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Banking While Black? NAACP Says Lending Institutions Discriminated, Forced Blacks Into Subprime Mortgages

(NNPA) - The NAACP is accusing Wells Fargo and HSBC of forcing Blacks into subprime mortgages while Whites with identical qualifications got lower rates.

Class-action lawsuits were filed against the

banks on Friday Mar. 13 in federal court in Los Angeles, said Austin Tighe, co-lead counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

A statement released by the civil rights organi-

zation says, "These lawsuits allege systematic, institutionalized racism in sub-prime home mortgage lending." says Tighe, "Black homebuyers have been 3 1/2 times more likely to receive a subprime loan than white bor-

rowers, and six times more likely to get a subprime rate when refinancing...Blacks still were disproportionately steered into subprime loans when

See **BANKING**, Page 12

Eastfield College Hosts Garland Mayoral Candidate Forum

Eastfield College is hosting a forum for candidates running for Garland Mayor, Garland's only contested race in the May 9 municipal election. Don Baynham, Associate Vice President for Outreach and Advancement at Eastfield College, will moderate the forum.

The forum is sched-

uled for Thursday, April 16 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chamber of Garland City Hall, 200 N Fifth Street. The forum will also be broadcast live on CGTV, the City's government access cable channel. CGTV is available on Time Warner Cable channel 16, on Verizon FIOS TV channel 44 and is

streamed live on the City's website.

Garland citizens are invited to submit questions to be used during the forum. Questions may be submitted by April 10th on the internet (www.ci.garland.tx.us), email scook@dccd.edu, fax to 972-860-8324 or mail to:

Sharon Cook
Director of Marketing & Communications
Eastfield College
3737 Motley
Mesquite, TX 75150
Attn: Garland City Council Forum

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Trinity Chapter Links, Inc. Presents: "Diamonds and Sneakers Gala"

The Trinity Chapter of the Links, Incorporated presents the "Diamonds and Sneakers Gala" benefiting the Trinity Chapter youth program SoSMAART. On Saturday, March 21, 2009 at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel located 400 North Olive

Street, Dallas, Texas. This formal, black-tie event will be a fun-filling evening of entertainment, dinner, dancing and a silent auction. The event culminates with the selection of the most stunning and creative sneakers in the "Sneakers Contest."

A variety of entertainment will be featured for the evening. Solo violinist, Richmond Punch, a Dallas native and graduate of Juilliard and Yale, who has performed throughout the country for artists such as Marvin Hamlisch and Donnie McClurkin, will

greet our guests with his unique style. Liz Mikel, known to the Dallas Metroplex audiences, having performed at The Dallas Theater Center, Theatre Three, Jubilee Theatre and many other venues will perform during dinner. Ms.

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COVER STORY

Modern Day Slavery



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Raisin In the Sun Opens This Week

For more information see pg. 10
www.northdallasgazette.com

BLACKONOMICS

Buying Black – The Ebony Experiment

BY JAMES
CLINGMAN
NNPA Columnist

You have probably heard or read about John and Maggie Anderson, who live in Oak Park, Illinois, just west of Chicago, and their year-long initiative to make all of their purchases from Black owned businesses.

This couple should be commended for such an effort and the sacrifices they are making to con-

duct their "Ebony Experiment." They are exemplary of what Black people must do to achieve true economic empowerment.

The Andersons, their tremendous sacrifices notwithstanding, are doing what Marcus Garvey and others espoused; they are showing what can - and should - be done by conscious committed Black people

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People In The News...



Jane Medley



Judge Peggy Brown Reynolds



Julie Cunningham

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Jane Medley

Everyone has a story however, not every story is bold, brazen, beautiful, and, inspiring. A woman determined to make each day count upon losing her parents a mere two weeks a part to cancer.

Meet Janie Medley, she is strong, resilient, passionate, and living a bliss dual life. She is a small town gal from Kenbridge, VA, now residing in Richmond, VA, building a floral design empire. The owner and creative director of the highly requested Janie

Medley Flora Design, jmflora.com, with customers from New York to Florida; and the founder and editor of the widely popular--The Bride's Café wedding Blog, www.thebridescafe.com, captivating 5500 readers each day and selected by Instyle Weddings magazine as one of their favorite blogs. "I am living my best life, my parents would want me to be strong, positive and happy," says, Ms. Medley.

In 2002, Ms. Medley

decided to start her business and trained with elite floral and event designer Matthew Robbins of Artfool in New York City. Her unique selection of colors and floral arrangements has been featured in several national and prestigious publications such as: The Knot, Brides Noir, Brides Washington, Weddings Unveiled, Bride & Bloom and Ines Del Mar.

As soon as folks heard she was open for business, the clientele began to blossom. It was probably her southern hospitality and easy breezy style of allow-

ing clients to meet at her home for consultations, sip tea and experience her world. Each room has a personality, with accents of flowers, including her fave--tulips and peonies. Janie's clients usually reserve her expertise a year in advance simply to ensure she will be on hand to create their memorable moment. It was during her childhood, playing in her mother's flower garden that she discovered her

passion for flowers, colors and how the right combination could transform a



room, mood, and event. It is from those moments that Janie draws upon the inspiration of her mother to create a unique work of art for

her clients.

So, what's next for the Janie Medley? "I want to create floral arrangements for the White House and partner with Oprah Winfrey on a bridal magazine; and continue to build readership for thebridescafe.com; incorporate a "How To Video," on the blog so visitors can learn how to create magic with flowers; travel to California to meet the many vendors featured on the site; own a building to house www.jmflora.com and thebridescafe.com, that's all for now," says a modest Janie.

Judge Penny Brown Reynolds

Bringing an authentic new voice to daytime television, and an inspiring new perspective to the court show genre, the honorable Penny Brown Reynolds presides over Family Court with Judge Penny, drawing on her legal and personal background to address fighting couples, reckless parents and child custody issues in the freshman court series from Program Partners and 44 Blue Productions.

As one of four daughters raised by a single mother, Judge Penny's personal struggles of growing up poor in the South might make her more understanding of situations and circumstances, but it also makes it harder for people to make excuses for their actions. The fact that she recently became an ordained minister, graduating from the Interdenominational Theological Center in

Atlanta, and is married to the Reverend Edward Reynolds of Midway Missionary Baptist, also influences the legal advice and judicial decisions she renders.

Colleagues in the State Court say Judge Penny is concerned about the plight of others -- how a particular legal charge affects them as well as their family. She is known to counsel people to do better in life, for them-



selves and their families, and in addition to fines and judgments, has also sentenced people to counseling, put troubled teens into a boot camp program, and

required others to get their GED.

"What it says to the person is that somebody believes in you," explains Judge Penny. "Sometimes, punishment can involve doing something that helps you, so that you can be a vital and contributing member of society. You need somebody to be straight, but not humiliate or degrade. There's a back story to every situation. I'm the person who wants to hear that story." Appointed to the bench by Georgia Governor

Roy Barnes, Judge Penny served as a trial court judge in Georgia's Fulton County State Court and ran unopposed in a re-election campaign for a second four-year term. During her time on the bench, Judge Penny consecutively directed the proceedings in a variety of cases, including domestic violence, medical malpractice, wrongful death, product liability, contract disputes, personal injury, driving under the influence and other misdemeanor criminal violations.

Julie Cunningham

Julie Cunningham is the President/Chief Executive Officer of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials. Since her August 2001 appointment to this position, she has succeeded in working with COMTO members nationally to develop 14 new chapters in 12 states. She has facilitated strategic partnerships with several national organizations including National Forum of Black Public Administrators, Women's Transportation Seminar, Airport Minority Advisory Council, Amalgamated Transit Union and the National Transit Institute.

In her first days as President/CEO, she rallied COMTO members to develop a legislative agenda to address the Disadvantaged Business

Enterprises, Environmental Justice and Workforce Development relative to the Reauthorization of the Transportation Equity Act



for the 21st Century. She has also facilitated a partnership with the George Washington University to

provide a professional development programs for COMTO members. Under her direction COMTO was awarded the 2005 Disadvantaged Business Advocate of the Year by the U.S. States Department of Transportation.

Her professional career has also included positions in the energy and construction industries. She was employed as a senior consultant in the nuclear power industry with a national information management company and was responsible for developing both strategic and communication plans, implementing grass roots programs and facilitating work process improvements for nuclear power plants.

Ms. Cunningham served on the Board of Directors for Laketrans, a county wide public transportation system based in Painesville,

Ohio. Laketrans won the 2000 Outstanding Public Transportation System Award 2000 from the American Public Transportation Association (APTA). She is former Chair of the Lake County, Ohio Branch NAACP Scholarship Committee, United Way Account Executive of the Year, and YMCA Nominee for Career Women of Achievement. She is also a veteran of the United States Army.

Ms. Cunningham stated, "Our tag line is . . . building the people who build America, and we are frequently asked why we don't say 'building the people who move America?' But we are involved in much more than moving people. Our members are engaged in establishing legislation, setting policy, and building, maintaining and

repairing our nation's infrastructure - all within the transportation industry.

That's more than moving America, that's building America."

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THE TRUTH CLINIC

Putting the Madoff Ponzi Scheme in Perspective

The Benjamin Franklin quote, "In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes", needs to be expanded to include "greed and fraud".

Last week we were entertained with the umpteenth rerun of what may be the most enticing heart wrenching drama ever created for prime time TV: an iconic legend making a pathetic public pleading before the bar of justice surrounded by a horde of enraged victims hungry for retribution.

The marquee does not have to be redesigned. Just paste over the recent star names of ENRON or WORLD COM with big bold letters identifying the new superstar BERNARD MADOFF.

