free. For further information email SVancourt@dcccd.edu, or call 972-860-4683.

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Proud To Be An Active Partner In The Community

Silenced No More Productions

Silenced No More Productions, under the direction of Lynda J., is a young group of people that take "heart" to the

say it. We pray that every time we present our messages through the stage plays that people will develop a voice

November of this year. "At the onset, the vision was not clear. This young group had hopes and dreams, but faced many challenges as they continued to climb the ladder of success with their stage ministry. God has kept them through it all, and they are still here. Praise Be To God", Lynda J. further stated.

Lynda J., writes, directs, and produces the plays. Tovah Brown-Roberson is the musical director. Tovah became a blessing to this group in 2004 as a cast member of "The Stripper". The talent she has in music and song writing was hidden until the play, "Passing It On". Tovah's talent goes well beyond her love for music and theatre, as she has become a strong support and spiritual advisor to Lynda. She is also a strong

support to the team of Silenced No More Productions. Tovah and Lynda both share the vision of stepping out on faith and watching God work.

"Passing It On," a Christian "dramedy" exposes the dark side of generational curses. Written and directed by Lynda J., this play focuses on the accountability for designing a Godly spiritual inheritance for our children by examining our own spiritual inventory to see just what we have to pass on. "Passing It On" was performed March 15, 2008 in the Mini Theatre at First Baptist Church (1615 W. Louisiana St) McKinney.

"As Christians, we should be made well aware that some things we experience in life could be tied back to the history of our family ties. And not all is bad, but not all is good. Silenced No More

Productions is a gift from God to me, who have played with this production group



Tovah Brown Roberson, Kiwana Givens, Jessica Williams, Nichole Mays, Carla Carnell

for years, even as a child, I would not speak out on things that were wrong for the fear of back lash or retaliation", said Lynda J.

The cast consists of people Lynda J.

since the first performance in 1997. This young group believes that only what they do for Christ will last. Linda shared, "All we do is for the love of God. If HE is not

***Linda shared,
"All we do is for
the love of God.
If HE is not in it,
neither are we."***



Jessica Williams, Kiwana Givens, Nichole Mays, Carla Carnell

stage. Lynda J. is a native of Dallas, Texas, daughter of Pastor Tommy and Mrs. Gloria Thompson, mother of two teenagers, Daelon, 17 and Jada, 13. She is the fourth of five children. Lynda is now living in McKinney, Texas. Her passion for writing began in 1997. Lynda has written "Just Once", (The Story of A Preachers Kid), "Who's Loving Who", "If I Don't Pray for Them, Lord Who Will", "The Stripper", and the current stage play, "Passing It On".

According to Lynda J., God began to speak to her in the form of writing and thus, Silenced No More Productions was born. The name of this production team was recently changed from My Heart Speaks Productions, to Silenced No More. Lynda J. feels that being silent only kills the inner man. "Not to be heard can be devastating to one who has something to say but is afraid to



Top row: Greg Clark, Jeremy Thompson, Jeremy Hendrix, Elton Dodd, Richard Blue, Diane Ware. Middle row: Jessica Williams, Raymond Mays, Kiwana Givens, Nichole Mays, Eric Johnson. Bottom Row: Daelon Dodd, Erineisha Bowers, Jada Dodd, Lynda J. Dodd, Jarmelle Blunt, Carla Carnell, Tovah Brown-Roberson

met through mutual relationships. Cast members are Nichole Mays, Doug Easley, Erinesha Bowers, Jada Dodd, Jessica Williams, Eric Johnson, Jarmelle Blunt, Kiwana Givens, and Carla Carnell, all living in the Dallas area. The current musicians are Elton Dodd, Greg Clark, Richard Blue and Jeremy Thompson. To be around this particular group, one would think they have been together for years. But most of the cast members joined this team in 2006-2007. Two of the musicians

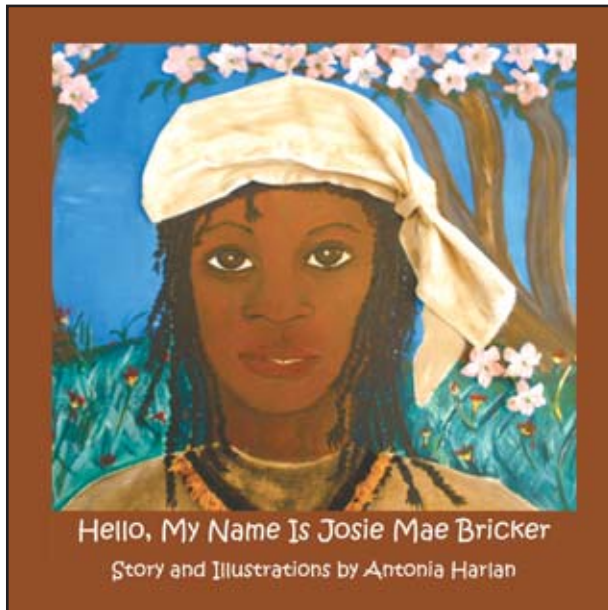
in it, neither are we." The next stage play, "When It Happens", deals with the subject matter of abuse. It will be held November 8 and 15, 2008, at The Plaza Theatre in Garland, Texas. Tickets are \$10.00 pre-sale and \$15.00 at the door. Show times are 3:00 PM and 7:30 PM. Silenced No More Productions is also available to come to your location. Lynda J., can be reached at 469-396-6881 or you can email her at mslyndaj@peoplepc.com for tickets and additional information.

