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# The Gazette

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## People In The News



It took 41 years for a black head coach to make it all the way to the Super Bowl. Lovie Smith did it Sunday on a snowy afternoon in Chicago. Four hours later, his good pal and mentor Tony Dungy joined him.

"It means a lot," Dungy said after his Indianapolis Colts beat New England 38-34 in the AFC title game. "I'm very proud of being an African-American. I'm very proud of Lovie."

And Smith equally so of Dungy.

"We have to play someone and, in my perfect world, I would like to see the Colts be that team," Smith said after his Chicago Bears pummeled the New Orleans Saints 39-14.

"Being the first black coach to lead this team, of course our players knew about it and they wanted to help us make history," Smith said. "So I feel blessed to be in that position."

"I'll feel even better to be the first black coach to hold up the world championship trophy."

"The day when a coach's skin is no longer an issue isn't here yet. But by making history together, Smith and Dungy have brought it a little closer."

The Dallas Bar Association recently honored attorney Rhonda Hunter with the Martin Luther King Jr. Justice Award. This award is presented annually to the Dallas Bar Association lawyer whose life and practice uphold the principles of Dr. King.

Ms. Hunter served as president of the Dallas Bar Association in 2004; the first African American elected to that position, and currently serves on the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors.

Ms. Hunter also serves on the executive council of the National Council of Bar Presidents.

As President of the Dallas Bar Association, Mr. Hunter established a committee, which educated more than 200,000 schoolchildren on the significance of the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision, which desegregated public schools.

Ms. Hunter received a Bachelor's degree in government from the University of Texas and a Juris Doctorate degree from Southern Methodist University School of Law. Both an accomplished dancer and choreographer, Ms. Hunter has participated in the DBA's Bar None variety show for 20 years, helping to raise more than \$1 million to fund minority scholarships at SMU Dedman School of Law.

Duncanville City Manager Kent Cagle has recently announced he has accepted the position as Chief of Police for the Duncanville Police Department.

Robert Brown is currently serving as a captain with the University Park Police Department. Brown has been with University Park since 1994. Prior to joining University Park, he served with the Dallas Police Department (1988-1990) and the Waco Police Department (1982-1988).

Mr. Brown graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelors of Arts in Business Management with Northwood University and a Masters Degree in Management from Amberton University.

"We feel that after extensive interviews with the directors, interested members of the police department and with the directors of the other city departments that we have hired the best candidate possible to serve as said City Manager, Kent Cagle, Chief of Police for the Duncanville Police Department."

Chief Brown is expected to begin his service on February 5, 2007. Assistant Chief of Police Brian Heard will be acting Police Chief between Chief Long's retirement and Chief Brown's first day.

## Plano Mourns The Loss Of Community Legend Ben Thomas

By: Paul Hailey  
Greatness has been defined as unusual or considerable in degree. On January 17th, the Douglass Community and the City of Plano lost a man of greatness with the passing of Mr. Benjamin Franklin Thomas.

The greatness of a man can be defined by the comments of those who knew him after he has gone. In recent days, there has been an outpouring of complimentary statements from a variety of people who had the pleasure of crossing paths with the "unofficial mayor" of Douglass, Mr. Ben Thomas.

"Those of us fortunate to have worked with, laughed with, and been part of the life of Ben Thomas will miss him greatly. Those who never had the opportunity to know him will benefit from the continuing success of the Douglass Community and the City of Plano through his legacy of service." Mayor Pat Evans

Mr. Thomas's values of social concern ran deep in his heritage. His father, James Lawrence



Thomas and mother Willa Mae, went out of their way to assist needy families of all types. James Thomas is recognized as Plano's first African American fireman, and the J.L. Thomas

Plano Mourns Ben Thomas Page 8

## FCC Commissioner: Declining Black Media Ownership Is A 'National Disgrace'



Michael K. Powell, chairman of the FCC., far right, listens to Michael J. Copps, second from left. To Mr. Copps's left is Jonathan S. Adelstein, and to the right of Mr. Powell are Kathleen Q. Abernathy and Kevin J. Martin.

By: George E. Curry - NNPA  
The level of Black ownership of broadcast media, which has fallen by 30 percent over the past nine years, is a "national disgrace" and reflects overall retrenchment in the march toward justice and equality, a member of the Federal Communications Commission has charged.

The commissioner, Michael J. Copps, made that assertion at a forum held at the 10th annual Wall Street Project conference of Rainbow/PUSH.

"The facts are downright chilling," Copps stated. "While

FCC Commissioner Page 4

## Frisco Residents Of Color To Host Black History Month Celebration



(Front Row L to R) Doris Williams- treasure, Karen Gigsby, Dana Jones, Tammie Perry, (Back Row L to R) Rudy Williams- parliamentarian, Sallie Gilliard, Denise Cook, Hery Edohouss, Tasha Pelt, Janice Robinson, and Pam Barnes- Sec. (Taking photo)

Frisco Residents of Color (FROC), a non-profit community based organization will celebrate the contributions of people of the African American Diaspora by hosting a Youth Art Competition and Cultural Market-place on Saturday, February 24, 2007. This celebration will showcase art, crafts, and music.

Youth artists are being encouraged to compete in the art competition open to any students in grades K-12 who reside in Collin County. Submissions are open to interpretation of the theme: Standing on The Shoulders From The Past. These art collections will highlight and

preserve young artist's creative remembrance and expressions of hope and renewal.

Vendors with products or services that fit the description of being influenced by the African American Diaspora community are being sought for the Cultural Marketplace, which will be combined with the art exhibition to create an atmosphere that promotes an

FROC Black History Page 7

## Bush's State Of The Union Address Takes Subdued Tone



President George W. Bush delivers his State of the Union Address to the nation and a joint session of Congress in the House Chamber of the U.S. Capitol.

Reuters  
President George W. Bush, bearing the weight of six years in office, down in the polls and under fire from all sides, is kicking off his last two years in office with a subdued, more humble tone.

It was in evidence on Tuesday night at his State of the Union speech. Gone was the swagger of

years past, giving way to pledges to work with Democrats who he had kept at arm's length until they took control of the U.S. Congress.

"Our citizens don't much care which side of the aisle we sit on, as long as we are willing to cross that aisle when there is work to be done," Bush said.

State Of The Union Page 6

## Collin County Goes To Austin



Governor Rick Perry

Annual Collin County Legislative Day set for February 19-20

Collin County is driving Texas forward. That's the message area residents and dignitaries want to send the Texas Legislature when they visit the capitol for the annual Collin County Day.

Join this year's delegation as they travel to Austin to meet with legislators, learn about issues, and network with other members of the Collin County business and residential community. The event takes place February 19-20 and includes a keynote speech from Governor

Rick Perry as well as an address from Lt. Governor David Dewhurst.

"Amidst the special interest groups and lobbyists in Austin, it is refreshing and encouraging for me during session to see people from Collin County who work, own businesses and raise families here. These are the individuals I serve and represent, and therefore I need and derive great pleasure from seeing and hearing from them," said State Representative Ken Paxton.

Over 250 people from Collin County have made the trek to Austin in years past, and organizers believe this year's group will be even larger.

"Collin County Day is such an important part of the Legislative Session - it is a time for our friends and constituents from back home to

Collin County To Austin Page 6

## U.S.: Death Rate Lower For Blacks In Prison

AP  
State prison inmates, particularly blacks, are living longer on average than people on the outside, the government said Sunday.

Inmates in state prisons are dying at an average yearly rate of 250 per 100,000, according to the latest figures reported to the Justice Department by state prison officials. By comparison, the overall population of people between ages 15 and 64 is dying at a rate of 308 a year.

For black inmates, the rate was 57 percent lower than among the overall black population — 206 versus 484. But white and Hispanic prisoners



both had death rates slightly above their counterparts in the overall population.

The Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics said 12,129 state prisoners died from 2001 through 2004.

Eight percent were murdered or killed themselves; 2 percent died of alcohol, drugs or accidental injuries and 1

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Gentle Ben: A Giant In His Church, Family And Community

By: Toni Calvin  
On January 24, 2007, Benjamin Franklin Thomas, a pillar of the Douglas community was laid to rest. The services were held at Shiloh Missionary

Baptist Church in Plano, under presiding Pastor, Isiah Joshua, Jr. The final farewell to Benjamin Franklin Thomas was a testimonial of his dedication and service to his family, community and city.

Many were in attendance, including Plano Mayor, Pat Evans and residents of the Douglas community. Mayor Pat Evans gave special remarks during the service and

spoke candidly of Thomas and his contributions to the Douglas community. After beginning her remarks with a quote by Robert Kennedy, Mayor Evans told the congregation "Ben played a pivotal role in the progress of Plano, especially in the Douglass Community. He was small in stature and gentle in spirit." Mayor Evans added that he was a pillar of the community, kind, soft spoken and a patient leader. "He was an example for all to follow and an indelible mark on the community," Evans stated.