The lights dim as Judge Denny Chin enters the courtroom and all spectators shift to the edge of their seats eager to find out how a well-respected investment professional, a former Nasdaq chairman, chairman of the board of his upscale co-op. chairman of the board of Yeshiva University's Business School, a member of exclusive country clubs in the Hamptons and Palm Beach was transformed into the poster child of Wall Street greed.

There is no question a huge fraud has been perpetrated against nearly 5,000 investors who have been bilked out of an estimated \$50 billion dollars. The public outrage toward Madoff was so great that he sometimes wore a bulletproof vest to his court hearings. Of course the prosecuting attorney, out of defer-

ence for the public relations value of the Madoff circus death threat subplot, let Madoff enter court through public portals instead of the private entrances.

However, in the interest of fairness why not compare the Madoff \$50 billion dollar scam that ensnared thousands of victims to the trillion dollar scams the government is working to the detriment of millions of citizens?

In mid December 2008 the General Accountability Office (GAO) reported that the federal government failed for the 12th year in a row its financial audit.

The report indicated that the three major impediments that continue to keep the GAO from doing a successful audit of the governments books are: Serious financial management problems at the Dept. of Defense, the government's inability to adequately account for and reconcile intra-governmental activity and balances between federal agencies, and the government's ineffective process for preparing its consolidated financial statements. The GAO also identified the three worst federal agencies for accounting for funds as: the Dept. of Defense, the Dept. of Homeland Security, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

It seems that neither the auditors nor anybody else knows precisely where taxpayer money is going.

One of the reasons for this is the cozy relationship between federal regulators and the well connected.

Remember the Keating five, Halliburton, KBR or Blackwater?

When skeptical investors tipped off the Securities and Exchange Commission in 1999 that Madoff was running his private investment firm as a Ponzi scheme they were repeatedly brushed off. The SEC sent examiners to the firm twice, including an enforcement team last year, but came up with nothing. So much for the investigative skills of SEC regulators even when alerted to a problem.

But it is understandable that the government has difficulty outing Ponzi schemes when they are such an integral part of its own operations.

The Social Security Administration runs its 'trust funds' using the same methods used by Madoff. As money is collected from current workers, the funds are then dispersed to those already receiving benefits. None of the funds collected are actually invested, so no investment returns are ever generated. Those currently paying into the system are expected to receive their pay-out based on the social security contributions made by future workers.

Additionally, the government runs its financial balance sheet based on Ponzi principals. The national debt always grows and never shrinks. As existing debt matures, proceeds are repaid by issuing new debt. Interest payments on existing debt are also made by selling new debt to investors. The whole scheme of financing debt depends on an ever growing

supply of new lenders, or the willingness of the existing lenders, to roll over maturing notes.

The reality for the government is as it was with Madoff; if enough of our creditors want their money back, the house of cards crumbles. China, the U. S. government's largest creditor, recently expressed concern over the safety of its Treasury holdings and the government's economic mismanagement.

Congress, eager to posture and pontificate for their constituents in front of C-Span cameras, focus attention on the systemic problems at the Securities and Exchange Commission to keep the spotlight off their own looting of the American taxpayer.

But the blame finger also begs the question: Where were the congressional oversight committees when the Madoff red flags were being raised? Where was congress as the nation spent itself into a trillion dollar debt over the past eight years and then, as the economy tanked, gave away \$350 billion to bail out financial institutions with absolutely no oversight or accountability over how the taxpayer's money was spent.

If Bernard Madoff has to serve time for his fraudulent activities then he should be joined by at least one government regulator and one congressional oversight member as accomplices in fact.

Real justice demands no less.

James W. Breedlove

Comments or opinions may be sent to the writer at: jay-dubub@swbell.net

Statement by Congresswoman Waters Regarding Her Advocacy On Behalf of Minority and Community Banks

Washington DC— Congresswoman Maxine Waters (CA-35) released the following statement:

"I have been an outspoken advocate for minority communities and businesses in California and nation-

ally for decades. Recent press reports have raised questions about my advocacy on behalf of minority banks. Ultimately, however, these articles only revealed one thing: I am indeed an advocate for

minority banks.

"Despite my public and consistent advocacy, news reports suggest that somehow I have acted improperly.

"Let me set the record straight:

"The National Bankers Association (NBA), the leading trade organization which represents the interests of America's minority-owned banks, requested a meeting with Treasury

See STATEMENT, Page 11

Africa Day at the Dallas Public Library

DFW International Community Alliance is proud to present Africa Day as part of the second annual African Unity Festival. Africa Day is the second event in the five-weekend festival, and will be held on Saturday, May 2, at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young St. between from noon to 5 pm.

This family-friendly event will include participation by 24 local African cultural organizations. Admission is FREE and open to the public.

At the Africa Day educational booths from 13 countries will offer insights into African culture and the 150,000 African-born residents of North Texas. Interactive activities and workshops include

- Interactive drumming and dance work-

shops: from Ethiopia, Nigeria, Egypt, Ghana, Eritrea and Morocco and more;

- Wedding ceremony from Sierra Leone;

- Name writing in Tigrena, Amharic, Arabic, Egyptian Hieroglyphics;

- Traditional games: balaburo (Eritrea), awale (Ivory Coast) lodo (Sierra Leone), capoeira (martial arts / dance by Africans in the Diaspora), and more;

- Name ceremony by African tribal elders from Nigeria;

- Craft workshops: Henna (Sudan, Eritrea, Morocco), jewelry (Egypt, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone), raffia doll making (Sierra Leone), basket making (Ethiopia), weaving (Ghana) and masks (Gambia) and more.

Betru Gebregziabher, Speaker of the Ethiopian Leadership Council and

DFW International's Council of International Leaders' Ethiopian representative says "Africa is the cradle of humanity. As Africans, it is our duty and honor to share and celebrate our rich and diverse cultural heritage to promote greater understanding and harmony among all communities. The African Unity Festival provides a great opportunity to accomplish this noble goal. We thank the Dallas Public Library and DFW International Community Alliance for their support in creating Africa Day."

An event flyer can be downloaded at www.dfwinternational.org/AfricanUnity. North Texan African communities participating in the different events include: Burundi, Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gambia, Eritrea,

Sudan, Kenya, Liberia, Morocco, Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, and Uganda. .

The DFW International Community Alliance is the portal for global North Texas, a network of 1,600 of the regions ethnic and internationally focused civic, community and educational organizations. Its mission is to build mutual understanding and respect by linking diverse international cultural communities. The organization promotes and links North Texas global groups through its website and cultural calendar at www.dfwinternational.org. For more details about DFW International Community Alliance, call 972-661-2764. Photos of this event are available online.

African Americans Disproportionately Affected By Diabetes

Recognizing the urgent need to combat America's fastest growing health concern—high blood sugar and type 2 diabetes, Prevention teamed up with leading diabetes experts to find a solution—one centered around food. The Diabetes DTOUR Diet (Rodale 2009) is the first program to be based on the most-up-to-date scientific research concerning the effect of food on blood sugar. Recent studies have shown that specific nutrients in food—namely calcium, Omega 3, fiber, and vitamin D—are especially powerful when combined at addressing the effects of high blood sugar and also aid in weight loss.

Says Liz Vaccariello, SVP, editor-in-chief of Prevention, "Millions of Americans are walking around feeling tired and hungry, and have trouble losing weight. Most don't realize that high blood sugar, an indicator of pre-diabetes, may be to blame."

African Americans are more likely to be affected by diabetes compared to the general population. According to the American Diabetes Association:

- 3.7 million, or 14.7% of all African

See DIABETES, Page 6

COOKIN' UP GOOD HEALTH

Judy's Slammin' Mac 'n Cheese

2 cups soy macaroni noodles or your favorite whole grain macaroni noodles

4 cups water

2 tablespoons Earth Balance margarine

1 tablespoon heaping, Tofutti Better than Sour Cream

1 tablespoon lemon juice

2 teaspoons salt

1 package Follow Your Heart VEGAN cheddar cheese, grated

½ package Follow Your Heart VEGAN Mozzarella cheese, grated

½ package Follow Your Heart VEGAN Monterey Jack cheese, grated

½ cup nutritional yeast flakes, or more to taste

2 cups plain soy milk, more/less to your preference

Garlic powder, McKay's NO MSG Chicken Style Seasoning, Turmeric, salt to taste

Grate cheese and mix evenly. Boil macaroni in the water to desired tenderness. Drain and immediately add margarine, ¾ of the cheese and the sour cream. Stir, letting the heat from the macaroni melt the margarine, cheese and sour cream. Add nutritional yeast flakes, lemon juice, salt, and milk. Add additional seasonings to taste. Place in a casserole dish and add remaining grated cheese to the top. Cover and bake at 350o about 30 minutes (cheese on top should be melted). Uncover and turn the oven to broil. Broil macaroni to desired brownness. Remove from oven and serve. Serves 6-8

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Student Riots Over Activists' Death Roil Kenya

(NNPA) – Rioting has broken out in Kenya's capital Nairobi as human rights groups increase pressure on the government for the reported "assassinations" of the two rights activists.

The twin killings last week of Oscar Kamau Kingara and John Paul Oulo, shot dead in their car, sparked a riot in which a student was shot dead. Three policemen were later arrested in connection with the student's death.

"It is extremely troubling when those working to defend human rights in Kenya can be assassinated in broad daylight in the middle of Nairobi," said Philip Alston, who last month released a report accusing Kenya's police of running death squads.

The police deny any involvement in the killings of the two activists.