Enchanting New Children's Book Celebrates Cultural Differences

Author Antonia Harlan combats racial and cultural insensitivities with a new series of books, beginning with Hello, My Name is Josie Mae Bricker

NAPERVILLE, Ill. — Hello, My Name is Josie Mae Bricker by Antonia Harlan is the story of a remarkable young girl, who is growing up as a slave on a cotton plantation in Georgia.

In Hello, My Name is Josie Mae Bricker, children will learn about the plight of Africans during the North American slave trade through the eyes and ears of little Josie Mae. In spite of hardship, Josie Mae is taught to be proud of



who she is and where she comes from. Inspired by the words of her father and mother, Josie Mae never gives up hope of knowing freedom.

Offering insights into the culture of slavery, the book emphasizes the importance of honoring cultural diversity as well as recognizing and appreciating cultural similarities. Enlightening and highly engaging, Hello, My Name is Josie Mae Bricker will capture

and hold the attention of many a child.

A human services manager for DuPage County, Ill., Antonia Harlan is a social activist deeply committed to promoting racial, cultural, and religious harmony. Dedicated to emphasizing the value of cultural diversity, Harlan has served on numerous boards, committees, and racial justice forums including the DuPage County Girl Scouts Diversity Task Force, the Naperville

Police Department Citizens Advisory Board, and the YMCA International Committee. Married with three children, Harlan resides in Naperville, where she is working on her next book in the Hello, My Name Is...series.

Hello, My Name is Josie Mae Bricker is available for sale online at Amazon.com, BookSurge.com, and through additional wholesale and retail channels worldwide.

Natalie Cole to Headline YWCA Centennial Gala

International singing star Natalie Cole will be the featured performer at the YWCA Centennial Gala May 3 at the Hilton Anatole Hotel, YWCA of Metropolitan Dallas officials announced.

Cole's singing career spans more than three decades with a broad portfolio of hits ranging from rhythm and blues to classical standards. She emerged on the music scene with a splash in 1975 winning Grammys for "Best New Artist" and "Best Female R&B Vocal Performance." And she continued her success with the Grammy winning Album of the Year, Unforgettable: With Love, which used groundbreaking technology to create a duet with her late father, Nat King Cole.

Cole's singing style took a jazzier turn in the 1990s and she won Grammy Awards for "Best Jazz Vocal" and "Best Pop Collaboration with Vocals." Her memoir, Angel on My Shoulder, was made into a television movie, The Natalie Cole Story.

Her life story as the daughter of one of America's most beloved entertainers who overcame personal struggles

to emerge as a major star worldwide fits closely with the YWCA's goal of empowering women.

"We're thrilled that someone as talented as Natalie Cole will be here to help us celebrate the founding of our organization a century ago," said Ka Cotter, board president of the YWCA of Metropolitan Dallas. "Her songs capture the mood and feel of the many generations the YWCA has served through the years. It's going to be a wonderful night."

Natalie Cole's appearance will be part of a full evening of events planned for the Centennial Gala. To commemorate its century of service, the YWCA is honoring 100 women from the past 100 years who have provided the most positive influence on the community.

The 100 honorees selected to receive the YWCA Centennial Awards have made extraordinary contributions in areas of the arts, business, culture, education, government, law, medicine, philanthropy, social reform and social services. The names of the outstanding women, who were nominated by the public, were

announced during a reception January 24 at the downtown Neiman Marcus.

More than half the women chosen for the honor are still living and will be in attendance at the YWCA Gala. Through their hard work, passion, dedication and generosity, these legendary women have created and supported institutions, reforms and social services that have molded Dallas into the great city it is today.

Prior to the gala, there will be a VIP cocktail reception where a special exhibit featuring the 100 honorees and the history of the YWCA of Metropolitan Dallas will be unveiled. There will be a video tribute to the women and the YWCA during the gala followed by Natalie Cole's performance.