Grady Dunbar, a member of Shiloh who has known Mr. Thomas all of his life, spoke of how blessed he is that God put Ben in his life to slow him down. Grady was grateful that he had the opportunity to pat Ben on his

Gentle Ben Page 8



Shiloh M. B. Church Pastor Isiah Joshua, Jr. presents a family member with the church resolution



A representative from the Potter's House Church of Dallas gives a resolution to the family



Plano Mayor Pat Evans gives special remarks to the family and congregation



Pastor Joshua lends support to a family member as she gives a tearful family resolution for 'uncle Ben'

Kroger - A Major Sponsor For The 21st Annual Elite News Martin Luther King Day



(Left to Right): Dr. Delton King, The King Group, Inc., Shontal Thiery, The King Group, Inc., Essene Griffin, Faith Family Academy and Daffney Smith, Faith Family Academy.

Kroger Food Stores was a major sponsor of the 21st Annual Elite News Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Day Parade on January 15, 2007. This is Kroger's fourth year as a participating sponsor of the

parade each year and truly enjoy celebrating MLK Day in the community," says Mr. Huddleston.

Kroger sponsored the "Kick-Off" Breakfast, on the morning of the parade, which was on the morning of the parade, which was held at the African American Museum and refreshments after the parade.

The parade included Dr. Harry Robinson, President & CEO of Dallas African American Museum as Grand Marshal and National Recording Gospel Artist, Minister Kirk Carr as a parade marshal. Students from Faith Family Academy in Dallas also participated on the Kroger float.

For more information regarding this event, please contact The King Group, Inc., at (214) 720-9046.

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LEGAL NOTICE

These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will close on March 2, 2007. You have until August 29, 2007, to redeem any tickets for these games:

Game #621, \$2  
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Game #686, \$1  
**Triple Win**  
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Game #659, \$10  
**World Poker Tour®**  
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Game #722, \$2  
**Joker's Wild Bingo**  
Overall Odds are 1 in 4.21

Game #661, \$5  
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The odds listed here are the overall odds of winning any prize in a game, including immediate prizes. Lottery retailers are authorized to redeem prizes up to \$1,000. Prizes of \$100,000 or more must be claimed at a Lottery Claim Center or by mail with a completed Texas Lottery claim form. However, annuity prizes of \$100,000 or more must be claimed in person at a Lottery Claim Center. Call Customer Service at 1-800-527-3877 for more information. Prizes are subject to change without notice. The Texas Lottery is not responsible for lost or stolen tickets, or for tickets lost due to fire, theft, damage, tampering, or other causes. Prizes and winners agree to abide by all applicable laws, Commission rules, regulations, policies, procedures, instructions, conditions, restrictions, and final decisions of the Executive Director. A scratch-off game may sometimes be sold even when all of the prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 years of age or older to purchase a Texas Lottery ticket. Public #02/06/07. The Texas Lottery Supports Texas Education. © 2007 Texas Lottery Commission. All Rights Reserved.

Around The Town

**Ongoing**  
Films with all black casts or have African-American themes will be featured each Tuesday night during February at the Allen Public Library. On February 6th and 20th, guests will be treated to extremely rare viewing of "Beulah" a television program from the 1950's. For more info call Tom Keener at 214-509-4911.

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

**Free Tenant Legal Workshops** are at 6 p.m. Tuesdays at Douglas Community Center, 1111 Ave. H in Plano. Call 972-941-7174. Alpha Beta Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi a social service cultural sorority meets the second Monday of each month in members home in Frisco, McKinney, and the Plano area. Call 972-473-9089.

**Assistance League of Greater Collin County** meets the third Wednesday of each month. Visit [www.assistance-league-gcc.org](http://www.assistance-league-gcc.org). "EVOLVE," a social networking opportunity for women, meets from 7:30 to 9 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the northwest corner of Park Boulevard and Coit Road, Suite 202. Call 972-267-4452.

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

601 S. Greenville Ave. Applicants must be Collin County residents and income eligible. Call 1-800-906-3045. **Free HIV Testing** offered by the LaSerna Foundation from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. every Thursday at two different locations. For locations and more information, call 214-928-9303.

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

**Kumaasi African Ensemble Dance Classes** from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. West African dance classes held every Saturday at the South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 S. Fitzhugh Ave. For more info call S-Ank Raas at 214-298-5858.

**Late Night** at the Dallas Museum of Art. Join us on the third Friday of each month at 1717 N. Harwood. \$10 for adults, \$7 for senior citizens and \$5 for students with current school I.D. 2 1 4 - 9 2 2 - 1 2 0 0 , [publicprograms@DallasMuseumArt.org](http://publicprograms@DallasMuseumArt.org)

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

**The Yundae Show** the live television taping every Thursday. The doors open at 7pm and the show starts at 7:45pm. There are door prizes and giveaways each week. Tickets are \$15 at the door. Check it out at [www.theyundae.com](http://www.theyundae.com)

**January 25, 2007**  
**A Midsummer Nights Dream**  
Featuring the music of Shakespeare will begin at 8 p.m. at the Charles W. Eisemann Center for the Performing Arts, 2351 Performance Drive. For more info call 972-473-7262.

**Grace Outreach Center**  
Ribbon Cutting at 3:00 p.m. at Grace Outreach Center, New Building "Tyler Trivillion Youth Auditorium", 5000 W. Parker Road (SW corner of Parker & Preston)

**African American Republican Club of Collin County Meeting**  
The meeting will be at the Collin County Republican Headquarters. The meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. Speaker for this month is Charles Wolford, Executive Director, City Library.

**Fiddlisticks**  
Part of the Family Symphony Sundays, will begin at 3pm in the Courtyard Theatre, 1501 Ave. H, Plano. For more info call 972-473-7262.

**Prevention and Solutions for Homelessness-Progress on Dallas' 10 Year Plan**  
Commissioner's Court at 411 Elm Street. Women's Council of Dallas County. Registration 9:30 a.m., program 10-11:30 a.m. FREE. [logleyheidi@grance.org](http://logleyheidi@grance.org).

**Private Eyes**  
A comedy of suspicion in which nothing is ever quite what it seems! Cox Building Playhouse, 1517 H Ave., Plano, TX 75075. 1/25-21/02/07 at 8:00 pm. For more information, visit [www.roverdamaworks.com](http://www.roverdamaworks.com) or call 972-849-0358.

**Beauty and the Beast**  
Jan. 25-27: Newman Smith High School Fine Arts Musical, "Beauty and the Beast," Pauline Keeton Smith Performing Arts Center.

**Winter Musical**  
"A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum." The performance dates and times are Thursday, Jan. 25, at 7 p.m., Friday, Jan. 26, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 27, at 5 p.m. \$10 for adults and \$8 for students. 2007 Eclipse Magazine African

**American Dynamic Lawyers Unveiling**  
Dynamic Lawyer Program, LUQA, 1217 Main St. (Downtown) Dallas, TX 75202, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Tickets: \$25; JLTurner members: \$20.

**January 26, 2007**  
**Blues and Jazz Festival**  
Jan. 26-27 includes a concert by famed saxophone player Leroy "Hog" Cooper, a theatrical performance of Blind Lemon Blues, lectures and a panel discussion. UT Dallas Conference Center, 800 W. Campbell Rd., Richardson at 7:00 p.m. For more info contact krisi.barras@utdallas.edu or 972-883-2972.

**David Batiste and the Gladiator**  
Jan. 26-27 8:00 p.m. \$10. Black Academy of Arts and Letters, 650 S. Griffin. <http://www.tbaal.org/calendar/january07.html>

**Multicultural Carnival**  
Sheffield Primary and Intermediate's Second Annual Multicultural Carnival, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., Sheffield Intermediate Gymnasium. For more info call Angela Shelley, 972-968-6186 office, 214-729-7328 cell, shelleysa@cbisd.edu.

**"Walking on Broadway" - a musical revue**  
Jan. 26 - 27, 7:30 p.m. Performances are \$ 8.00 for general admission. The production takes place in the R. L. Turner cafeteria. For more info contact Michael Hollomon at [hollomon@cbisd.edu](mailto:hollomon@cbisd.edu) or call 972-968-5400.

**January 27, 2007**  
**Comedy For Your Soul**  
Featuring national touring celebrity Christian comedians, will begin at 7 p.m. at the Plaza Theatre, 521 W. State St., Garland. For more info call 866-666-8932 or visit [www.keeplaughing.net](http://www.keeplaughing.net).

**An Evening of Stars: Tribute To Aretha Franklin**  
Event will be held at the African

American Museum 3536 Grand Avenue, Dallas, from 8:00 p.m. - Midnight. Phone: For more info call 972-234-1007.

**January 30, 2007**  
**Jazz**  
Film and discussion sessions, led by outstanding local jazz scholar, Dr. John Murphy of UNT, Central Library's Fine Arts Division, 4th floor Dallas Public Library & Music Library and the Division of Jazz Studies 2:30 p.m. For more info contact tina.murdock@dallasilibrary.org

**Club Generation N.E.X.T.**  
Join us as we set off 2007 with the most X-TREME party of the decade. FREE! 2020 W. Wheatland Rd., Dallas, TX 75232. 9:00 p.m.-until, age 18 and up. Attire: Eccentric Black.

**January 29, 2007**  
**Plano Very Special Arts Festival**  
From 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Plano Centre 2000 East Spring Creek Parkway, Plano. FREE. For more info call 972-941-7272.

**Comedy For Your Soul**  
Youth Ministry Event will be held (TIME) at North Garland Baptist Fellowship, 5840 N. Garland Ave. 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. For more information, call 972-414-1494 or visit [www.keeplaughing.net](http://www.keeplaughing.net).

