

North Dallas Gazette



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Giving - The True Gift of Christmas

By Marian Wright Edelman
NNPA Columnist

Christmas is a festive time when many families come together, homes are decorated with trees hung with ornaments and lights and sumptuous dinners are prepared. Christmas also

can be, for a variety of reasons, a time of stress. One source of stress is the oppression of the shopping list. The longer the list, the greater the anxiety—what shall I get for this niece or that cousin or friend?

Amidst it all, we lose sight of the meaning of

Christmas. We forget to tell our children why we give gifts in the first place—the story Christians believe about the first Christmas' gift to the world of the Prince of Peace. When he walked on the Earth, he spoke to us of the gifts that really matter: "For I was hungry, and ye gave me

meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in; naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me; I was in prison, and ye came unto me." This message of giving speaks to what's good in and required of all of us.

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Dallas Black Dance Luncheon

Community leader, Sandra Malone, is determined to raise over \$100,000 for Dallas Black Dance Theatre's (DBDT) 12th Annual Founder's Luncheon to be held January 11, 2008 at the Hilton Anatole. She and her committee of community volunteers are calling upon corporate and community support for Dallas, only full-

time professional dance company.

"Joe and I are pleased to work as the General Chairs for this impressive event," states Sandra Malone. "Last year was a record high in attendance and fundraising for DBDT's Luncheon; and we can only go forward from here. So we are calling on support from

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Self-guided Grief Journal Helps Pave Path To Healing

DALLAS – It began as a tip sheet, just a few pointers to help bereaved people write through their grief. It grew into a journal, a sort of literary lifebuoy on the often-turbulent seas of life and death. Dallas-based journalist Linda L. Jones created It's Only Temporary...A Journal

for Surviving Loved Ones as a way to assist those in mourning.

"The grief that follows losing a loved one may never go away, but the intensity of that grief, the anguish does not have to last forever," says Jones, who speaks from experience. Her only child was stillborn. Several years

later, her brother died from aplastic anemia, a rare blood disorder. Instinctively Jones, a professional writer, reached for the pen to cope with her unbearable tragedies. She found comfort in words that kept their memories alive.

"For me it was very cathartic, it sustained

me," she says of journaling. She also penned letters to her son's spirit each year, marking the day of his transition.

"If it was not for my faith... I do not think I would have been able to handle it," she adds. "I lost my son the day I was to have him.

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Third Eye's Annual 2007 Citywide Kwanzaa Calendar



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Blackonomics

Words Without Action Are Just Words

By James Clingman
NNPA Columnist

Speaking of acting upon words, I often quote famous Black people, as I am sure most of us do. We refer to their writings and their speeches, citing their words of wisdom and deriving inspiration from their knowledge. I recently thought about how we often recite the words of famous Black people after they have passed away. It's sad to think that so many of our forebears said so many important and enlightening things that we failed to heed or even repeat

until long after they died.

I hope my words are not merely quoted and used to simply stir the emotions – now or after I have left this earth. Too often we let opportunity slip away because we fail to act upon information when we receive it; we'd rather wait and use the words to temporarily satisfy and soothe our pains.

Let's look at some examples. In the past two or three decades, the phrase "By any means necessary" has been used millions of times by our brothers and sisters. Had we followed some

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People In The News...



Aaron Swar



Rep. Julia Carson



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Aaron Swar

The Soul of a Nice Guy: A Midlife Crisis, a new book by Aaron Swar, is a timely illustration of a person who experiences a midlife crisis.

Who has not questioned the meaning of life? After his fiftieth birthday, author Swar begins a deep emotional journey to search for answers that have haunted him throughout his life. He makes a radical decision to leave his home and career and to abandon his relationships.



In a brief and conversational format, the inspiring story documents Swar's personal accounts of his escapades through Europe and across America. From the "cathartic" journal pages he writes and his personal experiences, Swar gains greater insights and self-awareness. Wishing to give others the courage to confront the sources of dissatisfaction in life he penned this insightful book.

An inspiration for anyone who has ever wished to seek

changes in their lives, The Soul of a Nice Guy: A Midlife Sojourn is the perfect read for the Baby Boomer generation who has recently entered midlife. Gorgeously written and honestly told, The Soul of a Nice Guy: A Midlife Sojourn is the ideal entertaining and introspective read.

First time and native Midwesterner Aaron Swar earned his Bachelor of Arts in Communications Studies from the University of Missouri/Kansas City in

1978. After a 10-year career in Television Production, and a brief stint as a municipal bureaucrat in Kansas City, he moved to Seattle and returned to school in the early 90's to pursue the study of Interior Design. After school, he operated a successful private practice for fifteen years and instructed for nearly eight; until midlife sent him into uncharted territory.

The Soul of a Nice Guy is an inspiring account of how one man discovered new

pathways to a richer and more fulfilling life. Deeply moving and warmly told, this is a book that any seeker will treasure. The book was born of self-confrontation during 6 months of soul searching in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Upon returning to the States, he found the story was not over, and took to the road. Interim contentment brought the story and search to a resting place, for now.

He currently lives, writes, and frolics in San Francisco, CA.

Rep. Julia Carson

Rep. Julia Carson, who rose from a childhood of poverty and segregation to become the first black and the first woman to represent Indianapolis in Congress, died Saturday. She was 69.

Carson died of lung cancer at her home, where she had spent the past several weeks, family spokeswoman Vanessa Summers said. Carson had persevered through major heart surgery and years of health



problems before revealing her lung cancer last month, saying she would not seek election next year to a seventh term. She had been away from Washington since late September, when she was hospitalized with a leg infection.

Carson, a Democrat, was first elected to Congress in 1996. She championed children's issues, women's rights and efforts to reduce homelessness. "Julia Carson overcame much and accomplished much, and devoted her life to

helping other people do the same," Sen. Evan Bayh, an Indiana Democrat, said in a statement. "She was elected to important public offices, but never forgot who she was, where she came from or who she was there to serve." Carson was born to a single mother who worked as a housekeeper. She began her political career in the 1960s when then-Rep. Andy Jacobs Jr. hired her to work in his office. Jacobs encouraged Carson to run for the

Indiana Legislature in 1972 - the first of more than two-dozen victories in local, legislative and congressional elections. She ran for Congress in 1996 after Jacobs retired. "Through-out her decade of service in the U.S. House of Representatives and her nearly 20 years in the Indiana General Assembly, Representative Carson served her constituents in Indianapolis with passion and commitment," President George W. Bush said in a state-

ment.

In 1999, Carson pushed for the legislation granting the Congressional Gold Medal to Rosa Parks, the woman who refused to give up her seat on a segregated city bus in Montgomery, Ala., and was arrested for her defiance. "It was a fitting cause for her, as Julia Carson and Rosa Parks shared a quiet determination, a fierce sense of purpose and a total commitment to the ideal equality," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said.

Phillip Jackson



Phillip Jackson has dedicated his life to providing opportunities for and improving the life quality of others. Mr. Jackson is a living demonstration of what is possible with hard work, perseverance and dedication to a cause.