Longtime Dallas civic leader Caren Prothro is serving as honor chair of the YWCA Centennial Gala. Major supporters include Mary Kay, AT&T, Weil Gotshal, Erle Nye, Caren Prothro, Jackson Walker.

Tickets to the gala are \$500 per person. Individual tables are available at various underwriting levels.

Final Smashing Week!



PRESENTS

The GLASS menagerie

Written By Tennessee Williams
Directed by William (Bill) Earl Ray
Starring



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Regina Washington



Alonzo Waller



Naima Imani Lett

The ArtCentre Theatre

March 14th through March 30th
Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 pm
Saturdays and Sundays at 3:00 pm

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GlassMenagerieTickets.com

Or

MuseTheatre.com

4,000, pg 1

keep them from fighting us; plans to invade Iran; Osama sending another message to us from the mountains of Pakistan or Afghanistan or wherever they say he is right now; the bailout of Bear Stearns with tax dollars; and we have the Bushites bragging about how many new schools, hospitals, roads and highways, and all the infrastructure they have rebuilt in Iraq, while New Orleans still languishes in despair and disrepair.

Despite all of this, President-in-waiting, John McCain walks around Israel with Joe Lieberman at his side, coaching him and correcting McCain's errors regarding Iran and other

international issues. I thought his strength was in international issues. He admitted he knows very little about economic issues. What's left? How about healthcare, education, energy, and employment?

The first thing this guy does is traipse off to Israel, instead of New Orleans, to assure folks halfway around the world that we are there for them. Hey, John, what about us? Man, I can't wait for the Presidential debates to start.

Finally a few Black Republicans came out to support McCain. Michael Steele, Larry Elder, and Ken Blackwell have all made positive statements about old John and why we

should elect him as our next President. What is it about political party loyalty that would make intelligent men and women support, at least in rhetoric, some of the characters placed before us today? Is it the prospect of a job in the administration? Is it insider deals?

George Bush says the war is "noble" and they go long with his stupidity. What's noble about lying to get into a war? What's noble about 4,000 lives lost because of the lies? What's noble about commandeering a country's resources? What's noble about spending a trillion dollars on this war for five years, with no end in sight?

Tricky Dick Cheney,

responding to recent polls that show two-thirds of Americans say the Iraq war is not worth it, simply says, "So?" This draft-dodging, deferment grabbing, ego-maniacal, jingoistic, contradiction of the man who gives new meaning to the title of "vice" President, should have been kicked out of office years ago. But, we have folks in "the party" who support him to the end. Dems are obviously afraid to confront his arrogant, flippant, disregard for what 66% of Americans think about his war, as well as what 80% negatively think about him. He thumbs his nose at us, flips us the bird, and takes a cruise in the Gulf of Oman with some Oil

Baron. What a joke all of this is. Yes, folks, and the joke is on us.

The sad part about this entire scenario is, despite the many problems we face, most of which were caused by George Bush's administration and his band of thieves and exploiters, John McCain may be our President in January 2009.

McCain is trying to be elected on the basis of having been a POW. In my estimation, he needs much more than that. Oops! Maybe not. Bush did eight years, didn't he? We are so dumbed-down as an electorate. As we fight over Obama and Clinton and allow so-called conservative talk show hosts to control our agenda, which is reactive at best, old John may just

get in.

So get ready, just in case. Get ready for more war, more needless death, more insulting excuses and rationales, more economic hardships, more corporate welfare, more invasions of sovereign nations, more cuts in services, more high prices for essentials of life, more lies, more arrogance, more being ignored, disrespected, and disregarded, more greed, more thievery, more fear-mongering, more invasion of privacy, more Clarence Thomases and Anton Scalias, more presidential puppet masters, and more of Joe Lieberman.

This is a "common sense check." Want 4,000 more slain? Just elect John McCain.

IRS, pg 1

tax return will need to do so in order to receive a stimulus payment. IRS.gov has all the information people need to help them obtain a stimulus payment."

Stimulus payments will be sent out in the order of the last two digits of the Social Security number used on the tax return.

Because the IRS will use the Social Security number to determine when checks are mailed, taxpayers may receive their checks at different times than their neighbors or other family members. On a jointly filed return, the first Social Security number listed will determine the mail-out time.

Taxpayers who choose direct deposit on their federal income tax returns can expect to receive their economic stimulus payments between May 2 and May 16 provided their returns were received and processed by April 15, 2008. For taxpayers who did not choose direct deposit on their tax return but whose returns were processed by April 15, the paper checks will be in the mail starting

May 16, with the initial mailings completed by around July 11.

The IRS also announced the availability of an on-line calculator on IRS.gov to help taxpayers determine if they are eligible to receive an economic stimulus payment and if they are, how much they can expect. Anyone who has prepared a 2007 income tax return can use the calculator. It will ask taxpayers a series of questions, so they should have their 2007 tax returns handy.