**Emotions, Expectations and Economics**  
Discussion will include how emotions affect investment decisions, general market expectations and lessons from the last 75 years of U.S. economic history and investment tools and strategies. Taste of the Islands Caribbean Restaurant, 909 W. Spring Creek Pkwy @ Alma, Plano, 7:00 p.m. For more info call Marcia Donaldson @ 972-542-1530.

**The Color of Justice**  
"Separate but Equal" with the landmark Brown vs. Board of Education case. A gripping drama about

Thurgood Marshall's struggle against school segregation. Majestic Theatre, 1925 Elm Street, 10:00 a.m. For more info call 800-497-5007.

**January 30, 2007**  
**The International Women's Club of Dallas**  
This is a monthly luncheon to promote friendship among people from different nations and ethnic backgrounds. Maggiano's Little Italy in Plano TX 10:30 a.m. \$20. For more info call 972-740-5854.

**Special Education Open House**  
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm in the Ranchview Library, 8401 Valley Ranch Parkway East, Irving 75063. Parents of children with special needs are invited to attend the Open House to obtain information about available resources from invited agencies.

**January 31, 2007**  
**Community Board Fair**  
6:00 - 8:00 p.m. hosted by YIP Junior League of Plano will be held at the Junior League of Plano, 5805 Coit Rd., Ste 301, Plano, TX 75093. For more info, call Diane Belgard, 214-240-6283, [diane.belgard@cbdlw.com](mailto:diane.belgard@cbdlw.com) or Sherrri Harring Hawkins, 972-387-8600, [sherrri@donherring.com](mailto:sherrri@donherring.com).

**February 1, 2007**  
**AARP Tax Help**  
Available weekly on Thursdays from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. Carrollton Senior Center, 972-466-4850, Age 55+.

**Art Show**  
7:00 pm.-9:00 pm. every first Thursday of the month, a new featured artist will be showcased at Cafe Izmir. There will be a complimentary champagne... 214-826-7788

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**Paul Hailey**

## Is Black America Ready For A Black President?

A few weeks ago in this space, while talking about the craziness surrounding if Miss America should lose her crown, I posed the question asking if this country was ready for a Miss America named Tamika (1st runner up, Miss California).

It has now been a week since Senator Barack Obama all but formally announced his intention to run for President of the United States in 2008, and what I've read recently has me posing a similar question. Forget the rest of the country; is black America ready to support a black man for President?

I know, on the surface it seems like a senseless question. It's 2007, of course black folks are ready to support a black presidential candidate; and Barack Obama appears to be the most electable black candidate we've seen (Al Sharpton, anyone?). Yet, there are rumblings that a number of black leaders and voters are not ready to embrace Obama's candidacy. "Obama's ambition could bring all of black America down," said state Senator Robert Ford of South Carolina. "If the Democrats lose control of Congress, (in the 2008 general election), we're going to go back and struggle and struggle and struggle."

Not that I know much of anything about state Senator Robert Ford of South Carolina, but aren't black people struggling politically no matter which party has control of Congress?

Black people are a diverse group, we do not all think alike or have the same political preferences. Proof of this is found in the very existence of black registered Republicans. So my expectation is not that all black people would jump lock step behind Obama's candida-

cy simply because he is black. However, I get kind of shaken up by comments like those of David Mack and Bill Cosby.

Mack, a South Carolina state legislator, (what's up with these guys in South Carolina?) and former chairman of the state's black legislative caucus raised concerns about Obama's lack of foreign policy experience and his ability to win in the general election.

"It's nothing against Obama," Mack said, "but we have to weigh all those factors."

For the record, Mack is backing Senator Joseph R. Biden Jr. of Delaware.

Bill Cosby, in what's become his controversial style, told the Chicago Defender last week that the country was ready for a black president, but he suggested Obama might not be the best candidate in 2008.

"I see the African American voter to having to study both Hillary Rodham Clinton and Mr. Obama," he wrote to the paper.

"It goes without saying that President Clinton and Mrs. Clinton have embraced African Americans. By studying both politicians deeply, the African American voter for the first time will not pick a candidate because of any particular idiosyncrasy."

Ahhhh... the Clinton factor. Perhaps the biggest reason some black voters are going to have a hard time supporting Obama's run is their loyalty to Bill Clinton, who has affectionately been dubbed by some as "the first Black President". Real or imagined, Clinton has retained an influence in the black community that lingers to this day. Some black leaders, assuming Hillary Clinton is a political extension of her husband, are asking why they should switch to the relatively untested and unknown Barack Obama?

Additional arguments against supporting Obama range from his non-confrontational stands

on civil rights and affirmative action, to his being a northerner with little or no ties to black churches or traditional black leaders. Debra Dickerson, in Salon magazine, went as far to pose the ridiculous argument that because Barack Obama is not a descendant of African slaves, he is not black.

All of those arguments miss the central point. Elections are about politics. They are, in the simplest of terms, about getting the largest number of people to vote for a particular candidate. Bill Clinton didn't get elected by appealing to the left wing of the Democratic party or black leadership. Bill Clinton broke up Republican dominance in presidential politics by appealing to the moderate factions of both parties. Which is the same thing Barack Obama must do in order to win the 2008 or 2012 election.

I think some blacks are going to have problems supporting Barack Obama because they are stuck in some type of political nostalgia about what is relevant to black voters. In this century, many (not all) of our issues are tied to the economic issues that affect all members of the electorate. By narrowly defining our concerns we are missing the boat on what Obama has termed "a new kind of leadership". What is necessary is a shift in our political paradigm.

"The torch has been passed to this generation, but we haven't always taken it up," Obama recently said. "We haven't pushed the boundaries of what is possible. We have much more work to do."

And that's the answer to the question. Are we ready to support a black man for president? Only those of us that are ready to push the boundaries of what is possible. Just make sure you include me in that group.

Paul Hailey can be reached at phailey@MonTheGazette.com

## Civil Rights Movement Must Continue To Evolve To Keep Its Power

By: Marc H. Morial - NNPA

In light of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday celebration, USA Today recently asked me about the future of the civil rights movement half a century or so after it began. I told the paper the role of the National Urban League and other civil rights groups was evolving to cater to the younger generation, which possesses no memories of a struggle born well before they were.

Today's youth are looking for something different than their parents and grandparents. This is evident in the giving patterns of young minorities, who are more likely to believe that the key to greater equality is greater access to financial power than political power.

According to the City University of New York's Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society, they are more interested in gaining access to Wall Street than marching on Washington. They also tend to support non-profits that emphasize individual attainment and employ a business model of operation.

Instead of fighting for basic rights guaranteed to Americans, we are now fighting for our economic future. There is no doubt that African Americans have made great progress in surmounting past challenges and thriving in the 21st century. Our quality of life has improved as has our future.

In 1960, 20.1 percent of Blacks graduated from high school, which was a little less than half the percentage of Whites. Now, 81.1 percent hold high-school degrees or higher - compared to 86 percent of Whites. High school dropout rates have fallen to nearly one half of what they were in 1975 - 27.3 percent to 15.1 percent in 2004, narrowing the gap with Whites of 13.4 percentage points to three. Since 1970, life expectancy has risen 11.4 years, while that of Whites has increased 7 years.

In The State of Blacks America 2006, the National Urban League found the overall status of Blacks to be at 73 percent of Whites. In terms of health, education and social justice, Blacks were from 74 to 78 percent of Whites and even surpassed Whites in civic engagement. However, economically, they lagged substantially behind at just 56 percent.

Despite educational improvements, the gap in salaries has actually widened since 1960 when median income of Blacks households was roughly \$14,000 less than Whites in 2004 dollars. Now, that difference has expand-

ed to \$21,372 despite a nearly doubling of household income. When it comes to personal wealth, Whites still outperform Blacks - 10 times over.

As I said in my keynote address at our annual conference last July, the idea of expanding the American dream and table to everyone is still relevant now as it was in the 1960s. The fight to sit at the lunch counter was an important one. But what's the use of winning the right to eat at the lunch counter if you cannot afford the meal? Now, the civil rights struggle is more a fight of not only being able to afford lunch but being able to purchase the lunch counter.

There was a time when African-Americans were denied the right to own property. In 2004, home ownership among Blacks hit an all-time high of nearly 50 percent.

For the African American community to achieve economic equality with Whites and be competitive in the global marketplace, it is not enough just to own property - though it's a very good start. We must also be able to maintain and secure that ownership for generations to come. And it is not enough for our children to just graduate high school. To obtain the jobs of the future, they will need to go to college at the very least to acquire the skills of the future and gain the financial freedom we desire for them.

In 1967, at the 11th Convention of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. pondered the question, "Where do we go from here?"

A decade after the birth of the SCLC, Dr. King realized that to keep the movement alive he needed to begin to expand its scope to issues standing in the way of greater equality such as poverty and the Vietnam War, causing consternation within the Johnson administration.

After all, it wasn't just about guaranteeing basic inalienable rights to African Americans in the South even back in the 1960s. It was becoming less a struggle for the rights of Blacks to vote and operate freely within American society. The inner-city ghettos in northern cities emerged out of poor economic conditions - not necessarily out of political circumstance. The riots of the late 1960s occurred in areas whose residents had the right to vote for years and where the first Blacks after Reconstruction won election.