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Voting Issues and Education Take Forefront in Legislature Last Week

BY: TESSA
HOWINGTON

There were many things going on in the Texas' Legislative Session last week in Austin, but the biggest issue was Senate Bill (SB) 362, which purposes a change in voter identification laws.

SB 362, by Senator Troy Fraser, would require voters to present either a government issued photo identification card, such as a driver's license, a recent utility bill showing the person's name and address in the district which they are registered to vote, or a local library card issued in their district to be able to vote. The goal of the bill is to eliminate and prevent voter fraud in upcoming elections.

The Committee of the Whole Senate heard testimony about the bill starting on Tuesday, March 10. Originally, forty people were scheduled to testify, but due to a Republican rally to support the bill Tuesday morning, some 175 plus people attended to show support, publicly testify, and provide written testimony for the Committee.

The increased number of people made the hearing spill into two days of testimony, ending with an all night session for the Committee on Wednesday night.

Many of the speakers who testified opposed the bill, arguing that the bill

would not allow for the elderly, disabled, newly immigrated, or poor to vote in elections.

Supporters of the bill claim requiring a photo ID would decrease voter fraud citing numerous occasions where voter registration rolls were out of date or people who were ineligible illegally voted in the past.

House Reps. Wayne Christian, Linda Harper-Brown, Ken Paxton and Dan Flynn released a statement on Wednesday, March 11, supporting the bill and saying "Vote fraud must not be tolerated. Election integrity measures are a priority for the Texas Legislature."

They also cited a November 2007 study by the State Auditor which found "49,049 registered voters who may be ineligible to vote, mostly felons or deceased," and a Houston report where "4,000 deceased individuals remain on Harris County voter rolls."

Adding "When non-citizens, dead people, or otherwise unqualified individuals remain on the voter rolls, illegal votes will be cast, canceling legitimate votes and denying legal voters of their civil rights."

The Senate passed the bill out of committee and to the Senate floor. SB 362 is scheduled to be heard before the full Senate on Monday, March 16.

In other Senate news, SB 643, by Senator Jane Nelson of Flower Mound,

which would improve the safety and care of individuals with disabilities in state care facilities, was passed by the entire Senate on Monday, March 9, and received by the House of Representatives for full review. If passed by the House, it will go before Governor Rick Perry to be signed into law or vetoed.

The bill is expected to pass quickly through the House and be signed with no arguments by the Governor. Earlier in session, Gov. Perry declared this issue to be an "emergency issue" to help quickly push reform legislation.

"Taking care of the most vulnerable in our society is one of our most important priorities," said Lt. Governor David Dewhurst after Monday's passage.

The Texas House of Representatives was equally as busy this past week, especially Houston Rep. Dwayne Bohac. On Friday, March 13, he filed the last of his education bills and introduced his full proposal to reform the education system.

His plan consists of 4 bills; first, House Bill (HB) 53 which adjusts Robin Hood laws to keep more local taxes in their school districts. Robin Hood laws have been in place since 1993.

Essentially the laws take money collected from local taxes from richer districts and distribute to poorer districts. This idea

of "take from the rich and give to the poor" was originally designed to help even out funding issues between school districts and improve overall quality of education state wide.

Next, Bohac filed HB 130 creating funding for all day pre-kindergarten (Pre-K) programs for every district. Currently, Pre-K programs are voluntary and are half day programs; funding comes from grants or local funding, not from the state.

His third bill, HB 1800, would require parents and teachers to sign a contract that clearly spells out the expectations and duties of parents and teachers. The goal is to increase awareness, involvement, and relations between the parents, students, and teachers to achieve greater student success.

Finally, his bill, HB 2352, filed last Friday, purposes a pay increase for teachers by \$3000 a year and would add more school supply items to the State's Annual Sales Tax Holiday.

All of these bills have been referred to the House's Public Education Committee to be reviewed at a later date.

This week, more Committee meeting and hearings are scheduled for both the House and the Senate.

Tess Howington's weekly summary of the Texas Legislative activities are published each week in NDG.

Collin County College President Featured Speaker at Democratic Party Collin County Meeting

The March General Meeting of the Democratic Party of Collin County is scheduled for Saturday, March 28 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Collin County Community College (CCCC), McKinney location in Pike Hall.

Guest Speaker Dr. Israel, CCCC president since 1999, will discuss the state of education and the anticipated directions

for education at CCCC and abroad. Dr. Israel will discuss future plans for CCCC. He will also discuss the high costs of tuition. There will be a Q/A period after Dr. Israel's session.

The general public is invited. For more information on the March General Meeting, please contact either Angelia Pinaga or Dan Dodd at (972) 578-1483.

DIAMONDS, continued from Page 1

Mikel has received many awards for her outstanding performances and dedication to the Arts. Music will be provided by the Don Diego Band, a local favorite, for dancing for the evening

The "Diamonds and Sneakers" Gala helps to support our scholarship program and our SoSMAART program for young ladies from the Dallas School District. The Trinity Chapter of The Links, Inc. has contributed over \$100,000 in the past 19 years of its existence.

SoSMAART is the signature Services to Youth Program initiated in 2000 by Trinity Chapter, The Links, Incorporated. SoSMAART is an acronym for "Set on Science, Math, the Arts, Aviation, Reading and Technology." Selected girls from grades four through six in Dallas Elementary Schools at Thomas Tolbert, T.L. Marsalis, and Girls, Incorporated, participate in monthly educational sessions and summer enrichment camps.

First Wave of America's Switch to Digital TV Goes Smoothly

WASHINGTON — National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) Vice President for Digital Television Transition Jonathan Collegio issued the following statement regarding Tuesday's historic switch to digital television by 421 stations nationwide.

"Early reports indicate the DTV transition by 421 stations on Tuesday was successful, which is good news for both viewers and TV stations. According to the FCC and stations that made the switch, the volume of viewer calls received following the transition paled in comparison to the 12.4 million over-the-

air only households that were in affected markets.

The smooth transition thus far proves that the tireless efforts of America's broadcasters to prepare their viewers have paid off tremendously. Millions of Americans are now enjoying the benefits of free digital television, and broadcasters continue to be committed to helping viewers in markets that will switch on June 12. The information gleaned from stations that have already gone digital will help prepare the remaining viewers, as broadcasters nationwide complete America's historic transition to all-digital broadcasting."

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Plano High School Students Sweep Medals in World Affairs Council's DFW International Airport Essay Contest

The World Affairs Council has announced the 2008 DFW International Airport Essay Contest winners. Of the top ten finalists, four were students from Plano ISD. First-place honors went to Michael Button, a senior at Plano East High School, who received a \$1,000 prize for an outstanding essay addressing democracy in the Middle East.

The other finalists from Collin County are: Visakha Suresh, a junior at Plano West High School, who took second place and a \$500 prize with her essay on the same topic; Amber Khan, a junior at Plano West High School, who won a third place medal and \$250 for her essay on the 2015 U.N. Millennium Goals; and Sachin Sharma, a sophomore from Williams High School, who took eighth place and \$100 for her essay also on the 2015 U.N. Millennium Goals.

"Never before in our history has international awareness been more important," said DFW International Airport CEO Jeffrey Fegan. "Through this essay contest, we are encouraging the youth of North Texas to think and learn about the most pressing global issues that we face today. Our students must be prepared to live and work in a much smaller world."

"Each of these student's essays shows not only an impressive ability to put ideas on paper, but also an amazing capacity for critical thinking about the most important issues facing our world today," according to World Affairs Council President Jim Falk.

The students were asked to write a 750-1,000 word essay on one of three topics covering international social, economic or political issues. The first-place winner received a check for \$1,000 and will

have his essay published in the Editorial section of The Dallas Morning News. The second- and third-place winners were awarded \$500 and \$250, respectively, and a \$100 prize was awarded to each of the other 10 finalists.

The winning essay can be viewed at www.dfwworld.org.

Students chose from the following essay topics:

- U.N. Millennium Goals - What do you think are the most pressing issues and barriers to the 2015 U.N. Millennium Goals?

- Airline Industry Deregulation - Make a case for or against current deregulation in the airline industry.

- Democracy in the Middle East - Is democracy a viable concept in the Middle East? Why or why not?

The students' essays were judged in by local dignitaries in two rounds.

The contest is conduct-

ed by the World Affairs Council's Intl. Education Initiative, which was designed to bring world affairs into high school classrooms across North Texas. The program has grown dramatically since it was established in 2004 with a seed grant from the Eugene McDermott Foundation. Today, the International Education Initiative impacts more than 100,000 high school and college students through teacher workshops, the International Essay Contest, Academic WorldQuest competition, educator and student forums and other outreach activities, such as the Portrait of Turkey program.

Thousands of students and teachers annually attend Council events, and affiliated Junior World Councils now exist at 33 high schools and universities throughout the Metroplex.

COLLEGE CORNER UNCF/Google Scholarship

When it comes to higher education for promising scholars, we don't want anything to stand in the way. That's why Google is proud to support the work of UNCF. Google is committed to helping the innovators of the future make the most of their talents by providing scholarships and retreats for computer science students.

Selected students will each receive a scholarship for the 2009-10 academic year, and be invited to attend the all-expenses paid Annual Google Scholars' Retreat at the Googleplex in Mountain View, California in the spring of 2010.

Applicants must be majoring in: Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, and Software Engineering.

Deadline:

April 30, 2009

Award Amount:

\$10,000

Website/Contact Info:

www.uncf.org/forstudents/internshipdetail.asp?id=304

Source: *Blackstudents.com*

DIABETES, continued from Page 4

Americans aged 20 years or older have diabetes.

- African Americans are 1.6 times more likely to have diabetes as non-Hispanic whites.

- An estimated twenty-five percent of African Americans between the ages of 65 and 74 have diabetes.