Below are the schedules for economic stimulus payments related to tax returns processed by April 15, 2008.

A small percentage of tax returns will require additional time to process and to compute. For these returns, stimulus payments may not be issued in accordance with the schedule above, even if the tax return was processed by April 15.

All or part of an economic stimulus payment may be applied to back taxes or certain other debts of the taxpayer, such as delinquent child support and student loans. In such cases, the IRS

will send a letter to the taxpayer explaining the offset.

To accommodate people whose tax returns are processed after April 15, the IRS will continue sending weekly payments. People who file tax returns after April 15

and receive a refund can expect to receive their economic stimulus payments in about two weeks after receiving their tax refunds. To ensure taxpayers receive their stimulus payment this year, they must file a tax return by Oct. 15.

Direct Deposit	
If the last two digits of your Social Security number are:	Your economic stimulus payment deposit should be sent to your bank account by:
00 – 20	May 2
21 – 75	May 9
76 – 99	May 16
Paper Check	
If the last two digits of your Social Security number are:	Your check should be in the mail by:
00 – 09	May 16
10 – 18	May 23
19 – 25	May 30
26 – 38	June 6
39 – 51	June 13
52 – 63	June 20
64 – 75	June 27
76 – 87	July 4
88 – 99	July 11

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legacy of Dr. King.

"We must keep his legacy alive, and this will serve as a reminder of the struggle and ultimate sacrifice that Dr. King made, so that his dream of equal treatment for all men can become a reality one day. We are not there yet so we must continue to move in that direction," said Reverend Derrick Bowman, Dallas president of the SCLC.

Dr. Martin Luther King founded the national arm of the SCLC in 1957 following the Montgomery Bus Boycott that virtually begin the Civil Rights movement. Dr. Martin Luther King served as its president from its conception until his untimely death on April 4, 1968. During the early meetings of this group, nonviolent mass action became the adopted cornerstone of the strategy and local

community organizations became affiliates with the SCLC across the South. The founders also determined to make the SCLC a movement open to all, regardless of race, religion, or background.

Today, the SCLC is a nation-wide organization made up of chapters and affiliates with programs that affect the lives of all Americans: north, south, east and west. Its sphere of influence and interests

has become international in scope because the human rights movement transcends national boundaries.

"In keeping with our national theme, 'A New Day And A New Way', our mission is still to preserve the ideals and principles espoused by Dr. King. We are committed to bearing the torch in the civil rights movement by advocating change through direct

action and nonviolent tactics. We must focus and continue to invest in our youth," said Bowman. "The SCLC currently offers youth mentorship programs and provide scholarships to high school and college students. Additionally, we aim to be the one that provoke change in the mindset of our community to end black on black crime and increase economic development."

The Dallas Chapter of the SCLC was reorganized and chartered in December of 2007. It currently has approximately 50 members and meets once a month at the Martin Luther King Center at 7:00pm. For more information or to join the local chapter, please contact Rev. Derrick Bowman at (972) 792-0240 or via email at dbowman4715@hotmail.com.

Patterson, Page 1

istration came to a stunning end a little more than a year after it began.

Before his speech, the spectators at the ceremony were schmoozing and glad-handing each other: There were former Mayors Ed Koch and David Dinkins waving hellos to each other; Rev. Al Sharpton shaking hands with former Governor George Pataki; a rabbi rubbing shoulders with the Rev. Calvin Butts; and Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno weaving gleefully amid a coterie of elected Democrats. The harmony and healing that suffused Paterson's acceptance speech was infectious, and on several occasions his remarks about unity were met with loud applause.

"Let us grab the unusual opportunities that circumstance has handed us today and

put personal politics, party advantage, and power struggles aside, in favor of service, in the interests of the people," Paterson said flawlessly, having memorized his speech as he always does.

This allusion to Spitzer was about as close as it came to mentioning the former governor, though there were hints that he would retain some of the reform measures promised by the previous administration. "I never expected to have the honor of serving of New York State," Paterson said, "but our constitution demands it. This transition today is an historic message to the world that we live among the same values that we profess and that we are government of laws, and not individuals."

Getting to the more substantive issues, Paterson said that if we

are going to build a viable future for New York, "we are going to have to help single mothers who have two jobs." He said, "We are going to have to give children better schools, and families who don't have health care some redress."

Those who may have been expecting a stem winder of an address, covering a litany of critical problems facing the state will have to await another occasion. This was his pleasant preface, a way of easing into a position that is fraught with a multitude of obstacles, including congestion pricing, a budget with a deficit of more than \$5 billion that must be completed by April 1.