"We made our government write new laws to alter some of

the cruelest injustices that affected us. We made an indifferent and unconcerned nation rise from lethargy and subpoenaed its conscience to appear before the judgment seat of morality on the whole question of civil rights. We gained manhood in the nation that had always called us 'boy.'" Dr. King said before the SCLC's 11th Convention. "But in spite of a decade of significant progress, the problem is far from solved. The deep rumbling of discontent in our cities is indicative of the fact that the plant of freedom has grown only a bud and not yet a flower."

Dr. King realized that economic as well as political empowerment would put the African American community on the track to full equality and prosperity in the United States by Blacks - especially the poor - "the additional weapon of cash" to combat discrimination.

He foresaw a "host of positive psychological effects" that would result from widespread economic security among Blacks.

At a National Urban League forum in Harlem last June discussing the impact of the "n-word," one panelist said part of the reason why the younger generation invokes the word more freely than their elders is that they are not as aware of the racial epithet's history. They don't feel the pain of the word because their elders would rather repress bitter memories of the past than relive them. But that's the last thing we should do in our efforts to move forward to be stronger and better than ever.

When our youth is unaware of what came before, we are undermining their ability to build upon the movement's progress and create a brighter future for future generations. Without those memories, we have no context in which to put our aspirations. While the movement has taken on a new form and will serve new constituents as the United States evolves demographically, we must not forget the reason why we embraced this struggle in the first place.

We must concede that the challenges now faced by the Blacks community are somewhat different from the 1960s. Our youth have our legacy in their hands. We can either engage them and emerge stronger or ignore them and relinquish our power.

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

### Where Do You Want To Go Today?

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

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

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

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

## Edifying Flicks? Fat Chance!

By: Jenice Armstrong  
WHAT'S SO funny about a fat black woman?

And what's so funny about a black man dressed as a fat black woman?

A movie poster promoting Eddie Murphy's new flick, "Norbit," got me on this topic. On the poster, a nerdy guy, played by Murphy, is shown lying underneath a hugely overweight woman - who happens also to be Murphy dressed in drag and a rather realistic-looking fat suit.

I haven't seen the movie. But given Murphy's superb comedic chops, I'm sure that "Norbit," which opens Feb. 9, will be full of laughs - even if most wind up being cheap fat jokes. In the film, the lead male character is coerced into marrying an overbearing, morbidly obese woman. Afterwards, he spots a gorgeous woman, portrayed by Thandie Newton, whom he falls for and then tries to figure out how to be free of his supersized wife.

In a trailer promoting the film, Murphy's female character goes to a beach, where a lifeguard asks her if she's wearing bottoms with her bikini bra. In response, she lifts her expansive belly to reveal a skimpy pair of briefs that had been hidden by her

substantial girth. Hardee har har.

Besides being sophomoric, there's something decidedly misogynistic about this kind of humor. Not to mention that it's also offensive, particularly to overweight people. Didn't we get our fill of this kind of crass "comedy" last year with that disaster "Big Momma's House 2," starring Martin Lawrence?

Meanwhile, actor Tyler Perry was raking in the bucks with "Madea's Family Reunion" in which he, too, donned padding to portray a wise-crackin', plus-sized matriarch.

But back to my original question: What's so funny about a fat black woman?

There's nothing new about male actors donning drag for laughs. During his heyday, comedian Milton Berle made this into an art form, as did Flip Wilson with his character Geraldine. And there was Dustin Hoffman in "Tootsie." But something else seems to be going on with this current crop of movies spoofing plus-sized women. For perspective, I posed the question to Mel Watkins, author of "On the Real Side: A History of African-American Comedy" (Lawrence Hill Books, \$16.95), who pointed

out that, "There's a humorous tradition about aggressive black women. It has to do with that Sapphire image, which goes way back."

"It goes back to the 19th-century minstrel shows, even when the minstrel shows didn't have black performers. They would do it in blackface," he said. "It showed black women to be unattractive and the black man to be weak because he was controlled by his woman."

"It's been part of Americana for a hundred years and will remain as such because nobody seems to be interested in getting rid of it," continued Watkins, who also wrote "Stepin Fetchit: The Life and Times of Lincoln Perry" (Pantheon, \$26.95).

In movies' early days, Stepin Fetchit was a slow-witted, shiftless black character who, despite his success at the box office, came to symbolize the stereotypical ways that African-Americans have been portrayed in film.

"Stepin Fetchit didn't have a choice. These people making these movies [today] have a choice," Watkins pointed out. Too bad it's one that more black actors can't say no to.

# Financial Focus - Time For New Year's Financial Resolutions



Marcia Donaldson

Once again, it's time to make New Year's resolutions. If you can succeed in your efforts to exercise more, travel, learn a new language or any of the other worthy goals you

might have, you can expand your horizons and enjoy a better quality of life. But if you want to make an even bigger impact on your future, you also may want to make - and keep - some financial resolutions.

As with all resolutions, the financial ones are easier to keep if they don't force you to drastically change your lifestyle. So, with that in mind, here are a few attainable financial resolutions to consider for 2007:

- Increase your retirement plan contributions. If your salary goes up this year, increase the percentage of your earnings that you defer into your 401(k) plan (or your 403(b) if you work for a nonprofit agency, or your 457(b) if you work for a state,

county, city or other governmental agency).

With tax-deferred growth, pretax contributions and a variety of investment choices, these plans are great retirement savings vehicles. Plus, since the money is taken out before it even reaches your check, you won't really "miss" your increased payments. And in 2007, the contribution limit for these plans has increased to \$15,500. (If you're 50 or older, you can contribute an additional \$5,000.)

- "Max out" on your IRA. In 2007, you can put up to \$4,000 into a traditional or Roth IRA, or \$5,000 if you are 50 or older. If you cannot come up with the maximum amount at once, try dividing your IRA contribution

into 12 equal monthly payments that are automatically withdrawn from a checking or savings account.

• Build adequate cash reserves. Try to build a sufficient cash cushion - about six to 12 months' worth of living expenses - to handle any unexpected financial needs, such as a major car repair or an expensive new appliance. By building an emergency fund, you won't need to tap into your investments. And by giving your investments the potential to grow as long as possible, you'll accelerate your chances for progress toward your long-term financial goals.

- Review your investment portfolio. It's a good idea to review your investment portfolio

at least once a year. Over the course of 12 months, your life can change in many ways; e.g., new spouse, new house, new child, new job, etc. And if your life changes significantly, your investment goals may also change. But even if your circumstances haven't changed much in a year, you should review your holdings to make sure your investment mix reflects your individual risk tolerance, time horizon and long-term objectives. A financial professional can help you review your investments to make sure you are still on track.

• Don't take a "time out" from investing. In every year, you can find any number of events - war, political turmoil, natural disasters,

market volatility, etc. - that might motivate you to "take a break" from investing. But the most successful investors stay invested, no matter how gloomy the news may be. So, in 2007, look beyond the headlines. Instead, focus on quality investments and your long-term investment strategies.

If you can achieve these New Year's resolutions, you'll go a long way toward potentially improving your financial situation in 2007 - and beyond.

Article contributed by Marcia Donaldson, a licensed Investment Representative with Edward Jones Investments.

You can contact her at (972) 542-1530.

## FCC Commissioner Page 1

people of color make up over 30 percent of our country's population, a study from Free Press last fall tells us that they own only 3.26 percent of all broadcast television stations. Unpack these numbers a little further and you'll find that African-Americans own only 1.3 percent of all stations. And it's sad to say, we're not making progress.

"There has been no improvement in the level of minority ownership since 1998, even as the total universe of stations has increased by 12 percent. Truth is that there has been a sharp drop in the total numbers of African-American stations since 1998 - by 30 percent. This isn't just a problem. It's a national disgrace."

In his presentation last week, Commissioner Cops described how African-Americans are being ill-served.

"Today, we gather to talk about equality and justice in our broadcast media," he began. "Neither equality nor

justice exists there yet. We're not even moving in the right direction toward equality and justice. Minority issues don't get decent coverage.

Minorities don't own enough media. At its core, this issue is about civil rights, and one of those rights is accessible media that reflect and nourish the diverse genius of our nation."

A second commissioner, Jonathan S. Adelstein, generally agreed with Cops, noting that the FCC regulates the airwaves because they belong to the public, not profit-driven media conglomerates.

Jesse L. Jackson, Sr., president and CEO of Rainbow/PUSH, invited the commissioners to a follow-up meeting he plans to hold in Chicago within the next two months to draw more attention to the issue.

Complaining about television news and talk show programs that are "all day, all night - all White," Jackson agreed with the commissioners that the public must become more aggressive in insisting that the airwaves

become more diverse.

"We must make media access a mass movement," Jackson told those attending the session. "For too long, this has been a small movement. One hundred people at an FCC hearing may be more important than 50,000 marching at HHS (the Department of Health and Human Services)."

Cops said the FCC has been under pressure from the industry and federal officials to relax its rules limiting how many media outlets a company can own in a community.

He explained, "It's not just a question of preventing bad rules now, it's going back and revisiting bad old rules that got us in this (expensive deleted) mess in the first place. And that's the problem of reinvigorating the public interest obligations of broadcasters. Every single one of them has gone by the boards since 1980. There's nothing left but a hollow, hollow shell."