- One in four African American women over 55 years of age has diabetes.

Diabetes has arguably become the health issue of our time. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

- If current trends continue, 1 in 3 Americans will develop diabetes sometime in their lifetime, and those

with diabetes, will lose, on average, 10-15 years of life.

- The rate of diabetes has nearly doubled in the U.S. over the past 10 years, with the highest levels reported in the South.

- Nearly 24 million people in the U.S. already have diabetes and 24% of those—almost 6 million people—don't even know it.

- An estimated 57 million people have pre-diabetes, and 25% of those don't even know it.

- The nation's unchecked diabetes epidemic costs the country \$174 billion a year—as much as the conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan and the global war on terror-

ism combined.

Vaccariello adds, "Despite these staggering figures, many people still don't think of diabetes as a national health crisis—or something that affects them. To reach people, Prevention developed 'What's Your Sugar Score?' www.dtour.com/sugarscore—a quick and simple quiz that allows people to obtain a sense of whether they are at risk. Our hope is that it will get people thinking and talking about this very important issue."

Says Barbara Quinn, MS, RD, CDC, one of DTOUR's key architects (who also oversaw the plan's testing), "Many people prefer to ignore the fact that they may be

at risk because they fear being forced to live a life of deprivation. Not true. DTOUR was not created as a temporary fix—we developed a plan that provides the tools people need to eat and live healthfully (and happily) for the rest of their lives."

The Diabetes DTOUR Diet by Barbara Quinn, MS, RD, CDC, with the Editors of Prevention, is available at www.dtour.com where users can also sign up for a subscription-based Web site that customizes the plan to meet personal calorie needs, offers an online support community, daily menus, recipes, videos, shopping lists and more.



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—Sis. Judy Williams

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DFW International Presents 3rd Annual Fiesta Latinoamericana

DFW International Community Alliance will present the 3rd Annual Fiesta Latinoamericana! on Saturday April 18, 2009 at the Amphitheater at Oak Point Park, 2801 E. Spring Creek Parkway (across from Collin County Community College) just east of Jupiter Road. Entrance fee is \$1 per person. Food will

be available for purchase, and coolers, lawn chairs and picnics are welcome.

The cultural festival will feature 70 organizations, dance and music ensembles from 18 nations of the Americas including Mexico, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Colombia, El Salvador, and Honduras.

Fiesta Latinoamericana! will showcase the music, traditional art, culture, foods, sports and games of the diverse Latino community members within North Texas.

Plus enjoy a variety of interactive and hands-on activities celebrating the vibrant Latin American cultural and artistic traditions. Adults and children

can experience more than seventy delightfully entertaining educational workshops:

- Dance Workshops: salsa, meringue, bachata, hip hop, tango, folklórico from Mexico and Chile and Argentina and Spain

- Traditional Arts and Crafts Workshops: papel picado, ojo de dios, guayeros, penachos

aztecas, mascararas, incaicas.

- Traditional Game Workshops: bochas, soccer ball tricks, el sapo, cubilete, capoeira

- Music Workshops: guiro, charango, cuatro, tambores, harpa.

In addition, on the amphitheater stage twenty five Latino performing arts groups will present

dances and live music, including a grand finale by the Mariachi Los Reyes de Dallas. A Parade of Nations will open and close the festival.

For more details about Fiesta Latinoamericana! call 972-661-2764, or visit on the internet at <http://www.dfwinternational.org/FiestaLatinoamericana>.

Urban League Annual Report To Community

"It is the best of times as we open our doors each day, offer a smile and our services to those who need it and it is the worst of times as our revenues steadily decline," said Dr. Beverly Mitchell Brooks, President and CEO of Urban League of Greater Dallas. She offered these remarks as she detailed the Report to the Community at the Urban League Annual Meeting Luncheon which was held on February 26, 2009 at the Hilton Anatole.

Despite the challenges, the report showed over 3,200 families received assistance for rental/mortgages, food vouchers, utility payments and gasoline vouchers through the Urban League Community Service Centers; 15,500 individ-

uals received workforce training or retraining in the Employment Department and over 500 obtained jobs; 2,300 parents and students participated in the Education Department; 1,300 families completed housing counseling and budget management and nearly 900 citizens completed computer classes.

Remarks were also given by Mayor Tom Leppert who applauded the Urban League for its years of service to the community.

A highlight of the event was the presentation of the Legacy Awards to E. Brice Cunningham, Esq. which was accepted by Judge L.A. Bedford, Barbara Lord Watkins and

Barbara Cambridge, PhD for their outstanding achievements and contributions in their professions and community. The honorees passed their legacy torch to Cheryl L. Mayo, Judge Valencia Nash and Rev. Irie Session, the next generation of individuals who have made extraordinary achievements in their profession and community.

Stan Levenson, CEO of Levenson & Brinker Public Relations took the helm as the new Chairman of the Urban League Board of Trustees. New board members installed at the event are Nafeesa M. Belcher, J C Penney; Crawford, Jesse L., Verizon Operations; and Annette Green, Brinker International.



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Ongoing

African American Republican Club of Collin County meets 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7 pm (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: Monthly Lunch & Learn every 3rd Thursday \$15 for members; \$20 for non-members, 11:00am-1:00pm. At Reel Thing Catfish Cafe, 600 East Main Street - Suite A, Allen, TX 75002. 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 info: 469-942-0809 or 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 am - 12:30 pm 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.

The National Business Women Enterprise Network (NBWEN) Learning Over Lunch Series: Monthly 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. 4th Saturdays, 11AM-1PM, ReMarkable Affairs Cafe, 2727 LBJ Freeway, Suite 140, Dallas, \$20 for members; \$35 for non-members, \$5 off for early bird registration. Visit <http://nbwenorg.ning.com> for more information. **THIS IS A PREPAID EVENT** so register early!

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

March 18 – April 18

Through Her Lens: Emerging Female Exhibit at Bath House Cultural Center, 521 East Lawther Drive, Dallas (214) 670-8749

March 21

Paul Taylor Dance Company 8 p.m. Eisemann Center Hill Performance Hall Call Mary Frazier 972-599-3145 for info.

Life in the Soil Garden Walk Texas Discovery Gardens at Fair Park., 10-11a.m. The key to gardening success is to start from the ground up. Join Michael Bosco with Soils Alive as we show you what to do for your soil type. Free with paid Garden admission. Age 12+

March 21

Professional Achievers for Community Excellence is hosting a Yard Sale & Bake Sale To Raise Money For Scholarships from 7:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M. at Keller Springs Baptist Church, 3227 Keller Springs Rd, Carrollton

March 20-22

Past American Idol contestants sing some of their favorite tunes from the hit TV show alongside the Dallas Symphony Orchestra – live for two nights. From the soulful singing of Kimberley Locke, to the Southern charm of Diana

DeGarmo, to tunes from Chikezie Eze and David Hernandez, this evening of song will have everyone jumping to their feet in excitement. Single tickets range from \$17 to \$110 214.692.0203 or www.DallasSymphony.com

March 23

“An Evening of Jazz” - Rowlett High School Jazz Band I, directed by Phil Alvarado, and Jazz Band II, directed by Kevin Rainey will be joined by the West Mesquite High Jazz Band at 7:30 p.m. at Plaza Theater in Garland. Admission is free.

March 24

LEAN tools can transform Health Care organizations. Learn how at an Executive Briefing for Health Care Professions at 9 A.M. The briefing will be held at the Bill Priest Institute, 1402 Corinth St. in Dallas. Call the LEAN Institute of El Centro College at 214-860-5934 for more information. The event is free to the public.

March 26 – April 2

AFI Dallas International Film Festival will feature international films from emerging filmmakers, the latest work from great film masters and unique nightly red carpet gala premieres which include all of our attending filmmakers and stars. Over 200 screenings make it one of the largest film festivals in the Southwest. www.afidallas.com

March 27

Allen Community Outreach 7th Wine Masters Food & Wine Pairings 7:00 - 10:30 p.m. Heritage Ranch Golf and Country Club. aco-cares.com.

March 27 – April 18

Closer performances are Thursday - Saturdays at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for students and seniors at www.EnterStageLeft.org.

All performances will take place at Teatro Dallas, 1331 Record Crossing Rd. Dallas, TX 75235.

March 28

Heard Museum & Volunteer McKinney Center 9 - 11 a.m. Take a hike! for your community, see heardmuseum.org for info.

Conservation in Action – Texas Discovery Gardens at Fair Park, 11a.m. – 3p.m. ‘Green’ your family! The first 500 attendees get free hot dogs, popcorn, T-shirts and other cool stuff! This family fair is sponsored by the City of Dallas, University of North Texas and Texas Discovery Gardens. Free admission

Christian World Hands of Praise presents “Praise in Motion” at 5:00 p.m. at the Granville Arts Center. Tickets are \$10 at the door, 214-727-9784 or 214-460-1802.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Founders Day 11:30 AM at Hilton Dallas Lincoln Centre.

March 29

The Arts District Chorale presents Transformed by Time and Space at 7:30 p.m., a multi-sensory event in the Grand Lobby of the Meyerson Symphony Center.

April 3

Underwater Easter Egg Hunt in the Community Activity Center for kids 3 to 10 years old Hunt for eggs in the indoor pool, eat candy, and enjoy splashing around the pool. The Hunt begins at 5 p.m. with staggered times for different age groups. Cost is \$5 per participant for CAC members and \$6 for non-members. Register at the CAC front desk. Details at: www.flower-mound.com

April 4

Junior League of Plano's 20th Annual Trinkets to Treasures 8AM – 11:30 PM Collin County's largest

Rummage Sale! Admission is \$5 from 8am to 10am and \$3 from 10am to 2pm, Children 11 years of age and under are admitted free. Contact the Junior League of Plano Hotline at 972.769.1142 or visit www.jlplano.org.