During his career, Mr. Jackson has been Vice President and Director of Operations for one of Chicago's oldest and largest chain of book-sellers; President of EF/MS, a family run business; Assistant

Budget Director for the City of Chicago; Chief of Staff for Chicago Public Schools; Chief Executive Officer for the Chicago Housing Authority; Chief for Education for the City of Chicago; CEO for Boys and Girls Clubs of Chicago; and is currently Executive Director of The Black?Star Project, which he founded, that is designed to help children and students realize their educational potential in life.

Programs of The Black?Star Project include the Fathers Club that connects men with their children; the Student Motivation Program that has provided more than 140,000 students in 220 Chicago-area schools with the inspiration and motivation to succeed in life; the

Destination College Program that prepares 7th- through 12th-grade students for college success; the Million Father March that organized about 400,000 thousand fathers in 238 cities to

take their children to school on the first day in 2007, and Parental Involvement Programs that help parents to become the first, best and most important teacher for their children.

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THE TRUTH CLINIC

Supreme Court Rules For Crack Sentencing Flexibility

In a move that potentially portends restoring a semblance of sanity to the criminal justice system the Supreme Court ruled on Monday, December 10, 2007 that federal judges are not bound by federal sentencing guidelines dictating tougher penalties because of the crack/powder cocaine disparity.

Arguments were heard by the Court on October 2, 2007 on the inequity of the sentencing disparity. The justices ruled in two cases by 7 to 2 majorities that the formerly mandatory federal sentencing guidelines are advisory only and that district court judges may use discretion in determining appropriate sentences.

In the first case, *Kimbrough v. United States*, US District Judge Raymond A. Jackson had sentenced crack and powder cocaine dealer Derrick Kimbrough to 15 years in prison, despite the 19 to 22-year standard found in the Federal Sentencing Guidelines. Kimbrough, a black former Marine who had fought in Desert Storm, had no prior convictions and had an excellent work record. The US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit had vacated Kimbrough's lesser sentence holding that the shorter sentence was unreasonable as it was based on the judge's disagreement with the federal sentencing guidelines.

The Supreme Court reversed the appeals court decision, writing: *We hold that the cocaine Guidelines, like all other Guidelines, are advisory only, and that the Court of Appeals erred in holding*

the crack/powder disparity effectively mandatory. A district judge must include the Guidelines range in the array of factors warranting consideration. The judge may determine, however, that, in the particular case, a within-Guidelines sentence is "greater than necessary" to serve the objectives of sentencing.

In the second case, *Gall v. United States*, the Court agreed that a judge was within his rights to impose a light sentence for a man convicted of conspiracy to sell the drug ecstasy. The guidelines decreed that Brian Gall should be sentenced to at least 30 months in jail. But a federal judge decided on 36 months of probation, saying Gall had quit the drug business years before authorities had found evidence of his involvement and had turned his life around. The US Court of Appeals overturned the district court's ruling, saying that the court had not provided a clear explanation for its extraordinary deviation from the guidelines.

The Supreme Court reversed the appeals court, writing: *We now hold that, while the extent of the difference between a particular sentence and the recommended Guidelines range is surely relevant, courts of appeals must review all sentences - whether inside, just outside the Guidelines range - under a deferential abuse-of-discretion standard. We also hold that the sentence imposed by the experienced District Judge in this case was reasonable.*

On face value the crack vs. powder debate was not only about how much deference had to be given to the guidelines but also whether those guidelines made sense. Embedded in the guidelines was the notion that a defendant convicted for possession of 5 grams of crack should face the same penalty as one with 500 grams of powder cocaine.

The guidelines have been severely criticized for over two decades as racially discriminatory because most crack offenders are black, while powder cocaine is more widely used by whites. Yet, crack is nothing more than powder cocaine that is processed in a different manner for efficient street distribution. And, as Justice Ginsburg pointed out in *Kimbrough*, "they have the same physiological and psychotropic effects."

The significance of the Supreme Court Ruling and the ensuing decision by the U.S. Sentencing Commission to apply the changes retroactively is potentially enormous.

Some 25,000 defendants were sentenced in federal court on crack cocaine charges in the past five years, according to the U.S. Sentencing Commission. Eighty-one percent of those sentenced last year on federal crack charges were African American. By contrast, African Americans accounted for only 27 percent of those sentenced on powder cocaine charges during the same period. On average, the crack cocaine defendants

received sentences that were 50 percent longer than those that the powder cocaine defendants got. Thanks to the Supreme Court's decision nearly 20,000 federal inmates convicted of crack possession will now have the opportunity to appear before the court and have their case reviewed by a judge.

While it is fortunate the Supreme Court agreed to hear this case and render its ruling Congress still needs to address the underlying 20-year old unjust law. Since the sentencing disparity between crack and powder crime is a direct result of Congress' hasty and irrational actions the responsibility for correcting the inequity and the inconclusiveness in the law should not simply rely on an interpretation of the judiciary. Congress has scheduled hearings for next year on legislation to address changing the minimum-mandatory laws.

It is interesting to note how the Supreme Court's struggle over sentencing redefined its normal liberal-conservative divide. The usual conservatives Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. and Antonin Scalia joined liberals Ruth Bader Ginsburg, John Paul Stevens, David H. Souter, Anthony Kennedy and Stephen G. Breyer in support of the majority opinion.

Justices Clarence Thomas along with Samuel A. Allito, Jr. dissented in both cases.

James W. Breedlove
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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 carving a world of opportunity for those seeking to provide quality services. Should you dare to expand your quest for economic parity outside the southern region or just want to know what is going on up north - Think of MON-The Gazette as your paper of opportunity!

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

Liberia Tries Democracy With New Leader

By **TERRY LEONARD**

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) — Rarely in Africa has the human cost of war and greed been clearer than in this dingy, broken, sweltering corner of hell. Yet nowhere has the expectation of change created so much hope.

After 14 years of darkness, street lights shine amid the shattered buildings. And the new president — the first woman elected to head an African country — stands under an umbrella in the driving rain to launch repairs to a street that seems to have more holes than pavement.

Liberia last year began a grand experiment to overcome its past through a sea change in how it is run. The new leaders are elected. Parliament is controlled by the opposition, for the first time in its history. And President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf promises a new deal funded by donors and investors lured by peace and good governance.

Liberia is trying to do

something Africa has little experience with — forge a system that can survive one leader and contain the excesses of a ruling class. The attempt goes against a history of leaders in Africa who cling to power long after their expiry date.

Johnson-Sirleaf, 69, was jailed twice under previous leaders and fled into exile. The Harvard-trained economist, who has worked for Citibank and the World Bank, won election in 2005.

Early results are promising. Liberia's economy grew about 8 percent last year, after a freefall of more than 90 percent the preceding two decades. Inflation is in single digits, and growth this year could reach 11 percent.

Almost 90 percent of Liberians are unemployed. From early morning until late at night, the streets are clogged with legions of ragged people who seem to drift aimlessly in search of a way to make enough money to buy food.

The government and the

United Nations have created 21,000 jobs through projects to repair roads, remove garbage, clean drains and carry out other basic tasks. Foreign investment promises to create thousands more. A billion-dollar payment by steel giant Arcelor-Mittal for an iron ore concession could create 3,500 jobs by itself.

More than a half million Liberians have returned to their homes, according to the United Nations. And in November, Johnson-Sirleaf persuaded the International Monetary Fund to begin relief on Liberia's debt of \$3.5 billion.