Four years ago, in a move widely viewed as allowing media conglomerates to expand their power in local markets, the FCC

passed new rules that would allow one corporation the right to own up to three television stations, eight radio stations, the cable television system, the daily newspaper and the largest Internet provider in a single community.

The public was outraged, with more than 3 million registering their disapproval with the FCC and its chairman, Michael Powell. A suit was filed and consequently, a federal appeals court rescinded those proposed regulations.

"The Third Circuit sent those misguided rules back to us with instructions to try again and get it right this time," recalled Cops, who voted against the proposed change. "And it is interesting that one of the principal shortfalls the court focused on like a laser was the way those proposed rules sidelined and shortchanged minority ownership."

Cops said media ownership has a direct bearing on how people of color are portrayed in the media.

"And we wonder why the depictions of minorities in our media are so often distorted? We wonder why issues of importance to our many diverse communities don't get the attention they need if they are ever to be resolved? Let's be frank: ownership matters. Truth be told, ownership rules. Unless and until we do something to increase minority ownership, our communications sectors will continue to under-serve the great Promise of America."

Another panelist, communications attorney Thomas Hart of Washington, D.C., recommended that the media be more broadly defined and not be limited to traditional TV and radio stations.

Whether it is old or new media, citizens need to under-

stand that the public is poorly served by media consolidation, Commissioner Cops said.

"This is going to be a heavy lift, let's face up to that right now," Cops warned. "Lots of money, lots of influence are on the consolidators' side. But we have the people. This is not red state against blue, not Democrat versus Republican, not liberal against conservative, not section versus section."

"This is grassroots, All-American, where people live. And it is, in an important way, the latest chapter in the long and often painful struggle to create equal opportunity. This issue is really a new civil rights battleground for America, and we all know that civil rights have to be fought for by every generation." NNPA

# Unemployment Hits 5-Year Low

Texas' unemployment rate dropped nearly 1 percent from a year ago.

According to the Texas Workforce Commission's monthly labor force report, the state's December unemployment rate fell to 4.5 percent, compared with last December's 5.2 percent. The number is also down two-tenths of a percent from November's 4.7 percent.

The current seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is the lowest in five years and matches the U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 4.5 percent.

Texas' economy grew by 15,600 jobs in December. During the last 12 months, the Texas economy grew by 213,200 jobs, with a growth rate of 2.2 percent.

Texas employers have added jobs for 27 consecutive months, according to the state.

"For Texans seeking employment, now is the time to find work," said TWC Commissioner Ronny Congleton. "The tremendous job growth means many opportunities in a variety of industries."

Locally, the Dallas-Fort Worth area's hiring trends are mirroring that of the state, and perhaps even driving much of the state's job growth, according to one staffing firm.

"The market is hot," said Robert Bennett, branch manager in staffing firm Robert Half International's Dallas office.

Bennett said a lot of the firm's Dallas-area clients plan to continue hiring in the first quarter, although hiring is like to be a little slower than it was in the fourth quarter of 2006.

Robert Half is projecting 2007 hiring activity to be strong, not only in the health care and finance industries, but also in the real estate, insurance, and construction

industries, Bennett said.

"A lot of our clients are having difficulty finding skilled professionals," he said. "Competition for top candidates is definitely out there."

As a result, area firms that

previously took four weeks to hire a candidate are hiring candidates in a week because of the stiff competition, Bennett went on to say. In addition firms are bending the rules a bit by offering premium compensation,

sign-on bonuses and enhanced benefits packages, he added.

The TWC report also showed a 4.8 percent drop in claims for unemployment compensation in December compared to a year ago.




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# Arts & Entertainment

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## Dreamgirls' Gets Most Oscar Nods: Jennifer Hudson, Eddie Murphy, Djimon Hounsou, Will Smith And Forest Whitaker Nominated

The Oscar noms are out this morning and to no one's surprise "Dreamgirls" garnered the most nods.

The Motown inspired production received a total of 8 nominations. But what's shocking is that the film failed to earn a best picture nomination.

With "Dreamgirls" out of the running, Academy voters will choose between "Babel," "The Departed," "Letters From Iwo Jima," "Little Miss Sunshine" and "The Queen" for best picture.

As expected, Eddie Murphy and Jennifer Hudson were both



nominated for best supporting actor and actress, respectively for their roles in "Dreamgirls."

Murphy will face "Blood Diamond" star Djimon Hounsou in the supporting category, while Forest Whitaker in "The Last King of Scotland" and Will Smith in "The Pursuit of Happyness" received best actor nominations.

Whitaker and Hudson are the favorites to win their categories say Oscar watchers.

The 79th Academy Awards will be telecast live from the Kodak Theater in Hollywood on Sunday, Feb 25 at 5pm Pacific/8pm Eastern on ABC-TV.

## Q-Tip Ushering In Creative 'Renaissance'

Having toured last year with his A Tribe Called Quest mates for the first time since 2000, Q-Tip is back on the solo beat. The Union Motown artist is gearing up for the spring release of "The Renaissance."

Q-Tip put together a hip-hop band for project, but, according to the New York-based rapper, it's not a band simply in the sense of everyone just playing an instrument.

"I wanted a hip-hop sonic feel, something pure to the sound of hip-hop with real drums, real emotion and people taking solos," he tells Billboard. "In that sense



this record feels like we're moving in a new direction ... something

hip-hop should do."

Q-Tip is steering clear of too many guest combinations. ("Sometimes guests don't really warrant an appearance.") But thus far, he has lined up an intriguing threesome: D'Angelo, Common and OutKast's Andre 3000.

Also percolating is the first official release, with bonus tracks, of the 2001 album "Kamaal the Abstract," which was shelved by Arista. Q-Tip now owns the album, and will perform tracks from it when he hits the road on behalf of "The Renaissance."

## Motivational Rap Album Encourages Youth To "Stay Driven!"

Pursuing your Purpose, Keep your Eye on The Prize, is the hook to the hit single



"What the P for" which has just been released from the Stay Driven Soundtrack presented by TrackMakers. Written by Marcus Parker featuring Blu from last season's American Idol, "What the P for" has been called a breathe of fresh air to hip-hop lovers who have been begging for music that could not only make you move your head but also bring a positive

message. With lyrics like "To Paint a Positive Picture to Produce the next generation of

Winners," "What the P for" also displays hip-hop creativity with MP being challenged to write a song that made since, while still using over 50 words starting with P.

The song which has spring-boarded to popularity in Texas thanks to the foresight of DJ. Steve Nice of Dallas' number one hip-hop station K104.5, and Adrian Scott of Beaumont's Magic 102.5, who both felt that their listeners would receive a street-credible production laced with Parker's flow and words of wisdom. Available at CD Baby (www.cdbaby.com/trackmakers), the world's largest distributor of independent music online, the Soundtrack has already started to sell downloads in Europe and Japan.

While being inspirational this

soundtrack is full of urban truth. Featuring, the cutting edge production of the TrackMakers, The Stay Driven Soundtrack is a welcomed alternative to what currently passes for good music and will surely leave its mark in hip-hop history. Inspired by Marcus Parker's best-selling book, The Product which sold independently to public schools, churches, and boot-camps the Stay Driven Soundtrack is simply the answer to what the thousands of young people requested from the Port Arthur, TX native who speaks regularly at public schools about overcoming adversity by sharing his personal testimony. The demand for the positive message turned Parker to the music industry to present an album with a positive message as well as powerful production and today's hottest underground artist.

To preview the album: www.cdbaby.com/trackma

## Alicia Keys Offers College Scholarships

Alicia Keys wants to help talented youngsters go to college, so the Grammy award winner is offering \$5,000 scholarships to students from four cities.

"We're just looking for stand-out students who are definitely college-bound and need a little bit of help financially to really achieve their dreams," Keys said.

The four scholarship winners will be selected from Jacksonville, New Orleans,

Atlanta and New York City's Harlem neighborhood.

The Open Doors Scholars Program is part of Frum Tha Ground Up, a Jacksonville-based non-profit organization started by Keys' road manager, DJ. Walton, who went to college in Jacksonville.

In return for their scholarships, the winners will represent the organization at school appear-

ances and must perform community service each semester.



## Isaiah Washington Meets With Gay Rights Organization

Washington has met with a number of gay activists to address his recent use of a homophobic slur in reference to co-star T.R. Knight.

On Monday, the actor sat down with leaders from the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation and the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network, reports E! During the meeting, all parties were said to have discussed ways in which Washington can discourage prejudice and intolerance against the gay community.

"Isaiah understands that he is going to be judged by more than

just his apology," GLAAD president Neil Giuliano said after confereing with Washington and GLSEN executive director Kevin Jennings in Los Angeles. "He knows that today's meeting represents-will demonstrate his sincerity in becoming part of the solution to anti-gay bigotry.

"We welcome the opportunity to work with him in the coming months to help improve the cultural climate faced by LGBT people across this country."

Isaiah Washington



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# DCCCD Read-In Celebrates Literacy, African-American Writers And Children's Books

Last year, participants in the Dallas County Community College District's citywide African American Read-In celebrated the life of stellar actor Ossie Davis as well as literacy and African-American writers. This year, children and books that they love will take center stage during the family-oriented event that will focus on the theme "Light Up Your Life with Reading!"