G3: Greater Games Gathering -A non-profit event designed to bring table top gamers together in a thrice-annual gaming convention. Come join the fun whether you're a veteran gamer, brave newcomer, or just curious about this unique and engaging hobby. Admission: \$12.99 for Internet Pre-registration; \$15 at the door. Info at 214-683-8153 or www.greatergamesgathering.org.

April 8

The Richland College Financial Aid Fair 10:00-2:00 in El Paso hallway.

April 9

The Brookhaven College Career Fair 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Student Services Center, more than 50 employers expected. Call 972-860-4894

April 14

Newsmakers Breakfast 7:30 - 9 a.m. Personal Finance Hosted by UT Dallas School of Management, visit www.insidetxbiz.com

April 16

Stars of Texas ... Racing Against the Odds 5:00 p.m., Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie. Call 1-888-DIABETES or email Roxann Pishnick at rpishnick@diabetes.org. Fundraiser for American Diabetes Association.

April 16-May 9

Garland Civic Theater season finale “Sweeney Todd” at the Granville Arts Center. Evening performances are at 7:30 p.m. on April 16, 23, 30 & May 7 at 8:00 p.m. on April 17, 18, 24, 25, May 1, 2, 8, and 9. Matinees run April 19, 26,

May 3 & May 9 at 2:30 p.m. www.garlandcivictheatre.org

April 18

EarthKind Plant Sale from 8AM – 3PM at 17360 Coit Road, Dallas, TX, contact Gregory Church 972-548-4232, gtchurch@ag.tamu.edu or ccmgatx.org.

YMCA's Healthy Kids Day 9 a.m. to Noon at Plano Family YMCA - Legacy Park www.planoyymca.org

3rd Annual Fiesta Latinoamericana! at the Amphitheater at Oak Point Park, 2801 E. Spring Creek Parkway (across from Collin County Community College). \$1 per person. Food available for purchase, and coolers, lawn chairs and picnics are welcome. 972-661-2764 or visit the internet at <http://www.dfwinternational.org/FiestaLatinoamericana>

April 17

Health Yes! Preventive Screening for Stroke & Heart Disease 9AM-4PM Easy, affordable, non-invasive screenings for Stroke, Peripheral Artery Disease, Osteoporosis and Heart Disease. All screening results are reviewed by Austin-area, Board-Certified Radiologists and returned to patients within 4 business days. Screening Packages start at \$139.95. Pre-registration is required as appointments are limited. Reserve your spot by calling 1-886-718-0412 or visiting www.HealthYes.com.

April 18

Live Green Expo 9AM-5PM Enjoy a free, family event encouraging environmentally friendly lifestyles. Drop off electronics, books and plastic bags for recycling! “Food Alley” with cooking demonstrations, local producers, organics and more. Call 972-816-9489 or visit www.livegreenexpo.net

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Modern Day Slavery

BY JESSICA
WILLIAMS-GIBSON

(NNPA) Slavery as Blacks know it is permeated with images of Africans stuffed in ships, whipped and beaten beyond recognition, hung on trees and picking cotton. Slavery now has a new face known as human trafficking.

Human trafficking is often confused with smuggling, extortion or simple prostitution. When a person is a victim of human trafficking they are mandated to work under specific conditions by force. The U.S. is one of the top "destination" countries for human trafficking.

"I don't want to devalue the legacy of slavery in this country with real shackles. For people to understand the kind of control someone is under, it's useful to think of this as a modern day form of slavery," said Mark Lagon, executive director of Polaris Project. The Polaris Project is a national organization aimed at ending human trafficking.

Forced labor continues

to be a substantial portion of human trafficking yet commercial sex dominates. According to Gayle Helart, Assistant United States Attorney, U.S. Department of Justice, Southern District of Indiana, the crime isn't about the violence or the labor itself, but the money - especially commercial sex.

moved around to different locations, forced to sell their bodies and turn over all of the money to their male or female pimp.

Helart states that due to the glorified lifestyle of the pimp/whore culture, human trafficking isn't taken as seriously as it should be. Victims are in grave danger as many suf-

also may have taken out loans to send their child to the U.S. or must pay back a wavering smuggling fee.

"What keeps victims staying is the promise of something better, the carrot in front of their face," said Helart. "Human trafficking is all about the 'work here, under these conditions, or else.'"

The issue of human trafficking goes even deeper being that young girls are often affected by labor but mostly sex. Black girls are a large part of this growing trend. Girls constantly move around to human sex trafficking hubs most notably Atlanta and Dayton, Ohio. Truth is, human trafficking could be in any neighborhood.

"This crime could literally be anywhere and we wouldn't know it. I'm not saying it's not here (in Indianapolis); I don't know. We do get a lot of leads and that's good," said Helart. "For some reason a lot of offenders let their victims go to church to subdue and keep them from getting rebellious. We try to get with faith-based communities and leaders on this."

Lagon states human trafficking sounds like it requires someone crossing a border yet there are increasing trends among American-born victims of human trafficking. Law enforcement believes when it comes to juveniles, there's not really a juvenile out there by themselves; a pimp will almost always handle her.

"Studies have indicated that children who are runaways or throwaways, when they try to make their own life on the streets, a huge proportion of them within 48-72 hours fall under the control of pimps," said Lagon.

To curb this trend authorities state it's not enough to say "where have you been for the last few weeks" when runaways return. Parents should



Nykita Hurt holds a photo of her daughter Brandi who became a child prostitute at the age of 14. Experts say more than 300,000 children are being sexually exploited in the United States.

*This crime could
literally be anywhere
and we wouldn't
know it.*

Unlike African slaves, victims of human trafficking oftentimes come to the U.S. on their own will. They are promised lucrative opportunities such as a job in a hotel or education. Seduced by American culture and the idea of the U.S. as a land of opportunity, victims agree and follow the offender. Once in the states, victims are

fer violent acts, or are simply threatened to be abused. To the trafficker, victims are disposable and very little care is taken for their wellbeing.

The control — the desire to "pay off their debt" to the pimp, or the need to help families in their native country — keeps victims selling their bodies. Victims' families

probe further asking questions such as how old is your boyfriend and are there other girls there at his home. If the offender is of an inappropriate age and/or has multiple girls in his home, it's almost certain to be human trafficking.

Parents should also be on the lookout for expensive gifts she can't afford and should watch for the adults in their lives who are showering attention and affection on their kids. Talking to kids and teens about healthy relationships and sexual behavior will further reduce human trafficking.

Furthermore, authorities are taking actions on the financial worth of human trafficking. Because human trafficking is difficult to detect and often rely on the testimonies of the victims, authorities are taking down pimps and Johns. They have also found vic-

tories in unofficial ledgers.

"In the blackjack case in Florida, the John would be given a playing card after payment. They'd turn that over to the girl so she'd know services had been paid. In this case, men would wear condoms so the girls were keeping track with condom wrappers. They were told that \$20 would get taken off their debt with every sex act," explained Helart.

Citizens are asked to be observant in their neighborhoods, jobs and places of worship for suspicious behavior, homes and businesses appearing to keep individuals inside, and individuals who are always accompanied by someone.

For more information, call or visit Polaris Project at (888) 373-7888; the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Innocence Lost initiative at (317) 639-3301; or Gayle Helart at (317) 226-6333.



AP PHOTO Rachel Lloyd, left, founder and executive director of Girls Education and Mentoring Services, a nonprofit that helps girls avoid or escape sexual exploitation, speaks to one of the group members.

Free Performances Offered by Plano Children's Theatre

As a part of World Theatre Week, Plano Children's Theatre is offering three free performances for North Texas families. Babe, the Sheep Pig will be performed on Saturday, March 28 at 11 a.m. and is appropriate for ages 3 and up.

Older youth and adults will enjoy Jeff Swearingen

and Brad McEntire's Live Improv Performances "Fun Dip" on Friday, March 27 and Saturday March 28 at 7 p.m. Brad is the founder of Audacity Productions and Jeff Swearingen won the 2007 best actor award for an actor in a non-equity performance. Both performances are at Plano

Children's Theatre, 1301 Custer Road, Suite 706. Both Brad and Jeff have performed their live improv shows in New York, Austin, and Hong Kong. Audience participation is encouraged.

To reserve your free tickets, please go to www.planochildrenstheatre.com.

A Raisin In The Sun Openings This Week

African American Repertory Theater (AART) will close its 2008-2009 season with Lorraine Hansberry's award winning play A Raisin in the Sun which opens March 20, 2009, and runs through April 12, 2009, at the DeSoto Corner Theatre, 211 E. Pleasant Run, DeSoto, Texas.

Performances are Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 3 p.m. A post-performance talk-back with the artists will be held on March 29. Tickets range from \$15 to \$20 for the run of the production. Tickets may be purchased on-line by visiting <http://www.aareptheater.com> or through the box office by calling 972-572-0998.

Directed by William (Bill) Earl Ray, A Raisin in



the Sun stars the legendary Irma P. Hall, a veteran of television, theater and film, who plays the family matriarch, Lena Younger. Hall's successful film career includes Soul Food, Collateral, Tyler Perry's Meet The Browns, and recently Hurricane Season starring Forrest Whittaker. The cast also features Vince McGill, Taylore Mahogany Scott, Alonzo Waller, Chris Brown, Elliot Gilbert, Jack O'Donnell,

Joshua White, and Regina Washington.