One barrier to that trust is corruption, which costs Africa about \$148 billion a year, according to African Union estimates. Four years of corruption is enough to eat up all the foreign aid sent to Africa in the last 60 years.

Liberia used to be among the worst offenders.

"Firestone has been here for 97 years but we don't produce enough rubber

locally to make a condom," says Sandra Howard-Kendor, deputy chairwoman of the Governance Commission established to direct reform.

The government is also decentralizing power to get rid of the old system of patronage. Every major government transaction is examined by both a Liberian manager and an international expert. Experts from Europe, the U.S. and elsewhere in

Africa help with financial management and train Liberian staff.

The business community in general is responding. But the Liberian Business Association complains that foreign businesses are gaining more than locals, and it wants more and faster change.

Even opposition politicians concede the government is bent on reform, and grumble mostly about the pace or the manner of

change.

Overseas, Johnson-Sirleaf wins high praise and awards from the United Nations, the United States and the European Union. At home, she draws guarded hope. Many Liberians are somewhat wary of her close ties with the World Bank and her early support for warlord Taylor, whom she later rejected, but still believe she is their best chance for a better life.

Health Care Crisis in Focus As Kenyan Voting Nears

Special to the NNPA from GIN

(GIN) - With national elections slated for Dec. 27, affordable health care is high on the agenda for Kenya's presidential candidates locked in a tight race.

Millions of people in Kenya cannot afford or access basic healthcare while preventable diseases like malaria and respiratory infections account for more than half of all reported cases of sickness.

The manifestos of the parties ODM, PNU and ODM-K all promise free treatment in public health facilities for children

under five and free maternity care - which is already being offered.

"There is a glut of promises," says Kwame Owino, program officer at the Institute of Economic Affairs, a local think-tank. "But I don't see very strong approaches to preventive care like a nutritional component to ensure Kenyans have access to cheap nutritious food so that people don't get sick to begin with."

Meanwhile, little attention has been paid to the Chinese system of "barefoot doctors" - rural health aides who signifi-

cantly improved the country's life expectancy and helped cut death rates. A reliance on Western-based models has meant that para-professionals now make up only seven per cent of all health workers, compared with about 20 per cent in Brazil and Iran.

Notes the The McKinsey Quarterly in a report: "This is a missed opportunity. Substitute medical doctors who deliver many services need only 2-3 years of training rather than five years in medical school - a saving of up to \$48,000 per worker in training costs."

Dallas County Health and Human Services Responds to Merck Vaccine Recall

December 12, 2007 (Dallas) — Dallas County Health and Human Services wishes the public to know that the recent recall of Hib childhood vaccine has not affected its childhood immunizations program. The vaccine offered at the Dallas County Childhood Immunizations is from a different manufacturer and is not a part of the recent

recall.

Merck & Company announced a voluntary recall of 1.2 million doses of the vaccine for Hib, which protects against meningitis, pneumonia and other serious infections after testing showed a sterilization problem in a Pennsylvania factory. Concerned parents should contact their child's pedia-

trician or family health care provider.

"We order our children's vaccine through the Texas Vaccine for Children's program," said Zachary Thompson, DCHHS Director. "To date, we have not received confirmation from the State that any vaccine we have received has been a part of any recall," Thompson concluded

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 Racanel, John A, MD..... 972-378-1438
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 Owens, Fred D, MD..... 214-742-2104
 Owens, Robert RL, MD..... 214-742-2104
 Rolin, Gregory H, MD..... 972-378-0638

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 Deck, Michael A, MD..... 972-961-3107
 Khatib, Tamer L, MD..... 972-961-3107
 King, David L, MD..... 972-961-3107
 Williams, Benjamin J, MD..... 972-961-3107

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 Herrera, Monica, MD..... 972-403-5437
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 Ramirez, Daniel A, MD..... 972-608-0200
 Shores, Theresa, MD..... 972-961-8380
 Smith, Jeanette L, MD..... 972-961-8380
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 Urech, Elizabeth O, MD..... 972-608-0774

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 Rinaldi, Brian R, MD..... 972-473-8216
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 Keuser, Harriet T, MD..... 972-961-7940

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 Title, Ben J, MD..... 972-403-8007

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 Campbell, Leslie, DPM..... 972-961-3286
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 Deiner, Jeffrey D, MD..... 972-961-3217
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 Jones, Blake W, MD..... 972-961-3217
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 Krome, Bruce J, MD..... 972-961-3217
 Kinley, John P, MD..... 972-961-3217
 Oakes, Phillip L, MD..... 972-961-3217
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 Star, Alex L, MD..... 972-961-3217
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 Hennan, Darrel W, MD (Pediatric)..... 972-961-5487
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 Lantieri, Robert A, MD..... 214-961-0016
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 Ramsey, Kenneth L, MD..... 972-978-0043
 Ream, Thomas H, MD (Pediatric)..... 972-961-5487
 Rosen, Jay S, MD (Pediatric)..... 972-961-5487
 Skippert, Hart R, MD..... 972-978-0043
 Smith, Mark C, MD..... 972-961-7703
 West, Thomas A, MD..... 972-961-7703
 White, Gary W, MD..... 972-961-7703

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 Galvan, Chester F, MD..... 214-801-1002
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 Hamon III, Gordon B, MD..... 480-241-0580
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 Kaplan, E. Paul, MD..... 972-568-7785
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As of December 16, 2007



These Doctors' Offices are located on the campus of Presbyterian Hospital of Plano
 www.phs.org (972) 981-8000

Texas Instrument Math Scholars Program

The Texas Instruments Foundation has provided \$1.1 million to the UNT Dallas Campus to establish the Texas Instruments Math Scholars Program. The program seeks to encourage students interested in seeking a bachelor's in math with a teaching certification to enroll in the TI Math Scholars Program at UNT in Dallas. The program seeks to enroll a diverse student population, especially members of underrepresented groups such as

minorities and women. UNT Dallas seeks to enroll 30 junior-level students in Fall 2007, and 20 entering freshmen per year beginning Fall 2009. Students selected for this program must agree to teach in the Dallas, Duncanville, DeSoto, Lancaster, or Cedar Hill school districts for a minimum of two years upon graduation.

The Texas Instruments Math Scholar receives the following:

- Full funding for tuition and fees for

Dallas Campus classes

- \$100 per course (up to \$500 per semester) for books and supplies
- High-quality instruction
- Mentoring and internships
- Opportunities to attend conferences and seminars

Eligibility requirements:

- 60 or more credit hours
- A cumulative GPA of 2.75
- Completion of

Calculus I and Calculus II (the equivalent of UNT MATH 1710 and MATH 1720) with a grade of "C" or above

- Appropriate scores on the THEA*
- Admission to UNT

The scholarship will continue to be awarded to a TI Math Scholar on a semester-by-semester basis, and in successive years as long as the student continues in good standing in the TI Math

Scholars Program.

There currently remains funding for spring 2008 semester. The deadline for the fall 2008 scholarship application is May 15, 2008.

Plano Kwanzaa Observance

Stephanie Ward Gallery and North Dallas Gazette is gearing up for its annual Kwanzaa Celebration on Monday, December 31, 2007, from 6 p.m. -- 8:30p.m. Local musician, singers, poets, dancers and other with talent are invited to participate in this celebration of creativity.

All That The Band and Seneka the Poet, has agreed to be one of the event headliners.