Many Harlemites are already pondering what kind of administration Paterson will oversee, and if he'll repair some of the damage left by

his predecessor in which several charitable organizations in the community were victims of his overzealousness. One listener in Albany wanted to know if Paterson the governor will keep the promises made by Paterson the State Senator, a position he held for more than 20 years.

"He promised a moratorium on eminent domain," she said. "I wonder if he'll keep that promise and how that'll impact such projects as Willets Point, Columbia University, and Bruce Ratner's plans for the Atlantic Yards in Brooklyn."

Even more immediate for Paterson is the recent admission that he had more than one extra-marital affair. During a period of time more than seven years ago, when their marriage was in trouble, he told one of the local

dailies that both he and his wife had been involved in affairs. He said they had discussed these affairs and felt it was best to talk about them and then put them aside.

If Paterson can overcome the disability of being a Black man and legally blind to become the chief executive in the state, the old love affairs, the possibility of conflict of interest with his lawyer father who represents several unions, and dealing with the longstanding political gridlock in Albany will be a com-

parative walk in the park.

"I have confronted the prejudice of race, and challenged the issues of my own disability," the governor said during his speech, "I have served in government for over two decades. I stand willing and able to lead this state to a brighter future and a better tomorrow."

It will take all the fortitude and genius Paterson had shown in the past to accomplish just a portion of the enormous tasks that loom ahead.

Rowlett Group to go 'Trash Fishing' at Lake Ray Hubbard

ROWLETT, TX - What's swimming in Lake Ray Hubbard? The answer isn't always good, but with your help, that can change! Keep Rowlett Beautiful (KRB) and City of Rowlett invite all area residents to come together and "fish" litter and debris out of Texas waters, including Lake Ray Hubbard, as part of the Rowlett Citywide Spring Waterways Clean Up on Saturday, April 19 from

9 a.m. to noon.



KRB is looking for volunteers to work to improve water quality, restore natural beauty, and reduce potential threats to human health and wildlife. Participants will meet at Herfurth Park, 4601 Centennial Drive, east of City Hall.

Each year, tons of litter blocks storm drains, reduces aesthetic appeal and property values and kills thousands of ani-

mals through ingestion or entanglement.

"This is a great way to help your community and improve the appearance and cleanliness of this great City of Rowlett in which we live," said Marsha Chapman, KRB Coordinator. "We not only clean up the environment and the waterways, but this is a wonderful way to 'give back' to your community and meet your neighbors."

The cleanup is supported by the Waterways Cleanup Program, a partnership between Keep Texas Beautiful and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The program helps community organizations, scout and youth groups, schools, local governments, businesses, and concerned citizens across the state host waterway cleanups and environmental education activities.

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Let Project Management Boost the Bottom-Line

By Michelle LaBrosse, PMP, Founder, Cheetah Learning

The next time you hear the words "bottom-line" when you're sitting in the audience at a company meeting, don't roll your eyes. Instead, think about all the ways that you can help to boost that bottom-line.

Top Five Project Management Bottom-Line Boosters

1. Develop clear and quantifiable goals. If a goal is murky and indistinguishable, how does anyone know when and if it's done? Don't hide behind a curtain of vagueness. Be clear and make it measurable because a wise woman once said, "What gets measured, gets done!"

2. Track time and dollars spent. When you can show your boss and your team exactly where you are both in terms of time allocated and actual dollars spent, you're speaking their language. Nothing makes upper management quiver more than not knowing where they are on a mission-critical project.

3. Meet deadlines and milestones. If your team is missing every single deadline and project milestone, there's generally a reason why. Don't

accept this as normal. Do you have too many false deadlines in your company culture, so people no longer accept them as real? When you understand what impedes meeting deadlines, you can get answers that not only get your project back on track, but save your organization time and money.

4. Unearth the hidden gems in your project agreement and documentation. Too many people mistake documentation as busy work instead of using it to get at its real value. When you close out a project, don't literally put it to bed. Instead, wake up and unearth all the gems inside it. Did you have enough resources allocated to this project? At what points did this project falter and why? What was behind the cost variance between our original budget and actual budget? If you don't capture the intelligence in your documentation, understand it and share it, you've missed a huge opportunity to make you and your team more productive, effective and efficient.

5. Create a consistent and standardized approach to Project Management. This seems like a no-brainer, but I see companies every day that expect their people to learn

Project Management by osmosis. I know you've seen this too: "Let the new people shadow Gloria for a few days because she's a great project manager." This is a good start, but you can't have enterprise-wide impact from Project Management unless you have a consistent way of approaching Project Management.

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Minister of Music

Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church is looking for an experienced musician with Christian leadership skills. This person must be able to lead the entire music ministry. Should be well versed in hymns, anthems, gospel and contemporary gospel. Must have at least 5-7 years of music leadership experience. References are required. Please submit salary requirements with your resume. Send resumes to Hopewell@hmbconline.org or fax to 214-824-3813.