On Sat., Feb. 3, community members are invited to attend the 2007 DCCCD African American Read-In from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Majestic Theatre in downtown Dallas. The program is free and open to the general public - families in particular, and children ages 8 and older. Seating is limited, however, and usually fills early because parents,

youngsters and friends traditionally flock to the event.

This year's featured guest reader is award-winning children's author Christopher Paul Curtis, who received both the Newbery Medal and Coretta Scott King Award in 2000 for *Bud, Not Buddy*. The noted author will read from his works and is celebrating the January 2007 release of his newest book, *Mr. Chickee's Messy Mission*.

"The eighth African American Read-In celebrates family reading and learning, particularly books written for younger readers," said Carla Ranger, executive director of DCCCD's office of educational partnerships and founder of the Dallas African American Read-In. "Through the read-in, we share the joys of literature and the legacy of African-American writers with

members of the community, creating a celebration of families and



DCCCD African American Read-In featured presenter Christopher Paul Curtis

friends, based on books, stories, poetry and essays."

DCCCD is partnering with a number of new and returning sponsors who represent both

Dallas-based and national organizations, plus businesses, community groups and news outlets to present the event.

Ranger added, "We would like everyone to know that the Dallas African American Read-In is only the beginning of fun for our entire community - a way to kick off Black History Month activities, to present an original program and to feature the writings of African-American authors. We encourage schools, organizations and families to hold their own read-ins throughout February to support literacy, to learn and to teach others about African-American writers. The project supports all of these month-long activities."

"Light Up Your Life with Reading," this year's production and event theme, will treat audience members to a colorful selection

of staged readings and interpretations of works written by and for African Americans; an unveiling of the new Black History postage stamp; a Writer's Walk; and other literary activities. "We hope to inspire children, young people and their families to use literature as a tool to brighten their world," said Ranger.

Special guest Christopher Paul Curtis will read from several of his works, which include *The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963*; *Bud, Not Buddy*; *Bucking the Sarge*; *Mr. Chickee's Funny Money*; and his January 2007 release, *Mr. Chickee's Messy Mission*. The production will feature area actors and performers, including the Dallas Black Dance Theater, New Arts Six, the Gospel Harmonizers, Lyndale the Literary Lion, and several children and youth poets

featured in the Dallas Public Library's "Express Yourself" contest. Ronald McDonald also is scheduled to appear and read to children.

Audience members will receive free T-shirts, canvas bags, books and other literacy incentives. "The real treasure they will take with them, however, will be the words - both written and spoken - shared by authors, readers, artists and actors, plus friendships that grow each year as a result of the read-in," said Ranger. "DCCCD's African American Read-In is an extravaganza of creativity, culture and community."

Visit [www.readin.dcccd.edu](http://www.readin.dcccd.edu) for details; or call Ranger at (214) 860-2005 or Allison Neal at (214) 616-2965 for additional information.

## State Of The Union Page 1

A crisis-laden presidency, barely under way when the Sept. 11 attacks shook America and continuing through wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, has taken its toll on Bush, 60. The hair is grayer, the face more wrinkled. "What has been remarkable to me is that the responsibilities of the job quickly show up in the eyes, expressions and lines on presidential visages. Bush didn't have that look, until now," said Linda Fowler, a professor of government at Dartmouth College.

Bush's main goal is to persuade Democrats and

Republicans on Capitol Hill to give him another chance to stabilize Iraq. He also pushed plans aimed at making health care more affordable and reducing America's dependence on foreign oil.

New York Democratic Sen. Charles Schumer, a frequent Bush critic, told NBC's "Imus in the Morning" show that Bush looked tired at the big speech.

"Usually, you can really feel the excitement in the room, whether you agree with the president or not. This one: totally flat," Schumer said.

Critics aside, Bush might take some comfort from a snap CNN/Opinion Research Corp.

poll conducted after his speech. It found that more than three-quarters of Americans who watched the address had a positive reaction to it, although the reaction was more muted from that in past years.

"I found Bush's subdued tone a great deal more effective than swagger that has characterized several of his previous State of the Union addresses and may even contribute to a modest lift in his approval ratings," said Stephen Hess, a professor of media and public affairs at George Washington University.

In contrast to Bush's subdued tone, Vice President Dick Cheney

was combative in a CNN interview, dismissing as "hogwash" criticism that the Bush administration led the United States recklessly into war in Iraq and had lost credibility.

Bush managed to work successfully with Democrats when he was governor of Texas. Will he be able to do it this time?

Republican strategist Scott Reed said Bush's appeal for bipartisanship was important. "It's a new day in town, there's a couple new sheriffs in the Congress, and it was important to show that he can work with them and govern," Reed said.

The day after he made his plea

on Iraq, a resolution against his plan to send 21,500 more U.S.

troops to Iraq passed on a largely party-line vote in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee with only one Republican voting for it. The resolution now goes to the full Senate for a vote next week.

The congressional resolutions are not binding, but represent an embarrassment for Bush and would make him look politically isolated.

His domestic ideas drew skepticism, but not an overwhelming rejection. Some lawmakers saw them as a good place to start negotiations.

Former Bush press secretary Ari Fleischer, a strong supporter

of his former boss, said he believed Bush's subdued tone came from a recognition that his proposals face a tough road ahead in a Democratic-controlled Congress.

"I think it's because he's savvy enough to recognize that now that he's said these things, with a Democratic Congress the prospects for getting things done are relatively small," Fleischer said. "Unlike last year when he was unpopular, he at least had hopes that a Republican Congress would take action."

## Collin County To Austin Page 1

come to Austin and see, first hand, the legislative process and learn what really happens inside the State Capitol," said State Senator Florence Shapiro. "And, it's always nice to see the friendly faces of home. I am so proud to host my neighbors from Collin County in Austin, and to showcase all that North Texas

has to offer - from rural charm to bustling cities, booming economic development and technology, and countless retailers, restaurants, and other attractions. And, it gives people an opportunity to share their thoughts and concerns with legislators as a whole, and to watch the process in action."

The host hotel for Collin County Day is the Austin

Hilton, located at 500 East 4th Street. On site event check-in begins Monday, February 19th at 11 a.m. The opening lunch will feature Governor Rick Perry. The afternoon's agenda includes a panel that will discuss various pertinent topics relating to Collin County's issues, a concise presentation on protocol when meeting with elected officials, visits to the Capitol, and a

special reception at the Austin Club for our legislative delegation featuring keynote speaker Lt. Governor David Dewhurst. Tuesday's program will begin with a breakfast - featuring keynote speaker Ross Ramsey, Editor of Texas Weekly - at the Austin Hilton before the delegation makes its way to the Capitol for elected official visits and recognition in the Senate

and House Chambers.

"I believe it is very important to participate in Collin County Day because it allows the citizen to get a little taste of the whole legislative process. It is also a good way to begin to build relationships with your elected officials, not only in Austin but locally as well, as you are visiting Austin with your County

Commissioners, City

Councilmen, and School Board Trustees. Plus it is a lot of fun," said State Representative Jodie Laubenberg.

To register for the event please contact the Plano Chamber of Commerce at Phone: 972-424-7547 or [info@planochamber.org](mailto:info@planochamber.org).

## Death Rate In Prison Page 1

percent of the deaths could not be explained, the report said.

The rest of the deaths - 89 percent - were due to medical reasons. Of those, two-thirds of inmates had the medical problem before they were sent to prison.

Medical problems that were most common among both men and women in state pris-

ons were heart disease, lung and liver cancer, liver diseases and AIDS-related causes.

But the death rate among men was 72 percent higher than among women. Nearly one-quarter of the women who died had breast, ovarian, cervical or uterine cancer.

Four percent of the men who died had prostate or testicular cancer.

More than half the inmates 65 or older who died in state prisons were at least 55 when they were admitted to prison.

State prison officials reported that 94 percent of their inmates

who died from an illness had been evaluated by a medical professional for that illness, and 93 percent got medication for it.

Eighty-nine percent had gotten X-rays, MRI exams, blood tests and other diagnostic work, state prison officials told the bureau.

## Career Opportunities -

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

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Home Page: [www.plano.gov](http://www.plano.gov)  
FAX (972) 941-7239  
AA / EOE / ADA

## KWRD/KSKY PROMOTION DIRECTOR

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

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

Send resume and cover letter to [promotions@thetwofdm.com](mailto:promotions@thetwofdm.com)

KWRD and KSKY are an equal opportunity employer owned and operated by Salem Communications Corporation.

## TBAAL'S Youth String Orchestra And Children's Chorus Auditions



The Black Academy of Arts and Letters (TBAAL) is auditioning talented youth from the ages of 12 - 18 for its Children's Chorus and Youth String Orchestra. Youth String dates are Friday, February 9, 2007, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. and Saturday, February 10, 2007, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Children's Chorus dates are Friday, February 2, 2007, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. and Saturday, February 3, 2007, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Youth Sting Orchestra first rehearsal will be Saturday, March 3, 2007 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Children's Chorus first rehearsal will be Thursday, March 1, 2007, 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

For more information, please call TBAAL between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 214-743-2440.

## HOBBY LOBBY Store Management Opportunities

Hobby Lobby is a leader in the Arts & Crafts industry with 381 stores located in 30 states.