"We have a variety of talent that is planning to perform, said Stephanie Ward, owner of Stephanie Ward Gallery. "We

are expecting, dancers, mimes and kinds of talents. We still have space for unique and interesting performers, we are celebrating creativity"

Kwanzaa is a week-long Cultural Celebration created by Dr. Maulana Karenga in 1965. The Cultural Celebration highlights seven principal of Kwanzaa during the seven days following the Christmas Holiday. Kwanzaa is observed from December 26 to January 1 each year. Stephanie Ward Gallery will celebrate Kuumba (Creativity)

on the six night of Kwanzaa.

"This is going to be an exciting evening and everyone is welcome to come and celebrate the outstanding talent in this community," said Stephanie Ward.

Local musicians, singers, poets, dancers, photographers and anyone with a talents they would like to share, are invited to perform. The general public is invited. Anyone interested in performing can call the gallery at 469 229-0024. The event is free and open to the public.

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Register now for spring

I'm taking a full load of classes on the weekend.

North Dallas Gazette and **Stephanie Ward Gallery**

Stephanie Ward Gallery in partnership with The North Dallas Gazette is offering a special rates for E-blast and print advertising for local businesses for the Kwanzaa edition. This combination of print and e-mail advertising will reach about 30,000 consumers. If you want to move product or get exposure for your events this is an excellent opportunity!

Kwanzaa Packages (Horizontal)

Gold package \$1,300
1/2 page (10" X 6.125" = 36.75") newspaper ad and 3 e-blast to 12,000 addresses. The total package will reach about 20,000 middle income African-Americans. This package includes signage and sponsor recognition at the Celebration on December 30, 2007; Ad posting to web sites and - and 15 web postings listing your company as an event sponsor.

Silver Package \$725
1/4 page (4.905" X 6.125" = 18.375") ad newspaper ad 2 e-blast to about 12,000 addresses and newspaper circulation that reaches about 20,000 middle income African-Americans. The Package also includes signage and sponsor recognition at the Celebration on December 30, 2007. Ad posting to website.

Bronze Package \$300
This package has a 2C x 6 add and 2 e-blast 1/4 page ad newspaper ad 2 e-blast to about 12,000 addresses and newspaper circulation that reaches about 20,000 middle income African-Americans. The Package also includes sponsor recognition at the Kwanzaa celebration on December 30, 2007.

Econo Package \$150
1/4 page ad newspaper ad 2 e-blast to about 12,000 addresses and newspaper circulation that reaches about 20,000 middle income African-Americans. The Package also includes signage and sponsor recognition at the Celebration on December 30, 2007.

E-blast \$100
If you want the internet experience, we can blast to 15,000 e-mails at once.

Promotion ends December 24, 2007. If you wish to take advantage of this opportunity, please call Stephanie at 469 229-0024

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Plano Family Goes Head-To-Head With Dallas Cowboys' Terence Newman In Direct Energy Backyard Challenge

Teenaged boys, friends get a feel for "Game Day" NFL action with home field advantage



Dallas, TX – It was an opportunity of a lifetime for one lucky Plano family Friday, as they hosted friends and neighbors to a backyard barbecue and a game of flag football in their own backyard featuring Dallas Cowboys

cornerback and fan-favorite, Terence Newman. Two of the Sills' teenaged sons and their buddies got to test their mettle and get a taste of NFL game-day playing with Newman, who stepped away from his role as one of

the NFL's top coverage men to quarterback the friendly match-up as part of the Direct Energy Backyard Challenge with Terence Newman – an online contest Jean Sills entered and won last month.

"We still feel like we're

dreaming," said Sills, whose family also attended the Cowboys November 29th game against Green Bay, where they were announced as the Backyard Challenge winners during an in-game break on the field. "Direct Energy has brought us an early holiday present with this contest and the opportunity to meet Terence Newman. He's such an approachable and all-around great guy, it's been amazing to be able to spend time with him here at our home."

In addition to the flag football game and doling out a few tips to his new teammates, Newman, who arrived on the Cowboys bus along with team mascot Rowdy, took time to meet with the Sills and their guests, sign autographs and take pictures before dinner was served up.

"This has been a really fun afternoon with the Sills

family, their friends, and the Direct Energy team," said Newman. "Cowboys fans are the best in the NFL, and having an opportunity to take time to hang out with them and toss around the football helps remind us why we're out there each week – it's for our fans, to give them something to cheer about and be proud of."

The contest, which closed on November 24th, is part of an endorsement deal between Newman and Direct Energy, which is the official electricity provider to the Dallas Cowboys and Texas Stadium, and a provider of both electricity and energy-related services to Newman himself. As part of the Backyard Challenge, Direct Energy's President of North American Mass Markets and Dallas resident Phil Tonge presented Newman with a \$10,000 donation in support of the

Terence Newman Rising Stars Foundation, a new initiative launched last week to help young athletes develop their football and educational skills through high school and into college.

"The Cowboys are having an amazing season, and all of Texas is getting Cowboys fever as they move closer to post-season action – the fact that Terence took time out of his schedule to join us at the Sills' home and gave his full attention to everyone who came out to play and meet him is a testament to his commitment to giving back to his fans," said Tonge. "Direct Energy has always made it a priority to be active members of the communities in which we operate, and we're proud to be one of the first to support Terence's Foundation as he gets his program running here in Dallas."

Beastly Beautiful

Reviewed by Ken Freehill

When a modern classic Broadway musical is released to regional and community theatres, there is a risk that expectations cannot be realized. Stage limitations, budgetary restraints and talent are often strained to the breaking points.

Teatro delle Muse's third offering at The Art Centre Theatre, Disney's "Beauty and the Beast", represents the best of community theatre, with beautifully rendered and appropriate costumes and an innovative set design.

This production also embodies some of the problems facing community theatres, in that the technical aspects, as well as talent are inconsistent.

"Beauty and the Beast", a tale as old as time, revolves around a young woman, Belle (Mary Jerome), who offers herself as the exchange prisoner to free her father (John Evarts), in the spell-bound castle of the accursed prince-now-a-Beast (Tyler Donahue). Meanwhile, back in the village, braggart Gaston (Edward Andrión) sets out to free the woman he thinks should be his.

The enchanted castle houses varied talking, singing and dancing crockery and knick-knacks: a teapot, Mrs. Potts (Jennifer White), her 'son' Chip the teacup (Hope Henderson), the candelabra Lumiere (Cam Wenrich), the mantle clock Cogsworth (Trey Andrew Tolleson), a chest of drawers

(Sheila D. Rose), a feather duster (Kimberly Borge), as well as prancing plates, forks and napkins.

As the Beast tries to break the spell which binds him to his ghastly self, his temperament and anger subside as he rediscovers his humanity, and Belle slowly sees the beauty hidden beneath his beastly hide.

Mary Jerome and Tyler Donahue, as the title characters, have powerful voices, and admirable stage presence. Edward Andrión exudes the egotistical confidence, in an unthreatening, self-effacing way. He is a delight to hear and watch. Equally delightful is his side kick Niko Red Star as LeFou.

Inside the castle, the stage lights up with the youthful exuberance of

the talented Cam Wenrich; great timing by Trey Andrew Tolleson; the top-drawer performance of Sheila D. Rose; and the soothing tones of Jennifer White. Hope Henderson brings appropriate chipperness to her role, while the 'Fork' (Mira Fountain) was having the 'tine' of her life (we could have seen more of her).