The City of Plano invites you to apply as a Plano police officer.

The Plano Police Department is a nationally accredited law enforcement agency with strong community relationship values. Historically, Plano achieves one of the lowest crime rates for Texas cities with population over 100,000. In 2006, Money Magazine ranked Plano number eleven in the nation of the top 100 best places to live. Policepay.net ranks Plano as the ninth highest police pay in the nation when adjusting for the cost of living. After 36 months of service, a Plano officer earns an annual salary of more than \$68,000.

You will find this is a tremendous career opportunity. Plano police officers are hired from an eligibility roster consisting of individuals who have successfully passed a police recruit civil service entrance examination. The next exam will occur on Saturday, April 26, 2008 at 8:00 AM at Plano West Senior High School (5601 West Parker Road in Plano).

You must pre-register to take the exam. A registration form and instructions are available at www.plano-police.org. To be eligible to take the exam, a properly completed registration form must be received by the Civil Service Test Administrator before 5:00 PM on Wednesday, April 9, 2008. Follow the instructions. An admission slip will be mailed to you. The admission slip allows you entrance to the exam site.

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Church Happenings

DFW INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

April 13, 4 pm

Unit Church of Dallas, 6525 Forest Lane (between Preston Road and Hillcrest), in Dallas will present "Global Sacred Music Celebration" and you are invited.

April 19, 2008

Join us at "Fiesta Latinoamericana!" @ The Amphitheatre @ Oak Point, 2800 E. Spring Creek Parkway in Plano (across from Spring Creek College Campus). At 5 pm there's a FREE Family Fiesta with Latin American storytelling and folkloric dance workshops. At 8 pm it's the 2nd Annual Fiesta Latinoamericana! With dance, live music, theater, and Im by 14 local arts groups.

Call 972-661-2764 for more information, ticket fees, and directions for the above events.

DFW International Community Alliance
Anne Marie Weiss, President
12800 Hillcrest Road
Suite A211
Dallas, TX 75230
972-661-2764

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAMILTON PARK (FIRST CHURCH)

April 13, 6 pm

Join us for our Annual Fine Arts Recital in the sanctuary.

April 19, 9 am

It's time for our 9th Annual Health, Wellness, & Fitness Clinic. There will be health screening, wellness presentations, fitness classes and more. Contact Lucinda Butler for details.

April 26, 2008

Registration for our 2008 Women's Conference has begun. It will be at the Marriott Dallas/Plano @ the Legacy Town Center this year.

First Baptist Church of Hamilton Park (First Church)
Dr. Gregory Foster
Senior Pastor and
Rev. Anthony Foster, Pastor
300 Phillips Street
Richardson, TX 75081
972-235-4235

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF THE COLONY

March 29, 10 am – 12 Noon

We will host a workshop: "Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness," it's FREE to all, if you know someone who needs help, tell them about the workshop or bring them. For information, call the church.

March 30, 2008

You are invited to fellowship with us at our Annual

C.O.O.K.S. Day.

April 11 & 12, 2008

You are invited to our Annual Fellowship and Campout at Hidden Cove Park. Sign up in the foyer or contact Bro. Marlon Dawson, Bro. Ray Williams, Bro. Tim Williams, or Bro. Truman Green.

Friendship Baptist Church, The Colony
Dr. C. Paul McBride,
Senior Pastor
4396 Main Street
The Colony, TX 75056
972-625-8186

MUNGER PLACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 4, 7 – 9 pm

In the spirit of peace and in memory of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. we proudly present our first Peace Concert, "I've Been to the Mountain Top" at the church. FREE to all, but a suggested donation of \$10 will be appreciated. Willis Johnson, KKDA Radio 730AM radio personality will be the Master of Ceremonies. Featured performances by St. Luke "Community" UMC choir and the Sacred Dancers; the Minnesingers and the Treble Varsity Choir from Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. A video montage featuring Dr. King during the 1960's movement to end segregation and racial injustices and a tribute by 10-year-old Dalton

Sherman will be presented. The program will conclude with a candlelight ceremony to reflect on the sacrifices by Dr. King and countless other heroes within the non-violent movement, and the importance of peace in our lives today.

Munger Place UMC
Rev. Charles Stovall,
Senior Pastor
5200 Bryan Street
Dallas, TX 75206
214-823-9929

PILGRIM REST BAPTIST CHURCH

March 28 & 29, 2008

The Tribe of Judah Dance Ministry presents their 2008 "Back to Basics Dance Ministry Workshop from 5:30 pm – 10 pm on March 28th and from 8 am – 6 pm on March 29th.