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[www.hobbylobby.com](http://www.hobbylobby.com)

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**Sister Tarpley**

*This is the beginning of a New Year, a new page for you to write your life history; to start fresh, making new friends, cultivating a stronger relationship with God and mankind. I was told that a preacher had said that instead of making new resolutions (a firm decision to do something or the process of resolving something) each year, do a revolution (rebellion or revolt) against doing wrong. Don't make excuses for not doing the right thing or for not helping to build the Kingdom of God.*

"Each of us finds our meaning and functions as a part of His body," Romans 12:5. The question is not if you're going to give your life for something - the question is what? Is it sports, a hobby, fame, or wealth? None of these bring lasting satisfaction - not one!

The Bible teaches that "Service" is the pathway to joy and fulfillment! It's through ministry that we find meaning. As we serve God's purposes, our lives take on eternal importance. Paul writes, "All this makes you more significant, not less - because of what you are a part of. 1 Corinthians 12:14, 19).

If we aren't involved in something greater than ourselves then we merely exist, because life is meant for ministry. God wants us to learn to love and serve others unselfishly. He wants us to make a difference in His world.

**Stop Making Excuses**

He wants to work through us; ultimately what matter is not how long we live, but how effectively we live! If we are not involved in any form of service today, what's our excuse? **Abraham and Sara** were old when God told them that they were going to have a child. **Jacob**

**Zacchaeus** was crooked. **Thomas** had doubts. **Paul** had poor health and **Timothy** was timid. That's quite a variety of misfits, yet God used each of them - and He will use us too, if we stop making excuses.

So many times in life we allow fear to stop us in our tracks; the sad thing is we don't always recognize that we are afraid. We find excuses and rationalizations. We create responsibilities, true and false, that we must look after before we can move forward. We create challenges and obstacles so real in our minds that they manifest in our lives. Behind it all is fear. Fear that we are not good enough. Fear we won't be liked. Fear that if we do it once, someone will ask us to do it again and we won't be able to. What are our excuses? Who or what is stopping us? How many times do we talk ourselves out of what we say we really want? What are we afraid of? So often we limit God. We get stuck in our belief and we think that God is struck too. We believe that the one who created the earth, sun, stars, mountains, rivers, oceans, and trees has nothing left to give. How long will it take us to realize we have an unlimited capacity with the universal bank? Our prayers make the withdrawals. Our faith is the deposit.



**Picture of The Week**  
Sister Ora Roberts and Elder Philip White, Pastor of Love Chapel COGIC

was insecure when it came to his brother. **Leah** was unattractive (she was second best to her sister, Rachel). **Joseph** was abused (by his own brothers). **Moses** stuttered, yet he spoke boldly for God. **Gideon** was poor. **Samson** was co-dependent. **Rehab** was immoral. **David** had an affair resulting in all kinds of family problems. **Elijah** was suicidal. **Jeremiah** was depressed. **Jonah** was reluctant. **Naomi** was a widow. **John the Baptist** was eccentric to say the least. **Peter** was impulsive. **Martha** worried a lot. **The Samaritan woman** had several failed marriages.

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

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

**FROC Black History Page 1**

informative, educational, and cultural exchange.

FROC was started for the primary purpose for residents of color to connect, interact, build stronger relationships, learn and grow in an atmosphere of community and celebration.

FROC meets on a monthly basis to discuss business, political and social opportunities in the city of Frisco, and strives to emphasize how working together can affect change and make an economical impact within the community. The organization will engage in civic and social activities, fundraisers, scholar-

ships, entrepreneurial conferences and workshops, and networking events throughout the year.

For additional information on FROC, youth art competition guidelines, and/or vendor and sponsorship opportunities, please email **FROC\_TX@yahoo.com**.

**COALITION OF CHURCHES IN PRISON MINISTRY**

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

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

**Coalition of Churches In Prison Ministry**  
Rev. Isaac Johnson, Coordinator  
P.O. Box 225863  
Dallas, TX 75222-5863  
972-235-6432 or 214-632-6519

**HILL CHAPEL CME CHURCH**

February 10, 2007 @ 6 pm  
We cordially invite you to join us as we celebrate our mortgage burning. There will be lots of Food and fun for everyone.

For more information contact Verna Duxworth @ 972-423-4090

**Hill Chapel CME Church**  
Rev. Clarence Ford, Jr., Pastor  
1113 Avenue I  
Plano, TX 75074  
972-423-4090

**FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALLEN**

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

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

January 27, 2007 from 9 am to 1 pm  
You will be pleased and spiritually fed as we honor GOD with a Praise Dance by Sister Brittany Thomas from Little Bethel Baptist Church. Rev. Lisa Autry, Co-Founder of Erene Christian Fellowship in Richardson, TX, will speak on, "A Woman Transformed: The Woman

at the Well." Minister Veronica Perry, Co-Pastor of True Image Ministry in Dallas, TX, will speak on, "Women Working and Worshiping: Mary and Martha." Our own First Lady Thisha Stafford, will speak on, "A Woman of Courage: Queen Esther."

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

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

For more info contact Sis. Gray @ 214-495-0544 or Sis. Beacham @ 972-809-3533.

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

**FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS MINISTRIES, INC. (FOBCO)**

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

For more information call Sis. Joel Anderson @ 214-723-4828.

Fellowship of Believers Ministries  
Bishop Gregory Crawford  
Founder and Senior Pastor  
501 Wynewood Village, #423  
Dallas, TX 75224  
214-372-3624

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

January 27, 2007 from 9 am to 4 pm  
We will host a Small Business Grant Writing Seminar @ Ryan's Grill, Buffet and Bakery, 900 Tripp Road at (Hwy 80E & Galloway), Mesquite, TX. It is open to individuals, organizations and churches; we will cover all aspects of starting a small business. The seminar will be taught by Annette Evans Smith, Eric Edison, and Edward Smith.

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

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

**PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVERS FOR COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE (PACE)**

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

For more information contact Roxanne Forster @ 972-416-8148.

NAACP Garland Branch  
P.O. Box 460944  
Garland, TX 75046-0944  
972-381-5044, Box 5

**FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS MINISTRIES, INC. (FOBCO)**

January 28, 2007 @ 8 pm  
We are sponsoring an African American Read-In. Bring the family to the Carrollton Library @ Josey Lane Ranch to hear selections being read by African American Authors; experience great stories and story tellers. Refreshments will be served.

For more information call Sis. Joel Anderson @ 214-723-4828.

Fellowship of Believers Ministries  
Bishop Gregory Crawford  
Founder and Senior Pastor  
501 Wynewood Village, #423  
Dallas, TX 75224  
214-372-3624

For more information call Sis. Joel Anderson @ 214-723-4828.

For more information, call 972-381-5044, Box 5.

NAACP Garland Branch  
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**Church Directory**

**Temple of Faith Christian Chapel C.M.E. Church**  
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Sunday Worship Experience - 8:00 am & 10:45 am  
Wednesday Bible Study - 12:00 Noon & 7:00 pm  
14120 Noel Road • Dallas, TX 75254  
972-239-1120 (Office) • 972-239-5925 (Fax)  
templeoffaith\_cmc@sbcglobal.net (Email)  
Dr. Jerome E. McNeil, Jr., Pastor  
Healthy Beginnings Child Development Center - 972-404-1412

**Faithway Fellowship Baptist Church**  
Of Hamilton Park  
8219 Bunche Dr. Dallas, TX 75243  
Church Office: (972) 792-0239  
Pastor's Office: (972) 792-0240  
Service Times  
Sunday School.....9:45AM  
Morning Worship .....11:00AM  
Wednesday Bible Study .....7:00PM  
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HEAR PASTOR SAM DAILY ON: "TRUTH MADE SIMPLE" KGGK 1040 AM MONDAY - FRIDAY @ 5:25pm - 5:30pm

**FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALLEN**  
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Sunday School ..... 9:45 am  
Sunday Morning Worship/Children's Church ..... 11:00 am  
Wednesday Prayer/Bible Study ..... 7:00 pm  
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**St. Luke A.M.E. Church (aka - SLAME)**  
"Where we slay dem devils and serve up Jesus"  
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Email: slamechurch@aol.com  
Sunday  
8:45 a.m. Church School  
9:45 a.m. Praise & Worship  
10:15 a.m. Worship Experience  
Tuesday  
7:15 pm. Bible Study  
Wednesday  
6:30 pm. Prayer Service  
7:00 pm. Church School  
Thursday  
7:00 pm. Choir Rehearsal  
Reverend Charles E. Franklin, Pastor

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

**Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church**  
920 E. 14th Street Plano, TX  
Pastor Isiah 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

**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.saintmarkbc.com • stmarkmissionary@aol.com

## Jarvis Christian College - Ninth Annual Heritage Banquet

Jarvis Christian College in conjunction with the Dallas Alumni Chapter will host its Ninth Annual Heritage Scholarship Banquet at the Fairmont Hotel in downtown Dallas - 1717 North Akard Street. The event will begin with a Silent Auction at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Banquet at 7:00 p.m.

The Reverend Dr. Denny D. Davis, Servant, St. John Baptist Church, Grand Prairie, Texas will be the Keynote Speaker. The Reverend Dr. Ralph D. West, Senior Pastor, Church Without Walls, Houston, Texas will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award. Mistress of Ceremonies will be Dr. Sheron Patterson, Senior Pastor, Highland Hills United Methodist Church, Dallas, Texas.