The dancing Napkins (Amanda Durbin, Brittany Stene and Stephanie Robertson) complete the settings of a nicely arranged banquet.

The set, while cleverly rendered, is at times cumbersome. Complicated set changes can often slow down the pace of a show, which is the case here. A note - it is a bit disconcerting to have

one 'set changer' draw focus to the changes with his antics, often times changing the desired mood, as well.

Director Dennis Sloan has a large cast, and with the assistance of choreographer Anne Black-Scalf and musical director M. Shane Hurst, has some charming ensemble numbers. But many of the solo songs are set too far upstage to be heard, and some of the sequences have been left without movement or imagery. (Wolves are sent into the audience, so beware if you are bringing your very young tykes; they could be frightened.)

Some of the actors have not yet found their lights, and the musical sound track overpowered a few of the performers. These, no doubt, will be

resolved with more performances.

Calling Teatro delle Muse a community theatre is doing a disservice to their professional goals and aspirations. Their previous two productions proved they can operate many levels.

"Beauty and the Beast" has a delightful script and fine music. This production has an exuberant cast, and despite some limitations, is a joy to watch, and a great holiday treat.

Runs through December 22, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:00 p.m., with matinees on Saturdays and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. Box Office is 972-424- MUSE (6873). The ArtCentre Theatre is at 1028 15th Place, in Plano.

Grade B

Community Calendar

Ongoing

381 Days The Montgomery Bus Boycott ongoing through January 13, 2008 This exhibition commemorates the 1955 bus boycott that began when Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white patron. The exhibition explores the many challenges faced by African Americans fighting a segregated system that was demeaning and humiliating, as they continued to endure harassment by local law enforcement. Further the exhibition captures the unfailing commitment and relentless determination of a Black community in its efforts to oppose and change laws that allowed them to be treated as second-class citizens. The African American Museum in Fair Park, 3536 Grand Avenue, Dallas For more information call: 214 565-9026

African American Republican Club of Collin County meets 4th Tuesday of every month at 7:00pm, Collin County Republican Party Headquarters. For more info, please call Fred Moses at 972 618 7027 or email him at fred@tes.com.

Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce General Meeting held monthly every second Thursday, from 6:30pm - 7:30pm. The general public is welcome. McKinney Housing Authority - 1200 N. Tennessee Street, McKinney 75069 for general information call 469-424-0120.

Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce Monthly Lunch & Learn a great opportunity to meet other business owners, as well as key decision makers from various organizations around the metroplex. Join us every third Thursday to gain valuable information presented by featured guest speakers to help your business grow. \$15 for members; \$20 for non-members, 11:00am-1:00pm, Ralph and Kacoos - 401 S. Central Expy, Allen. For general information and reservations call 469-424-0120.

DFW Financially Empowered Women a group for women interested in taking charge of their financial security. We meet monthly for lunch or dinner and a fun, informative seminar on various financial topics. For more information call 469-952-0809 or visit www.meetup.com/378

First Friday- Music Under the Dome Tired of crowded bars, night clubs just don't for it for you anymore, weary of networking happy hours, looking for a place to meet exciting people in a relaxed environment, the African American Museum has just the right mix for you. Every month a local band performs jazz, rhythm, and blues in the rotunda. Seating is cabaret style. Visitors are also able to tour the galleries. The Program is an innovative series that provides a fun and energized social environment for the community to enjoy local blues and jazz musicians in an intimate setting in the Museum's Rotunda. For more information contact the Museum 214.565.9026, ext. 315

No Limit Network Business Networking Lunch Have lunch, promote your business, bring lots of business cards and a friend 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. every Thursday at Texas Land & Cattle Steak House 3945 N. Central Expressway Plano 75023 Must RSVP at www.TheNoLimitNetwork.com or call Sylvia Williams at 972-898-5882.

Teen First Fridays held in collaboration with St. Philip's School and Community Center, Project Still I Rise Inc. and the Dallas Leadership Foundation. 5:45pm - 8:45pm at St. Philip's Community Center, 1600 Pennsylvania, Dallas 75215. Includes motivational speakers, food, live entertainment, youth and spoken word performances. For more information contact Tiffany Kirby, Community Center Director at 214-421-5221 or Kevin Mondy, President, Project Still I Rise at 1-877-380-6413.

December 20

Black Nativity A play of music and dance depicting the birth of Jesus from an African American perspective. The dress rehearsal will be shown on December 19th, and since its only a dress rehearsal, donate what you can! Be sure and see the live show and experience a Black Christmas located at Robert B. Cullum in Fair Park, Sankofa Players 7:00 p.m. Admission \$10 for adults, \$5 for students, and \$8 for seniors. For further information please call 214-565-9026, or email dorishhouse-ric@sbcglobal.net.

December 22

Blacks in Government Holiday Gala will feature a Toy Drive to benefit disadvantaged children - please donate an unwrapped toy for a child. This event is located at AAFES Skyline, 3911 Walton Walker Boulevard; from 8:00 p.m. - 12:00 p.m. Admission to this event is \$25 per person. For more information please call 214-767-8004.

December 25

Screening of "Trail of Tears" Limited seating - each ticket purchased for this event includes h'oeuvres, wine, and one DVD of the film. Immediately following the viewing, Stephen R. Heape, producer of the film, will hold a question and answers session to provide in-depth information about the making of the film.. This Screening will be located at 732 Preston Forest Shopping Center, Native Arts Center & Gallery, from 5:50 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Admission is \$50 per person, \$75 per couple and 10% discount for AIAC members. For further information, please call 214-265-0071, or email, nativeartsgallery@sbcglobal.net.

December 26

Kwanzaa (Umoja/Unity) Gwaride (Parade), Umoja Celebration, and the Unity Celebration: Lincoln High School 2826 Hatcher Street, hosted by the Africa-Care Academy at 1 pm. Call 214-941-1511 for more info. The Umoja African Renaming Ceremony will take place at 7 pm. Call The Act of Change, Inc. 214-372-3500 for more information. The Kwanzaa celebration, which will feature drumming, dancing, and refresh-

ments will be located at The Act of Change, Inc. 3333 Edgewood at 7 pm. For more information, call 214-823-2733 - ext. 3.

December 28

Citywide Kwanzaa: Ujima (Collective Work & Responsibility) is being celebrated at the Desoto Town Center, Atrium 211 E. Pleasant Run in Desoto. The celebration starts at 7:00 p.m. Call the Town Center at 972-298-6001, for more information.

December 31

Sandaga's New Year's Eve Bash The champagne will flow, the hors d'oeuvres will be hot and the music, pure jazz in the heart of the design district. The \$50-per-person party starts at 9 p.m. and will continue long past midnight. This is a reservation-only event, limited to 100 individuals. The Sandaga Market is located at 1325 E. Levee Street. For reservations to the New Year's Eve Jazz Bash at Sandaga Market, or additional information, please call 214-616-0802

January 2

Songs of South Africa sung at the Hampton-Illinois Branch Library, 2951 South Hampton Road. The fun begins at 11:00 a.m. and admission is FREE. For further information please call the library at 214-670-7646.