This award winning play sparked the growth of the black theater movement in the 1960's. It is the story of a family living and struggling on Chicago's South Side in the 1950s. It is a fiercely moving portrait of people whose hopes and dreams are constantly deferred. AART's production marks the 50th anniversary of the play's Broadway debut.

Multi-Platinum Selling Rapper Mike Jones Prepares To Release His Sophomore CD, *The Voice*

1st Single, "Next To You" riding up the Rhythmic Radio & Records Chart

Four years ago multi-platinum selling rapper MIKE JONES set the world on fire with his debut album, Who Is Mike Jones? by having everyone recite his phone number 281-330-8004, chanting "Who? Mike Jones," and re-igniting an interest in the Houston rap scene. Now, in 2009 he is, again, off to a great start with his first single, "NEXT TO YOU," riding up Radio & Records "Rhythmic" chart currently Top 20 (#16). "Next To You" is the 1st official single off of Jones' sophomore CD, THE VOICE, due in stores April 28th on Ice Age/Swishahouse/Asylum Records.

Produced by J.R. Rotem, on the guitar-

laden smoothness of "NEXT TO YOU" we find MIKE JONES rapping about a girl that understands the spotlight and isn't tripping about him being in it.

In addition to J.R. Rotem, THE VOICE



offers production by Mannie Fresh, Mr. Collipark and The Package Store, Bigg D and Jim Jonsin, Kojack, Essay Potna and Mike Dean and features guest

appearances by Lil' Wayne, T-Pain, Devin The Dude, Hurricane Chris, and Twista.

MIKE JONES, anxious to get THE VOICE to the people says of his hiatus: "For the past four years I have been doing a lot of restructuring: getting this record right, making sure my business is right and more. Now I am ready to finish what I started. I'm hoping my fans will feel The Voice was worth the wait."

MIKE JONES is currently readying a promotional tour in support of THE VOICE and will be in LA from March 17th and 18th, San Francisco on March 19th, and Portland and San Diego on March 20th.

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SAVE ME FROM MY secrets

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SAVE ME FROM MY SECRETS MAKES A REAL STATEMENT ABOUT LIFE, LOVE, AND THE AGE OLD CONFLICT BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL.

Tuesday, March 17 thru Sunday, March 22, 2009
At The Black Academy of Arts and Letters,
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PRODUCED BY ZADIA IFE AND KENDRICK D. YOUNG
WRITTEN BY KENDRICK D. YOUNG
DIRECTED BY ZADIA IFE

The DFW Minority Business Council Brings Suppliers and Corporations Together For The Business Event of the Year.

ACCESS EXPO 2009 Trade Event for Minority Business

The Minority Business Council of Dallas- Ft. Worth announced today the Minority business event of the year: ACCESS 2009 Business Expo that will be held at the Arlington Convention Center May 11-12, 2009. More than 200 companies and public agencies are expected at the

Expo to make business with minority suppliers from all over Texas.

"In the past 10 years I have not missed one of the ACCESS business events," said Dennis English, Prime Pest Management President. "I have developed relationships that have turned into contracts at every single

one, from \$10,000 up to \$170,000, keeping my company profitable and in constant growth"

With more than \$286,000 in "spot bids" awarded in 2008 and more this year, the ACCESS 2009: Your Business, Your Vision, Your Future, Your Success will provide minor-

ity business the tools, the contacts and the "know how" to establish business with top companies from the DFW area.

Also, the ACCESS 2009 event will provide workshops that will focus on the five critical success factors and the tools to help businesses cultivate success dur-

ing these tough economic times.

"Given the current economic environment, ACCESS 2009 provides a bright spot for MBEs," said ACCESS Co-chair and Director of Business Development, Procurement and Services for the City of Dallas, Ade Williams. "You

will learn what opportunities the public and private buying entities have to offer as well as what other MBEs are doing to refresh and grow in 2009."

For more information on the DFW/MBC ACCESS 2009 visit www.dfwmdbc.com or call 214-630-0747.

STATEMENT, continued from Page 3

Department officials last year as the financial crisis was unfolding, jeopardizing the health of banks large and small. It is important to clarify that this meeting was requested and scheduled on behalf of the NBA, not on behalf of OneUnited Bank as press reports suggest. The attached letter from NBA to Treasury indicates the intent of the meeting and the dire concern expressed by the association on behalf of its members (1).

The NBA contacted Treasury directly just as other trade associations did, to request a meeting so that its members could discuss their concerns regarding the situations facing minority banks. I followed up on the association's request by asking Treasury Secretary Paulson to schedule such a meeting, as did other members of Congress. Secretary Paulson recognized that the NBA's concerns about the future of minority banks were valid and arranged for to meet in early September.

"I did not attend the meeting, and thus did not participate in the conversation. Press reports of the meeting focus on concerns expressed on behalf of a single bank. However, NBA's follow up letter to Treasury, reiterates the organization's concerns about the fiscal health of its members generally (2).

"The press reports also

perpetuate a misconception about the way in which funds from the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) are distributed to banks requesting assistance. The Executive Branch administers TARP funds, not Congress.

In particular, the Treasury Department and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) decide which financial institutions should receive funds. As reported, Treasury officials admit that the decision to distribute TARP funds to OneUnited Bank were based on the merits of the banks request, not based on anything said at the September meeting and not based on political influence. (Although both my supporters and detractors often refer to me as influential, the truth is that I had no influence on what Bush Administration officials in the Treasury Department or other departments did.)

"My husband Ambassador Sidney Williams, who has represented the United States as an Ambassador and has been a respected and active member of the Los Angeles community for many years, was asked to sit on the board of OneUnited Bank. This bank services our community and was the successor to the bank of which we had been customers at for many years.

He accepted the position and did not accept any director's compensation for his work on behalf of the bank and the community it serves.

"Despite suggestions to the contrary, I have fully disclosed all of my financial interests in official filings. These filings included the stock my husband purchased upon joining OneUnited's board (it is required under Massachusetts law, where OneUnited is headquartered, individuals are stockholders in a bank before joining its board).

Furthermore, Ambassador Williams is proud to be invested in a minority owned community bank that was given an "outstanding" lending rating from its regulator for its lending activity in underserved communities in Los Angeles, where traditional banks have refused to lend.

I even took additional steps beyond what is required of Members of Congress when I voluntarily and publicly disclosed my husband's relationship with OneUnited during an October 30, 2007 Financial Services Committee hearing entitled "Preserving and Expanding Minority Banks." (3)

Both the FDIC and the Office of Thrift Supervision were present at this hearing.

"The federal government has a legal obligation

to support minority banks, as explicitly stated in the Financial Institutions Reform Recovery and Enforcement Act (FIRREA).

In particular, Section 308 of FIRREA insists that the federal government take an active role in the preservation of the number and nature of minority banks. I have previously worked to ensure that the government is held accountable in this regard, and I will continue efforts to promote the interests of minority banks. As recently as the 110th Congress, I exhibited my commitment through my participation in official Oversight hearings on minority banks, as well as the initiation of a Government Accountability Office study on the effectiveness of mandated government assistance to minority banks.

"In addition to this focus on banks, I authored three separate provisions, two of which became law, to insure small, women and minority owned businesses could fully participate in federal contracting opportunities. Unfortunately, most Federal agencies have ignored minority participation laws and failed to make reasonable attempts to assist small, minority and women-owned banks and businesses as required by law.

"I maintain that my

advocacy on behalf of small, women, minority and community banks is appropriate. I will continue to bank and do business with

minority depository institutions and work on behalf of my constituents, and the institutions that serve them.

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EXPERIMENT, continued from Page 1

all over this country.

As usual, the detractors are calling the Ebony Experiment "racist and divisive." Some even commented that they would "now" only support white businesses. Isn't that amazing? I wonder what these same folks call Black people who have for years supported white owned businesses.

No one ever complains about the many China Towns, Greek Towns, and Jewish enclaves that promote and, indeed, provide mutual support to their businesses and consumers. I have never heard anyone call these people "racists" and "separatists" nor have I ever read where anyone ever responded to these ethnic economic enclaves by saying they would only buy from white owned businesses.

Instead, whites and virtually everyone else support the business owners in these enclaves. In fact, we celebrate their "entrepreneurial spirit" and characterize them as "educated and informed consumers," "self-supporting" and "hardworking" citizens.

Now that John and

Maggie Anderson have started their quest to spend as much of their money with Black owned businesses, some are characterizing them as villains and racists rather than forward-thinking concerned individuals who are trying to empower not only Black people but this country as well.

Black folks did not invent nor do we practice racism; we only react to it. For this effort to be characterized as racist is short-sighted, ignorant, incendiary, and disingenuous.

It is a real shame that this couple would have to endure any negativity for doing what is right; but it comes with the territory. Because \$850 billion moves through Black consumers' hands each year, more than 90 percent of that amount going to businesses owned and controlled by others, it is no surprise that turning a significant portion of that money inward to Black businesses is frightening to the establishment. Because Black people have been looked upon, and in many cases conducted ourselves as mere consumers rather

than producers, any effort put forth since 1964 (Integration) has been squelched.

But whose fault is that? If we would take more control of our dollars, by making them have some sense, it would not matter who said what about our efforts to leverage our collective income into real wealth in our communities.

As I noted in my interview with Mr. Ted Gregory, writer for the Chicago Tribune, regarding the Ebony Experiment, this is not the first effort of its kind, but it is unique in its experimental aspects.

It could also be unique in its sacrificial aspects, in that the Anderson family has to drive long distances to make many of their purchases from Black businesses. Prior to integration, we did exactly what we are trying to get back to today.

There were Black cooperative buying programs, Buy Black Campaigns, Double-Duty Dollar campaigns, and other initiatives that brought Black consumers and business owners together in support of one another.