March 30, 4 pm

The culmination of the 2-day workshop will be a Worship Celebration, "Before His Throne." Special guest artists: The Wandering Mimes. Praise dancers, mimes, & Christian hip hop dancers and ministries throughout the D-FW Metroplex are invited to participate. For information call 214-381-9554.

Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church
Dr. Curtis W. Wallace,
Senior Pastor

1819 N. Washington Avenue
Dallas, TX 75204
214-823-7308

SAINT MARK BAPTIST CHURCH (THE MARK)

April 26, 8 am – 2 pm

You are invited to our Women's Prayer Seminar at the church.

Saint Mark MBC
Rev. Charles S. Wattley,
Senior Pastor
1308 Wilcox Street
McKinney, TX
972-542-6178

THE NORTH DALLAS COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH, CARROLLTON

March 30, 11 am

Please join us in our joyous 8th Church Anniversary Celebration. Minister Kwasi Torvike will be our guest speaker. Theme: Prayer, Preparation, Productivity. (John 15:7-8)

The North Dallas Community Baptist Church, Carrollton
Rev. Billy R. Robinson,
Pastor
1718 Trinity Valley Drive
Carrollton, TX 75006
972-484-1185

WOMAN OF STRENGTH MINISTRY

April 12, 11 am – 2 pm

Please join us for a Benefit Luncheon @ the Desoto Civic Center, 211 E. Pleasant Run Road in DeSoto, TX. This luncheon will be hosted by Donna A. Gantt and will benefit the Deborah Proctor Educational Scholarship Fund. Keynote speaker is Cheryl Wesley and musical guest is Carolyn Traylor.

For ticket prices, information or directions call 972-296-4590.

Woman of Strength Ministry, Inc.
Ms. Donna A. Gantt
P. O. Box 382003
Duncanville, TX 75138
972-296-4590

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Shaun Rabb, Senior Pastor

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Rev. Clarence J. Ford, Jr., Pastor

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Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 A.M.
Wednesday Night-Community Bible Class: 7:30 P.M.





Sister Tarpley

Last week our story stopped with people from around the world ready to bid on rare and priceless art pieces that once belonged to a father and son. The son died first in a war saving a fellow soldier, and then the father died. The rare and priceless art was up for sale. The auctioneer started with a painting of the son that was given to the father by the soldier that the son was carrying to safety when he was killed. The soldier presented the picture to the father as a gift. The father was very proud of the picture and counted it as his most valued art piece.

On the platform set the painting of the son. The auctioneer pounded his gavel. "We will start the bidding with this picture of the son. Who will bid for this picture?" There was dead silence; you could hear a pin drop on cotton.

A voice in the back of the room shouted, "We want to see the priceless paintings. Skip this one." But the auctioneer persisted. "Will someone bid for this painting? Who will start the bidding? A \$200 bid? Perhaps \$100 as a starting bid for the son? Another voice shouted angrily. "We didn't come to see this painting. We came to see the Van Gogh's, the Rembrandts. Get on with the real bids!"

But the auctioneer continued. "The son! The son! Who'll take the son?"

Finally, a quiet voice came

TAKE MY SON! (Part 2-The Conclusion)

from the very back of the room. It was the long time gardener of the man and his son.

famous paintings, the rare works of art?"

"I am sorry said the auctioneer. When I was called to



Mr. Fred Marshall and Sister Tarpley working at a Health & Wellness Seminar

"I'll give \$10 for the painting." You see, being a very poor man, \$10 was all that he could afford, especially now that his employer was dead, he didn't even know if he would still have a job.

"We have a \$10 bid on the floor, who will bid \$20?" announced the auctioneer. "Give it to him for \$10. Let's see the masters!" \$10 is the bid, won't someone, anyone bid \$20? The crowd was becoming very angry. They didn't want the picture of the son. They wanted the more worthy investments for their collection.

The auctioneer pounded the gavel. The bid is \$10, going once, going twice, sold to the gentleman for \$10.

A man sitting up front shouted, "Thank God that's over with, now let's get on with the real collection! The real bids—The rare paintings!"

The auctioneer laid down his gravel. "I'm sorry, the auction is over." What! It can't be! What about the

conduct this auction, I was told of a secret stipulation in the will. I was not allowed to reveal that stipulation until this time. Only the painting of the son would be auctioned. Whoever bought that painting would inherit the entire estate, the houses, the land, the cattle, and yachts, everything that you don't see here, and what you see here, including the rare paintings. The man who took the son gets everything!"