January 3

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group will be meeting at the Audelia Road Branch Library, 10045 Audelia Road at 11:30 a.m. Admission to the meeting is FREE and open to the public. For further informa-

tion please call 214-670-1350.

January 4

The Women Praying for Christ Ministries "A Call for the Wailing Women" Prayer Shut-In Fellowship 11:00 p.m. - 12:00 midnight, after which, the doors will be locked and the prayer will continue through 6:00 a.m. The shut in will also include: "The Woman In The Mirror", a play by Mary Humphrey, movie auditions and information on "ICE, Careful, Don't Burn Yourself", a book and movie by Candace Watson, and also a book review of "Hoochie To Holy" by Tomeca Richardson. FREE admission free; requires an open heart, an open mind, and early registration. Open Bible Fellowship Church 2701 Briarwood Drive, Plano Texas, 75074. To register, call 214-450-7634, or email info@womenprayingforchrist.org. For further information contact Women Praying for Christ Ministries, Inc. 972-422-4248.

January 4 and 5

"NO MORE!" a Two-Day Biblically-Based Personal Success Seminar will be held at the DeSoto Library Assembly Hall, 211 E. Pleasant Run, DeSoto 75115. The conference focuses on maximizing our God-given abilities in order to be successful. Friday (the 4th) from 6:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. and Saturday (the 5th) from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Registration \$50.00. Request registration information at succesinchristministries@gmail.com

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Proud To Be An Active Partner In The Community

THE THIRD EYE

presents Annual 2007 Citywide Kwanzaa Calendar

The Third Eye, a Dallas based study group, continues the tradition of collecting and publishing The Annual City Wide Kwanzaa Calendar for the general public. All celebrations are free to the general public unless otherwise noted. Patrons and media should call each sponsoring organization for details about a specific event.

For the past 15 years The Third Eye has organized The City Wide Kwanzaa Calendar to: 1) inform the community about Dallas based Kwanzaa celebrations, 2) to counter the lack of accurate knowledge about Kwanzaa and 3) to mobilize against the continuous attempts to commercialize Kwanzaa. We join with African communities everywhere in resisting the corporate commercialization of Kwanzaa! We seek to reaffirm the essential meaning of Kwanzaa and refuse to assist with the corporate drive to dominate and redefine it and make it simply another holiday to maximize sales.

As Dr. Maulana Karenga, the founder of Kwanzaa says "Kwanzaa reminds us to hold to our ancient traditions as a people who are spiritually grounded, who respect our ancestors and elders, cherish and challenge our children, care for the vulnerable, relate rightfully to the environment and always seek and embrace the Good."

Kwanzaa is an African American and Pan-African holiday which celebrates family, community and culture. Celebrated from 26 December thru 1 January, its origins are in the first harvest celebrations of Africa from which it takes its name. The name Kwanzaa is derived from the phrase "matunda ya kwanza" which means "first fruits" in Swahili, a Pan-African language which is the most widely spoken African language.

The first-fruits celebrations are recorded in African history as far back as ancient Egypt and Nubia and appear in ancient and modern times in other classical African civilizations such as Ashantiland and Yorubaland. Kwanzaa builds on the five fundamental activities of Continental African "first fruit" celebrations: *ingathering; reverence; com-*



memoration; recommitment; and celebration. Kwanzaa, then, is:

- a time of ingathering of the people to reaffirm the bonds between them;

- a time of special reverence for the Creator and creation in thanks and respect for the blessings, bountifulness and beauty of creation;

- a time for commemoration of the past in pursuit of its lessons and in honor of its models of human excellence, our ancestors;

- a time of recommitment to our highest cultural ideals in our ongoing effort to always bring forth the best of African cultural thought and practice; and

- a time for celebration of the Good, the good of life and of existence itself, the good of family, community and culture, the good of the awesome and the ordinary, in a word the good of the divine, natural and social.

Wednesday, December 26, 2007 Umoja (Unity) To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.

-12:00 p.m. Gwaride (Parade) Participants lineup at Lincoln H.S AT 12:00 p.m.. – Hatcher & Malcolm X Blvd in South Dallas. Gwaride starts at 1:00 p.m. Co-sponsored by The Act of Change, Inc. Contact: Pan African Connection Bookstore, 214-943-8262

-7:00 p.m. Forever Forward Youth Group "Unity in the Community" with the residents of Park Manor Apartments, 3333 Edgewood. Contact: Yasmin Thomas 214-942-0117

-7:00 p.m. The Act of Change, Inc. "Celebration of Umoja" 3200 Lancaster, Ste.

320, Contact: Safisha Hill, 214-372-3500.

-7:00 p.m. Pan African Connection Bookstore, 612 E Jefferson Blvd.. Contact: Pan African Connection, 214-943-8262.

Thursday, December 27, 2007 Kujichagulia (Self-Determination) To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves.

-12:00pm-2:00pm Act of Change, Kwanzaa ya Watoto (Kwanzaa for Children) 3200 Lancaster, behind Family Dollar store; contact: Afi Bell, 214-374-1192, 214-943-8262

-7:00 p.m. Africans/African-Americans for Reparations. "Reparations: Should American Pay". Guest: Dr. Ray Winbush 4907 Spring Ave. Contact: Thomas Muhammad, 214-460-7672

-7:00 p.m. Pan African Connection Bookstore, 612 E Jefferson Blvd. Contact: Pan African Connection, 214-943-8262.

Friday, December 28, 2007 Ujima (Collective Work & Responsibility) To build and maintain our community together and make our brother's and sister's problems our problems and to solve them together.

-12:00pm - 2:00 pm Act of Change, Kwanzaa ya Watoto (Kwanzaa for Children) 3200 Lancaster, behind Family Dollar store; contact: Afi Bell, 214-374-1192,

-7:00 p.m. -Concerned DeSoto Citizens, Annual Kwanzaa celebration. DeSoto Town Center, Atrium – 211 E Pleasant Run, DeSoto, TX. Contact: Thelma Clardy, 972-

298-6001.

-7:00 pm – Pan African Connection Bookstore, 612 E Jefferson Blvd. Contact: Akwete or Bandle, 214-943-8262

-7:00 pm "Celebrating the Cultural Arts Through the 7 Principles of Kwanzaa", Fruit for the Soul Artisans, Panera Bread Restaurant, 416 East Pleasant Run Rd, Cedar Hill, Texas, Contact: Rhonda Haugabook, 972-571-0394

Saturday, December 29, 2007 Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics) To build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and to profit from them together.

-12:00pm-2:00 pm Act of Change, 3200 Lancaster, Kwanzaa ya Watoto (Kwanzaa for Children) behind Family Dollar store; contact: Afi Bell, 214-374-1192, 214-943-8262

-7:00 pm - Pan African Connection Bookstore, 612 E Jefferson Blvd. Contact: Akwete or Bandle, 214-943-8262

Sunday, December 30, 2007 Nia (Purpose) To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.

-10:00am-3pm St. Luke's "Community" United Methodist Church. 5710 E R L Thornton, Kwanzaa Celebration – Contact: Vickie Washington-Nance, or Yvonne Butler, 214-821-2970.

-2:00pm – 6:00 pm Irie Connection, 2642 South Beckley (near Saner) Karamu Feast, Kwanzaa ya Watoto (Kwanzaa for Children) Community meal; please bring a covered dish, vegetables, fish, beef or chicken. Contact: Afi Bell, 214-372-1192.