Maggie Anderson, who hails from Liberty City (Miami, Florida), an all Black community in 1950's, which thrived on mutual business support among Black people, is now doing her best to revive the economic spirit of her childhood community. As I noted earlier, their sacrifice has not come without naysayers and outright "haters."

According to the Tribune article, among the responses received by the Andersons was an anonymous letter mailed to their home accusing them of "unabashed, virulent racism." The writer stated, "Because of you, we will totally avoid black suppliers. Because of you, we will dodge every which way to avoid hiring black employees."

See what I mean? That kind of thinking is totally misplaced and hateful. But

with \$850 billion on the line, there is no telling what kinds of reactions and retaliation this family will get from ignorant, one-sided, and narrow-minded folks who want to maintain status quo when it comes to business development and growth among African Americans.

With all of the hurdles and obstacles they face, this paragon of a Black couple has made a commitment and is following through on that commitment, which is, on its own merits, very commendable, especially when it comes to doing something positive for Black people. They truly deserve our support. Drop them a line or an e-mail and tell them you appreciate what they are doing, and then get involved by starting your own Black buying "experiment" in your city.

As a result of the

Andersons' efforts, Black owned businesses will be discovered by other consumers, minds will be changed about buying Black, and consciousness will be raised among Black consumers. I trust that everyone else who reads this and learns about the Ebony Experiment will consider what John Anderson said: "Focusing the estimated \$850 billion annual black buying power on black businesses strengthens those businesses and creates more businesses, more jobs and stronger families, schools and neighborhoods...When a thriving African-American or urban community is realized, certainly as a society as a whole, we all win."

Much love and God speed to the Anderson family. For more information on this initiative, go to ebonyexperiment.com.

BANKING, continued from Page 1

their credit scores, income and down payment were equal to those of White homebuyers."

Both Wells Fargo & Co. and HSBC are receiving federal bailout funds.

Similar NAACP lawsuits are pending against a dozen other subprime lenders.

"This is systematic, institutionalized racism," Tighe said. "Once you take out factors relative to

income and credit risk, the only difference between the borrowers is the color of their skin."

Tighe estimated that "tens of thousands" of blacks had been forced into bad loans, but said it was difficult to gauge the scope of the problem because banks keep much of their internal data private. The lawsuits could force banks to divulge closely guarded informa-

tion, such as how banks can determine the race of a loan applicant and how federal bailout funds are being spent.

The NAACP is seeking reforms from the banks such as increased transparency in the loan process, educational outreach and internal training.

Information from the Associated Press contributed to this report.

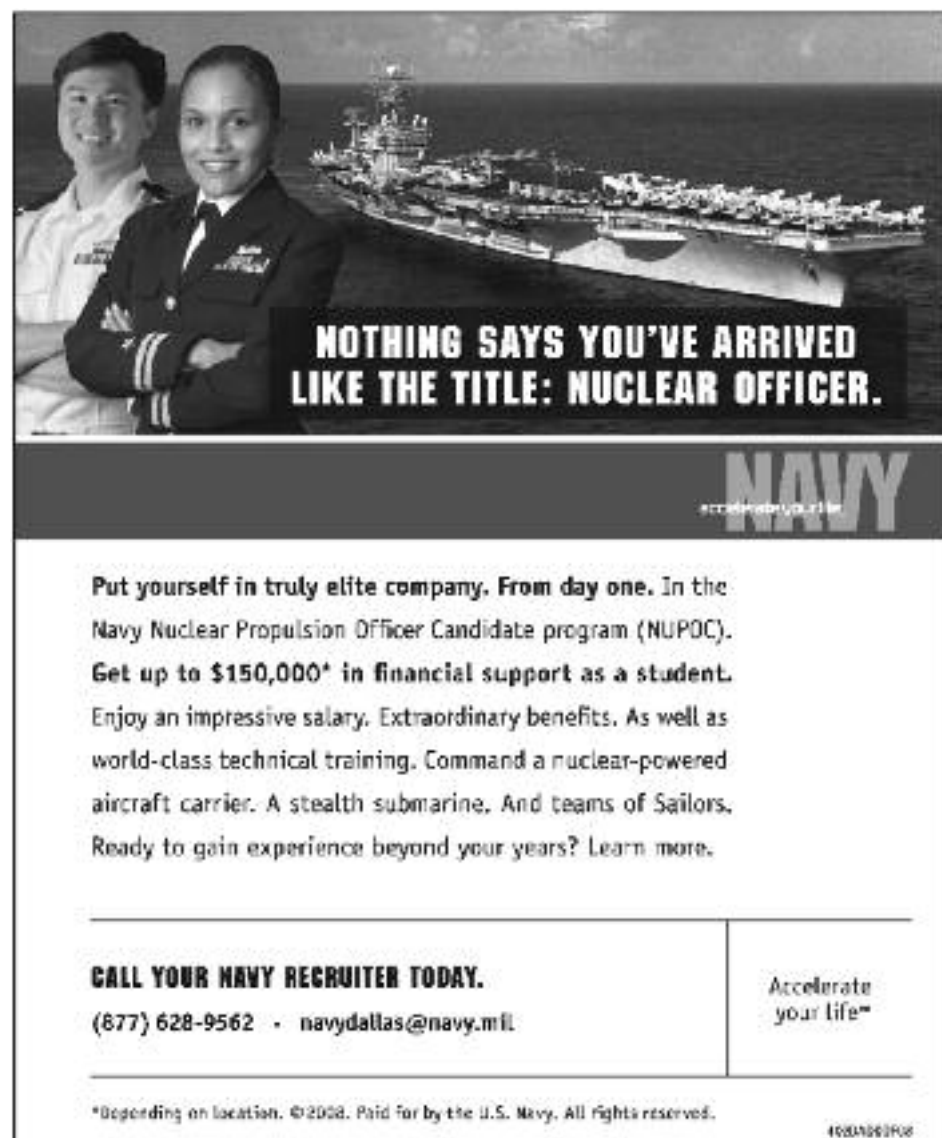
EASTFIELD, continued from Page 1

include 'Garland City Council Forum' in the subject line of email and fax submissions.

Eastfield College per-

sonnel will evaluate the validity of the submitted questions and have the option of combining similar questions or eliminating

questions that are inappropriate in nature (i.e., personal attacks on individuals or questions that are vulgar in nature).



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Career Fair Finishes Week of Vocational Events

DALLAS – As college students near graduation, they will join others hit by difficult economic times in looking for a job. Brookhaven College has a spring Career Fair, with more than 50 companies committed to attend, on April 9 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Student Services Center.

The Career Fair finishes out a week of seminars and workshops aimed at preparing students and community members for

their job search.

Prior to the Career Fair, the Career Development Center has arranged for speakers to offer tips for organizing your thoughts under pressure, understanding universal truths about business and preparing your résumé in advance of the career fair.

• “How To Promote Yourself and Get A Job,” by Jeff Crilley—April 6, 10:30-11:30 a.m. in Bldg. B, Room B304

• “Discover Your

Potential and Explode Your Income,” by Ron White—April 7, 10:30-11:30 a.m. in Bldg. B, Room B304

• “Résumés and More!” by Lisa Miller—April 8, 1:30-3 p.m. in Bldg. S, Room S220

• Résumé Central! Résumé review in time for the career fair—April 8, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in Bldg. S, Lobby

The Career Fair, sponsored by United Parcel Service, provides opportu-

nities for students and community members to speak directly to employers who are seeking to fill both full- and part-time positions.

Employers will include banks, hotels and resorts, financial services, retail, insurance, government and technical companies.

Attendees at past fairs have included both national and local businesses large and small such as Best Buy, Carrollton/Farmers Branch

Independent School District, Geico Direct, Parkland Hospital and Wyndham International.

All events are free and open to the public. In addition to two semi-annual career fairs, Brookhaven College’s Career Development Center offers individual counseling, mock interviews, career testing and job search assistance. For more information about the Career Fair,

Please contact the Career Development

Center at 972-860-4894.

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Carrollton, TX 75007
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DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY'S NORTH DALLAS ALUMNAE CHAPTER

Now thru April 18, 2009. In conjunction with the Delta Sorority, the IRS, United Way and the City of Dallas, there will be FREE tax preparation each Saturday in March and April for taxpayers with \$40,000 or less income in 2008, or for any senior citizen @ the Willie B. Johnson Recreation Center, 12225 Willowdell Drive in the Hamilton Park

Community from 9:30 am to 2 pm. You must bring a photo I.D.; a W-2 Form for 2008; Form 1099; a copy of your Social Security card; and any other information concerning your income and expenses for the year 2008.

Carolyn Matthews,
Chapter President
P. O. Box 8306004
Richardson, TX 75083
214-452-7835
(Voice Mail and Fax)

FAITH FAMILY ACADEMY OF OAK CLIFF

March 28, 10 am – 2 pm
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Agnes Douglas
Coordinator
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Dallas, TX 75224
214-375-7682, Ext. 28

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M. Div., Senior Pastor
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200 Belmont Drive
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for Math and English and

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March 22 – 26, 7 pm Don't miss our exciting "Youth Alive Revival"

March 27, 6 pm – 6 am Calling men & women to our Prayer Summit and Lock-In with 12 hours of continuous power prayer, sponsored by the Women Enrichment Ministry. Call Sis. Nicole Monroe for details.

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Sunday Worship Service:

11:00 A.M.

Wednesday Night:

7:30 P.M.

Community Bible Class:



National Women's History Month



Following the lead of President Jimmy Carter, in 1987 Congress declared March as "Women's History Month." I thank God for "Godly" Black Women.