—Author Unknown

Remember, the value of anything is what an individual is willing to give up for it. Jesus willingly gave His life for us. Much like the auctioneer's message, God's message today is: "The Son! The Son! Who'll take the Son?" Easter 2008 is over but it's not too late to, "Take The Son!" Mark 8:36 says, "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

Dallas Prepares For 102nd Annual Session Of National Baptist Congress

As Dallas moves forward in preparation for the 102nd Annual Session of the National Baptist Congress, Dr. T.B. Boyd III, Publisher and Chief Executive Officer of R.H. Boyd Publishing and the National Baptist Congress, will visit Dallas to meet with local pastors, city leaders and business owners at a Community Breakfast. The breakfast will serve as an opportunity for Dr. Boyd to heighten the awareness of the National Baptist Congress, provide information and encourage involvement in this year's Congress through attendance, programming and business opportunities.

The National Baptist Congress set for June 8-13, 2008 will bring approximately 15,000-20,000 African American attendees to the City of Dallas. It is expected that the Congress will boost the city economy with potential revenues of over \$15 million dollars in spending by Congress attendees.

The 102nd Session will mark the first time the Congress has been held in Dallas since 1987 when it was hosted by the late Dr. S.M. Wright Sr.

The host hotel for the six-day Congress will be the Adam's Mark Dallas, soon to be Sheraton Dallas, located at 400 North Olive Street downtown Dallas.

The community breakfast is scheduled for Monday, March 31, 2008 at 8:00 am at the South Dallas Café located at Redbird Square, 7035 Marvin D. Love at Camp Wisdom Road,

Dallas TX 75237, 214-337-9200.

The attendees include: Dr. T.B. Boyd III, President and Chief Executive Officer, R.H. Boyd Publishing, Nashville, TN; Dr. C.C. Robertson, President, National Missionary Baptist Convention of America and Pastor of Bexar Street Baptist Church, Dallas and Dr. R.E. Price, Congress Host Pastor and Pastor of New Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Dallas.

Local officials attending include: The Honorable Dwaine Caraway, Dallas Deputy Mayor Pro Tem, The Honorable John Wiley Price, Dallas County Commissioner, District 3 and The Honorable Royce West, Texas State Senator, 23rd District.

For more information on the 102nd Session of the National Baptist Congress, please log on to www.rhboydpublishing.com or call 1-800-382-6772.



Elder Gregory & Sis. Targelyn Voss will conduct a one-night Revival and two Weddings tomorrow, 03-28-08 @ 8 pm, Love Chapel C.O.G.I.C., 2003 Morris Street, Dallas, TX 75212 (in West Dallas); Elder Phillip White is the pastor. The happy couples are: Mr. Kerry Brown, Jr. & Jamila Minkah and Mr. Bobbie Hamilton & Ms. Tameka Allen.

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Sunday School Classes-9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship-11:00 a.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.

"The Church with a Vision"

Census: Texas Is the Hot Place to Live

By PAUL J. WEBER
DALLAS (AP) — Four Texas metropolitan areas were among the biggest population gainers as Americans continued their trend of moving to the Sun Belt in 2006 and 2007, according to Census Bureau estimates to be released Thursday.

Dallas-Fort Worth added more than 162,000 residents between July 2006 and July 2007, more than any other metro area. Three other

Texas areas — Houston, Austin and San Antonio — also cracked the top 10.

Atlanta saw the second-largest population jump with just over 151,000 new residents. Phoenix was third with more than 132,000, and was followed by Houston, Riverside, Calif., Charlotte, N.C., Chicago, Austin, Las Vegas and San Antonio.

Of the 50 fastest-growing metro areas, 27 were in the South and 20 were in the

West. Two were in the Midwest, one — Fayetteville, Ark. — straddles the South and Midwest and none was in the Northeast.

Detroit lost more than three times as many people as any other metro area — its population declined more than 27,300. Other areas losing more than 5,000 people were Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Columbus, Ga., Youngstown, Ohio, and

Buffalo, N.Y.

Experts credit much of the growth in the South to relatively strong local economies and housing prices that are among the most affordable in the U.S.

"People are running away from unaffordable housing, from the economic slowdown," said Karl Eschbach, a state demographer in Texas. "I would expect Texas to stay at the top of a slowing game."

According to figures compiled by Eschbach, 16 percent of Americans who moved to other states between July 2006 and July 2007 came to Texas, which led the nation for the second straight year in that category.

Home prices continue to be a big factor. A report earlier this month by Global Insight found that housing prices in the Dallas area were undervalued by as much as 30 percent.

Ann Sekesan, a pharmacy technician, moved her family from Pennsylvania to suburban Fort Worth last June after seeing spacious homes in Texas for under \$200,000 on a television show.

"After we saw that on TV, my husband and I looked at each other and said, 'Have you ever been to Texas?'" Sekesan said. "It's amazing the size of a home you can get down here. It's just incredible."

Ben Washington Baptist Church, Inc.
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Web: bwbcirving.org
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