6:00 PM-8:30PM North Dallas Gazette & Stephanie Ward Gallery 920 18th Street Plano, Texas 75074 Call 469-229-0024

-7:00 pm - Pan African Connection Bookstore, 612 E Jefferson Blvd. Contact: Akwete or Bandle, 214-943-8262

Monday, December 31, 2007 Kuumba (Creativity) To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more

beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.

-5:00pm-7:00 p.m. South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 S Fitzhugh – "Cultural Celebration" Contact: Vicki Meek 214-939-2787.

-7:00 pm - Pan African Connection Bookstore, 612 E Jefferson Blvd. Contact: Akwete or Bandle Tyehimba, 214-943-8262

6:00 PM-8:30PM North Dallas Gazette & Stephanie Ward Gallery 920 18th Street Plano, Texas 75074 Call 469-229-0024

Tuesday, January 1, 2008 Imani (Faith) To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and the righteousness and victory of our struggle. -Home Activity – Celebrate the Spirit of Imani with your family. No public activities planned.

For more information about Kwanzaa, please consult the official web site <http://www.officialkwanzaawebsite.org>

The Third Eye is a Dallas based study group who's primary purpose is to promote and disseminate information on ancient and contemporary African history and culture. Our goal is to amass a body of African centered knowledge that can be used to help awaken the African mind and help liberate Black people from the oppression they face daily. This information when interpreted in the proper context and put into action by African people, will lead to a more unified and culturally progressive African community in Dallas and throughout the African Diaspora. To accomplish this goal the organization sponsors: *Book Reviews, Annual Spring Rising Lecture Series, Annual African Awakening Conference, Tribute to the African Ancestors and Annual City Wide Kwanzaa Calendar.*

The Third Eye organization has chosen as its symbol the Oudjat, also known as the Eye of Horus. The third eye evokes the means of perception of light in all of its forms, from the physical light of the sun and moon to the light of knowledge and to the inner illumination of the awakened spirit.

Principles of Kwanzaa

Umoja (Unity): To strive for and to maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.

Kujichagulia (Self-Determination): To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves.

Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility): To build and maintain our community together and make our brothers' and sisters' problems our problems and to solve them together.

Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics): To build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and to profit from them together.

Nia (Purpose): To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.

Kuumba (Creativity): To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.

Imani (Faith): To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

Reprinted from www.wikipedia.org

Smith's Legend Grows With \$76.5M Debut

LOS ANGELES (AP) - For the last man on Earth, Will Smith sure has a lot of friends. The Warner Bros. tale "I Am Legend," starring Smith as a plague survivor who may be the last living human, debuted with \$76.5 million, the biggest December opening ever and a personal best for one of Hollywood's top box-office champs, according to studio estimates Sunday.

"It's no wonder Will Smith feels so lonely. Everyone else on Earth is in the movie theater," said Paul Dergarabedian, pres-

ident of box-office tracker Media By Numbers.

The 20th Century Fox family flick "Alvin and the Chipmunks," starring Jason Lee in a big-screen take on the cartoon critters, opened a strong No. 2 with \$45 million. The two films combined to give Hollywood a year-end surge after a drowsy fall season.

"Forty-five million acorns," said Chris Aronson, senior vice president for distribution at 20th Century Fox. "Chipmunks are diurnal animals and they do hibernate, but not right now."

Overall business soared, with the top 12 movies taking in \$153.6 million, up 39 percent from the same weekend a year earlier, when Smith also was No. 1 with a \$26.5 million debut for "The Pursuit of Happyness."

The previous No. 1 movie, New Line Cinema's fantasy "The Golden Compass," nose-dived in its second weekend, coming in third with \$9 million, down a dismal 65 percent from its less-than-expected \$25.8 million debut a week earlier.

"The Golden

Compass," which cost \$180 million to produce, has done \$90 million so far overseas but has proven a dud domestically with just \$41 million.

On the other hand, "I Am Legend" smashed Smith's personal debut

record, easily exceeding the \$52.1 million opening weekends of "I, Robot" and "Men in Black II," his previous bests. "I Am Legend" outdid the \$72.6 million premiere of 2003's "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King,"

the previous best December opening.

"It's nice to be in the Will Smith business," said Dan Fellman, head of distribution for Warner Bros. "He is just the No. 1 box-office star in the world today."

Words, Page 1

of Malcolm's words at the time he was saying them, imagine where we would be today. Still many Black men and women quote him and use his words to stir the emotions, but few are willing to incorporate the words into their daily lives. How many of us are willing to have economic empowerment by any means necessary?

How about Mary McLeod Bethune? She told us what to do economically before she died, and we just love to hear her words today. Have we turned her words into action? Harriet Tubman, Ida B. Wells, and many more have told us what we must do for ourselves in order to have a strong economic foundation. Are we following the principles they espoused?

Let us not forget about Booker T. Washington, who practiced what he preached and demonstrated the results of his words. And probably the most quoted of them all, Frederick Douglass, who told us what to do and how to do it more than 100 years ago. We love to talk about "power" and how it "concedes nothing," and we rejoice in his notion of "agitation."

Are we merely interested in feeling good about economic empowerment? Do we just like to hear the words of these and more famous Black men and women? Or, are we willing to act upon those words as well? Speakers can recite the words of famous people and bring the audience to a fever pitch; but if the audience goes home and does not act upon those words, they become, as another famous writer and activist said, "Sounding brass and tinkling cymbals."

As we face our collective economic future, we can look at it in one of two ways: As a speeding train about to run over us or as a train we are about to board and take a nice long trip. What's it going to be? If we had followed a few of the words our mothers and fathers uttered when they walked this earth, I shudder to think how pow-

erful we would be, how together we would be, how truly rich we would be, not only financially but in most other ways as well. Additionally, since we are talking about that train, we certainly would not have to worry about it running us down - we'd own it!

The thousands of you who will read this column and those who have read other columns I have written, please don't sit back after reading them and simply say, "Man, that was right on the money," or something to that effect. If these words make you "feel good" then allow them to make you "do good" as well.

These words are not new words; I have borrowed them from many great Black brothers and sisters. They have been recycled more times than we'd like to count. So when are we going to heed them? When are we going to act? Some say information is power - but I say information is only power if it is

acted upon. If you have been reading this column, you have the information. If this is the first time you have seen it, you will get more information in future articles. Either way, it is up to you to act. It is up to you to find your niche and do what you can for our people. It is up to you to be an active participant in collective economic empowerment.

In the 1950's, Cincinnati hotel owner and then President of the National Negro Business League, Horace Sudduth, admonished us: "Eco-nomic freedom is the greatest cause before the Negro today." In the 1960's, Martin L. King said, "The emergency we now face is economic." In 1912, Booker T. Washington said, "Let us act, before it's too late - before others come from foreign lands and rob us of our birthright." The key word is ACT. Please do not allow the words of our predecessors to go unheeded.

N2NE (In Tune) Youth Mentoring and Intervention/Prevention Program

"Focus on your future and believe in your dreams."