Our goal for the 2007

Heritage Scholarship Banquet is to raise \$150,000.00. To achieve this goal, we are reaching out to



Reverend Dr. Denny D. Davis, Pastor, St. John Baptist Church

receive support from alumni, former students, churches, corporations, small businesses and friends of Jarvis Christian College.

Since 1912, the College has provided quality education to its

many deserving students. We invite you to participate in the Banquet by purchasing a ticket, a table, an ad in the Souvenir Program Booklet or contributing any amount to the Patron's List. Heritage Award Honorees include Mrs. Mae Beck, Mr. Wynn Watkins, Ms. Nancy Shaw, Mrs. Ada Willis, Rev. Claude Maples, Mrs. Clara Dewberry, Ms. Nina Williams and Mr. Darryl Davis. The Lifetime Achievement Honoree is Rev. Ralph Douglas West Senior Pastor, Brookhollow Baptist Church, Houston, Texas.

Tickets are \$100 per person. Sponsorship levels can be obtained at \$1,000.00 - \$10,000.00. For more information regarding the Banquet and Sponsorship Opportunities, please call Ronald Hay at ALL TEMPS 1 Personnel, 214-426-2700 or the Office of Dr. Sebetha

Jenkins, President at Jarvis Christian College, 903-763-5883.



Dr. Sheron Patterson, Senior Pastor, Highland Hills United Methodist Church

Jarvis Christian College is a private, four-year, historically black, fully accredited, co-educational, liberal arts institution located in Hawkins, Texas.

**Macedonia Ministries**  
702 S. Mill Street • Lewisville, TX 75057  
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"We Choose Love to Nourish and Cherish One Another"  
John 13:34 & Ephesians 5:28-29

[www.macedoniainministries.com](http://www.macedoniainministries.com)

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

**New Life Fellowship Church of Rowlett**  
Bishop Miller E. Johnson, Senior Pastor  
**New Worship Home**  
7401 Miller Road • Rowlett, TX 75088  
972-463-4964

A Place of New Beginnings... I Corinthians 5:17

Sunday Life Bible School ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Life Celebration Worship Service ..... 10:45 a.m.  
First Sunday: Ingredients for Life ..... 4:00 p.m.  
Wednesdays: Life in the Word Prayer and Bible Study ..... 7:00 p.m.

**Hill Chapel**  
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church  
1113 Ave. I, Plano, TX 75074 (972) 423-4090  
Rev. Clarence J. Ford, Jr., Pastor

Sunday School: 9:30 A.M.  
Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 A.M.  
Wednesday Night-Community Bible Class: 7:30 P.M.

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"I am honored to join Melanie and the team in continuing the concert's legacy as the premiere Super Bowl weekend attraction where the players and fans can gather for an inspirational evening marked by the rich culture of Gospel Music," said Bowser.

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

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

Website: [www.ibccj.org](http://www.ibccj.org)

**Ben Washington Baptist Church, Inc.**  
3901 Frisco Avenue  
Irving, TX 75061  
Church 972-790-8421 Fax 972-986-6590

Email: [church@bwhc.org](mailto:church@bwhc.org)  
Web: [bwhc.org](http://bwhc.org)

"THE CHURCH WITH AN OPEN BIBLE"

Sunday Worship Services: 8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.  
Monday School: 9:45 a.m.  
Baptist Training Center: 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 12:00 p.m. Bible Study  
7:00 p.m. Prayer Hour  
7:30 p.m. Bible Study

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

**Schedule of Services:**

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

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

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

4396 Main Street  
The Colony, Texas 75056  
(972) 625-8186  
website: [www.fbc-online.net](http://www.fbc-online.net)  
"The Church with a Vision"

## Cedric The Entertainer To Co-Host 2007 Super Bowl Gospel Celebration

Yolanda Adams, Fred Hammond, Hezekiah Walker Among Gospel Icons Teaming With NFL's Elite For All-Star Concert Sanctioned For Super Bowl XLI Weekend In Miami

Atlanta-based entertainment production company, Results, Inc. today announced the confirmation of comedian Cedric The Entertainer as co-host of the 8th Annual Super Bowl Gospel Celebration.

Results, Inc. president, Melanie Few, the event's founder and executive producer, made the announcement. Additionally, Few announced that Kyle Bowser, veteran producer of television and live events will serve as an Executive Producer of this year's event. Plans for unveiling a new look for the concert, which maintains its distinguished tradition as the first and only Gospel music event sanctioned for Super Bowl weekend by the National Football League (NFL) were also announced. Miami's James L. Knight Center will be

the new home of the show, which is scheduled for Friday, February 2, 2007 at 8:00 p.m. and features performances from Grammy award-winning artists including Yolanda Adams, Fred



Hammond and Hezekiah Walker.

Presented by Sam's Club, the inspirational evening celebrates the best of the human spirit and was ranked by USA Today in 2006 as one of the top 3 "must see" events. Additional artists confirmed to date include J Moss, Tye Tribbett and Jaci Velasquez.

Since the event was launched in 1999, the show has experi-

enced steady growth year-to-year through the support of the NFL, the entertainment community, national faith based organizations and our corporate partners," said Few. "Our production team is excited to further that growth with the high caliber Gospel artists, NFL players and Cedric The Entertainer, one of the original kings of comedy as the driving force behind the memorable moments being planned for this year's show."

In his capacity as Executive Producer of the 8th Annual Super Bowl Gospel Celebration, Bowser brings expertise garnered via a career that has spanned two decades. Bowser has produced an impressive roster of television features and specials such as the Lifetime original movie, For One Night and the El Super Bowl Special, which was produced in conjunction with Super Bowl XXXVII weekend. Over the course of his entertainment career, Bowser has held executive positions with Fox Broadcasting

Company, HBO Independent Productions, NFL Films and Philadelphia's MLK Arena.

Few commented: "Kyle is an exceptional producer and we are excited to seamlessly enhance the production value of the show by leveraging his talent, drive and leadership."

"I am honored to join Melanie and the team in continuing the concert's legacy as the premiere Super Bowl weekend attraction where the players and fans can gather for an inspirational evening marked by the rich culture of Gospel Music," said Bowser.

The 8th Annual Super Bowl Gospel Celebration is sponsored in part by Greater Fort Lauderdale. Media partners include Ebony Magazine and the Dr. Bobby Jones Gospel Complex for Education, Heritage and Presentation is the benefiting charity. For more information on the 8th Annual Super Bowl Gospel Celebration visit [www.superbowlgospelcelebration.com](http://www.superbowlgospelcelebration.com).

### Gentle Ben Page 2

back while he was alive. "Ben taught me to plan, prepare, and love my enemies," said Dunbar. Pastor Joshua gave a stirring tribute during the services and

**Plano Mourns Ben Thomas Page 1**  
Elementary was named after him as a result of his community efforts.

A lifelong Plano resident, Mr. Ben Thomas was a graduate of the Plano Colored High School. He worked for 21 years at Rockwell International and retired in 1984. He then dedicated himself to community efforts on a full time basis.

"Mr. Ben was known for his work in the civil rights movement here in Plano and in the Dallas Metroplex. Mr. Ben's work in our community and his contributions to what makes Plano and the Douglass Community great, along with the beautiful Thomas family, will be his lasting legacy." T. J. Johnson.

a family member shared some memories of Thomas with the congregation.

Many of Thomas' fellow community leaders spoke of the leadership and camaraderie he

His contributions and accomplishments for both Plano and the Douglass Community are innumerable. Mr. Thomas helped in the establishment of the Douglass Community Center, which now stands at the site of the old Plano Colored High School. In 2001, the gymnasium for the center was designated by the city as the Ben Thomas Gymnasium. Mr. Thomas was influential in rehabilitation and planning efforts in the Douglass community, efforts that included the installation of sidewalks and replacement of substandard housing.

"Mr. Ben Thomas was a guiding light and an inspiration to all of us. We will proudly remember all that he has done for the people of Plano and the lives he has

offered to them and how his legacy left a lasting impression on the Douglass community. The obituary contained an excerpt from Thomas' memoirs during the early 1930's as his eulogy. The

touch." May Li, Voice of Asian American Association

Ben Thomas was also instrumental in the historic preservation of the Douglass Community, as well as the desegregation of Plano schools. He was concerned with creating harmony among all ethnic groups and maintaining an atmosphere of inclusion of all races. More recently, Mr. Thomas was involved as a founding board member of the Plano African American Museum and the creation of the 76-foot long mural in the Douglass Community.

"Deacon Ben Thomas fought a good fight, kept the faith, finished his course and now he rests from his labor. We are especially blessed with the favor of his unswerving model of servant-

leadership. This was particularly demonstrated in his lifelong commitment to quality of life issues within the City of Plano.

May all who knew and loved him be inspired by his legacy." Dr. Michael G. Ford, Cedar Hill, TX

A long time member and deacon of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, Mr. Thomas is survived by his wife of 64 years, Frances. He is also survived by a son, Mitchell, daughters, Toni, Dollie and Areal, seven grandchildren and one-great grandchild.

True greatness among men is a rare commodity. The City of Plano and the Douglass neighborhood have lost a member that personified greatness in his community. The efforts of Mr. Benjamin Franklin Thomas will be sorely missed.

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