My "Highest Honor" to women that I know or have known in my life. These ladies may not have made notable changes for mankind as a whole, but they have made a difference to me; each lady has a special place in my heart.

Mrs. Cedella Baker Demus; I thank God for every day that He allowed my mother to live and the wonderful memories that she left behind for all of her children. Mrs. Jessie Baker Green, my mother's sister and her best friend. Missionary Annie Mae Jackson, my children's paternal grandmother, a true Saint of God. Minister Sheila Tarpley Lott; she is doing God's work, and is an excellent mother to three of my precious grandchildren, Tyanna, David, and Philip and a wonderful wife to Bill Lott. Teacher Cleo Spann Tarpley, an exceptional daughter-in-law that is my

2nd daughter. My sisters, Nurse Eloyd Demus Avery, Beautician Billie I. Demus Daye, Evangelist Ida Demus Eggins, and Teacher Rose Demus Fielding; they are the greatest! Mrs. Jewel Price McKenzie, my teacher and mentor, in high school, college, and my working career. Mrs. Phemia Solomon Tinner, an admirable wife, mother, grandmother and godmother to Minister Sheila. Soror Esther Levy Dugay, my college roommate and friend for the last 50 years, an outstanding mother, wife, and a friend to all, I call her 'Florence Nightingale' for her superb Ministry of working with the community's sick, shut-ins, and the least fortunate individuals.

Remember the importance of Black women in America; and about the innumerable ways they have changed the world. National Women's Month 2009 Theme: "Women Taking the Lead to Save Our Planet," to honor the efforts of women in preserving and protecting the environment for present and future generations.

Also I call attention to the spirit of possibility and hope set in motion by generations of Black women in their creation of communities and their encourage-

ment of dreams.

The history of the Black woman is quintessential to women's history; they have always played a vital role in shaping Americans history. It is the story of amazing women's accomplishments acclaimed at the time but written out of history. Join me as I honor them this month ensuring that their accomplishments are never forgotten.

Bessie Coleman, the first Black female aviator, had a postage stamp issued in her honor in 1995. Sarah Goode the first Black female patent holder was issued a patent in 1885 for a Folding Cabinet Bed. Patricia Bath was the first Black female doctor to receive a patent for a medical invention; a machine for ablating and removing cataract lenses.

Henrietta Bradberry invented a bed rack with an attachment to the bed that

permitted air to pass through and refresh worn clothes in 1943; and in 1945, the device operated pneumatically and was adapted to discharge torpedoes under the water surface (called the Torpedo Discharger.)

Marie Brown invented the Video Home Security System that utilized television surveillance in 1969. Bessie Blount, a physical therapist who worked with soldiers injured in WW II, invented a device allowing amputees to feed themselves in 1951. Mary Reynolds invented a Hoisting / Loading Mechanism in April 1920. Alice Parker in 1919 invented a new and improved gas heating furnace.

The invention provided a mechanism for regulating heat to be carried to various rooms in a building.

Valerie Thomas in 1980



Sister Tarpley with new Black History Stamps, issued February 2009 @ the Cowboys of Color Museum in Ft. Worth.

invented an Illusion Transmitter that extends the idea of television, with its images located flatly behind a screen to having three dimensional projections appear as though they were right in your living room.

Roberta Martin was the operator of her own "Gospel Music Publishing House." Sister Rosetta

Tharpe was a Gospel Singer that was known for her signature guitar style; she also introduced gospel music into nightclubs as well as concert halls. Martin and Tharpe both had postage stamps issued in their honor in 1998; the same year my first grandchild and only granddaughter Tyanna Lott was born.

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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"

Plano Sets a Cleaner, Greener Standard

As the largest city in Collin County, Plano sets the standard in earning national praise for its quality of life, environmental initiatives and opportunities for economic development. In 2008, the City of Plano was recognized as among the "best of the best" nationwide by Keep America Beautiful (KAB), the nation's largest volunteer-based community action and education organization.

The City of Plano was awarded the KAB President's Circle Award at the President's Circle Award Luncheon during KAB's

55th annual National Conference in Washington, D.C. The award recognizes exemplary performance made by certified affiliates of the national nonprofit to reduce litter, minimize waste, and beautify their local communities. In qualifying for a President's Circle Award, the City of Plano demonstrated exceptional achievement by conducting an annual Litter Index, calculating the affiliate's cost/benefit ratio, and engaging volunteers to take greater responsibility for their community environment. In addition, award

recipients conducted activities in KAB's three core focus areas of litter prevention, waste reduction and beautification/community improvement.

The City of Plano conducted a Litter Index this past winter; Plano rated a 1.05 on the Litter Index scale. In addition, more than

3,666 volunteers donated 11,161 hours last year, valued at \$17.85 per hour, equaling \$199,224 in benefits to Plano neighborhoods and roadways for every dollar of government funding received.

"By enabling people of all ages to participate in community improvement

efforts, the City of Plano is represented among the best in promoting the values KAB espouses nationally," said Matthew McKenna, KAB President and CEO. "One of the national organization's most effective tools is the work of our grassroots network of affiliate organizations."

For more information visit the internet at www.livegreeninplano.com and learn about the Live Green in Plano initiative which empowers individuals to take responsibility for enhancing their community through litter awareness and prevention, and community beautification.

COMING SOON TO ALLEN | ON APRIL 12, 2009

ROCKBRIDGE BIBLE CHURCH

200 W. Belmont | Allen, TX 75013
FBCA Campus
214.263.8590 | www.RockBridgeBC.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 A.M.
"Bridging the gap between God and man through Jesus Christ"



Senior Pastor, Timothy Jones
& First Lady, LaTonya Jones



Dr. Leslie W. Smith,
Senior Pastor

NORTH DALLAS COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

"A Spiritual Oasis for a Thriving World" Isaiah 55:1

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES:
8:00 AM • 9:30 AM • 11:30 AM

972-437-3493

1010-1020 South Sherman Street • Richardson, TX 75081
www.ndcbf.org

New Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Dallas

Sunday Service
Morning Worship
7:30 am & 10:30 am
9:00 am Sunday School

Monday Service
Men's Ministry 7:00 pm
Women's Ministry 7:00 pm
Young Adult Ministry 7:00 pm

Wednesday Service
Intercessory Prayer 6:15 pm
Bible Study 7:00 pm



Dr. Robert E. Price, Sr.
Senior Pastor

A Praying Church Family
"Watchmen on the Walls"

214-341-6459 (Phone) • 214-342-8403 (Fax)
9550 Shepard Road
Dallas, TX 75243

www.nmzb.org (Website) • newmzb@aol.com (Email)



Ramon Hodridge, Minister

Avenue F Church of Christ

1026 Avenue F • Plano, TX 75074
972-423-8833
www.avefchurchofchrist.org

Early Sunday Morning.....8:00 am
Sunday Bible Class.....9:45 am
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:45 am
Evening Worship.....3:00 pm
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 pm

Radio Program @ 7:30 am on
KHVN 970 AM Sunday Mornings

The Inspiring Body of Christ Church



Pastor Rickie J. Reed

7710 S. Westmoreland Rd.
Dallas Texas 75237
Phone: 972-572-4262 Fax: 972-709-3888

Sunday Services: 7:30 am, 10:00 am, 12:30 pm.
Monday School 7pm
Men's Fellowship: Friday 7:00pm

Website: www.ibccjoy.org

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church

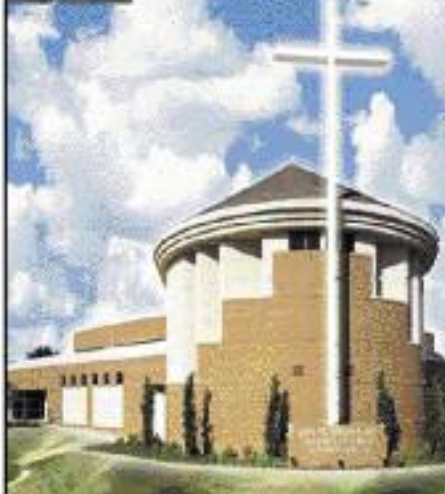
920 E. 14th Street Plano, TX

Pastor Isaiah Joshua, Jr.



Pastor Isaiah Joshua, Jr.

FANNING THE FLAMES OF OUR FAITH



Sunday Worship Services 8AM & 11AM

Sunday	9:45AM Sunday School
Monday	7PM Youth, Brotherhood, Mission & Young Adult Ministries
Tuesday	7PM Bible Study & Men's Choir
Wednesday	7PM Mid-Week Service
Thursday	7PM Mass Choir

For more information call (972) 423-6695
www.shilohbaptistchurch.org

Worship Services
7:30am & 10:30am

Sunday School
9:30 am

Wednesday
Night Service
8:00 pm



Dr. Gregory Foster Senior Pastor



Rev. Anthony Foster Pastor

Our Mission

To fulfill The Great Commission until Christ comes.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAMILTON PARK

300 Phillips Street • Richardson, TX 75081 • 972.235.4235 • www.fbcjp.org

Promiseland Television Network Broadcast - KTAQ-TV

"WALKING IN THE WORD"

Weekly 30 minute broadcasts, each Saturday at 5pm and Sunday at 4pm



Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church

1308 Wilcox Street, McKinney TX

Pastor Charles S. Wattley



Sunday

Education Ministries - 9:30 a.m. • Worship Celebration - 11:00 a.m.
- Nursery Facilities Available -

Wednesday Family Ministries... 7:00 p.m.

Friendly Fellowship with A Family Focus

For More Information Call 972.542.6178

www.saintmarkbo.com • themark07@yahoo.com