Upcoming sessions:

- 12/19 - Christmas Party
- 1/2 - Teen Pregnancy/STDs/Abstinence
- 1/7 - Keeping It Real (Dating/Date Rape)

N2NE (In Tune) would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year. Sincerely, Rich Eita Weatherhead-Founder/CEO

N2NE (In Tune) Youth Intervention/Prevention program is designed for youth between the ages of 12-21. The program is held on Monday's and Wednesday's, from 6:00 - 7:30 pm in the clubhouse at Indigo on Forest Apartments, 9669 Forest Lane, Dallas TX 75243.

Additional locations in Plano and Allen coming soon. We are actively seeking volunteers for these locations. For more information, please forward your resume to rich_eita@n2ne-ym.com or penny@n2ne-ym.com; or call Rich Eita Weatherhead (469-223-5618) or Penny Francis (214-793-1178)



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Auto Burglars Shopping Unattended Vehicles As Holiday Shopping Season Hits Peak

(Arlington, TX) This holiday season, auto burglars will shop the easy way — by stealing gifts, purses, wallets, packages, electronics, or other valuables you leave in plain sight in your vehicle. Every two minutes, a vehicle is burglarized in Texas and the contents stolen. These crimes escalate during the holiday season when people increase shopping and don't always take necessary precautions to protect items left in a vehicle.

"We know that auto burglars scout malls, shopping centers, and other large parking lots this time of

year for the perfect opportunity to break into a vehicle. Within seconds, they can take your purchases, your belongings, information to steal your identity, and sometimes your car," said Michelle Lanham, program manager for the Reduce Auto Theft in Texas (RATT) public awareness task force at the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) in Arlington. "Texas drivers need to understand that carelessness with items left inside vehicles actually helps auto burglars and thieves carry out their crimes more efficiently."

The Texas Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority (ABTPA) and RATT offer three basic safety tips to motorists to help prevent these crimes during the holidays and throughout the year: hide belongings from view, lock your vehicles, and take the keys. Last year, thieves stole over 95,000 vehicles in Texas. In some jurisdictions, more than half of reported thefts occurred because vehicle keys were left inside. Once a vehicle is stolen, the thief will have easy access to everything left inside, including items such as

garage door openers, house keys, and personal information, which can all lead to additional and more serious crimes as well as further victimization of the vehicle owner.

"We want everyone to enjoy the holiday season and not experience the violation and frustration of having their vehicles burglarized or stolen. We encourage all vehicle owners and operators to help prevent such crimes from happening," said Susan Sampson, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) director for the ABTPA.

Commission Evaluates Texas Filmmaking Incentives

(AUSTIN) — Movies, TV shows and other video productions produced in Texas pump billions of dollars into the state economy. The Texas Film Incentive Program Advisory Committee, created by the 80th Legislature and appointed by Comptroller Susan Combs, will examine how much revenue the film industry generates, its anticipated growth and whether Texas is doing enough to attract filmmakers.

"The Texas Film Commission estimates that during the last 10 years, 602 film and TV projects were produced wholly or partly in Texas," Combs said. "The video industry, including films, television, commercial video, animation and video games, spent \$1.77 billion in Texas and created nearly 57,000 jobs."

Texas faces increasing competition from New Mexico, Louisiana and other states rolling out the red carpet for filmmakers by offering tax breaks and other incentives. In Texas, the film industry qualifies for certain exemptions from the sales tax, hotel occupancy tax and motor fuels tax. The Texas Production Incentives Program reimburses filmmakers for part of their Texas expenditures.

The Texas Production Incentives Program offers grants equal to 5 percent of in-state spending, including wages paid to Texas residents. At least 80 percent of the production must be completed in Texas; at least 70 percent of the paid cast and crew members must be Texas residents; and the production must spend a minimum of \$1

million for feature films, documentaries or television programs or at least \$100,000 for commercials, infomercials, music videos or video games.

Funding for the grants became available Sept. 1. The Texas Film Commission has received 88 applications that could qualify for \$4.8 million in grants, based on \$86.8 million in projected Texas spending. No grants have been awarded yet.

The Film Incentive Program Advisory Committee held its first meeting Dec. 10 in Austin.

The committee members are Steve Belsky, president of the International Alliance of Theatrical and Stage Employees, Local 484; Betty Buckley, animated TV series producer; Linda Dowell, Screen Actors Guild; Evy Galan, vice-president of Galan Inc., a TV documentary company specializing in Latino topics; Rodney Gibbs, executive studio director for video game producer Amaze Entertainment and president of the Digital Media Council; Tony Miglini, executive producer for TV commercial production company Sugar Film Production and president of the Southwest chapter of the Association of Independent Commercial Producers; Meredith Stephens, director of development for commercial production facility MPS Studios and president of the Texas Motion Picture Alliance; and John Schrimf of the motion picture equipment company Panavision. Economist Dr. Bernard Weinstein of the University of North Texas, along

with representatives of the Texas Film Commission, the Texas Workforce Commission and the Comptroller's office will work with the advisory committee,

which will issue a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislative Budget Board in December 2008.

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Online holiday shopping is reportedly up 30% this year. Cableorganizer.com offers a unique collection of tools for your favorite gadget or neat freak.

Universally wanted. (Price Range: \$129.99 to \$269.99)

A universal remote control that will allow her to relax to the fullest extent in his easy chair. The Logitech® Harmony® is one advanced universal remote that can control all entertainment systems with the touch of a button. The Web Wizard feature makes setup programming a snap.

Multi-gadget charging. (Price Range: \$19.95 to \$32.99)

From cell phones to iPods to your child's GameBoy, gadgets reign supreme in many households. But, most need to be charged to remain functional. For that person with so many gadgets to charge but so little time, multi-device chargers such as The Power Station Traveler?, which can charge up to 3 small portable devices simultaneously, will allow the recipient to tote an array of fully functional electronics with ease. For style-savvy gals, the Faux Leather Charging Station's - Available in 4 different colors to accessorize or match décor - are attractive and functional, with individual compartments accommodate up to 4

devices.

iPod® cord control. (Price Range: \$4.99 to \$9.99)

The Cableyoyo POP is one nifty solution designed to store and protect iPod and other ear bud cords. This tiny cord winder keeps a headset organized and ready for use, and can be fastened to a belt clip, armband, shirt pocket, or bag. It also has a suction cup for stationary use. earPod is another great iPod headset accessory that houses the wires in a plastic round enclosure to keep them from twisting and tangling. The felt-lined center compartment on the earPod can even store ear buds and plug to protect them from damage or getting lost.

Label me thrilled. (Price Range: \$7.99 to \$799.99)

While a label printer may not be on every gals gotta have it wish list, these nifty gadgets are actually a luxury that people become die-hard addicts to once they own one. Perhaps the most versatile gadget on earth, with dozens of makes and models to choose from, label printers have a myriad of possible uses both personal and professional. From filing systems to luggage tags to storage containers, this unexpected gift is a sure-fire winner.

Computer wire management. (Price Range: \$0.65 to \$75.99)

For that person who does nothing but complain about that rat's nest under her desk, cable management products are an extremely effective and inexpensive way to solve the annoying and unsightly problem. An assortment of cable ties, Velcro wraps, ?tamers? and other cable managers and ties are a great way to show that you care.

It's in the bag. (Price Range: \$8.99 to \$2,002.97)

Every household amasses its share of tools over the years that are often stored in complete disarray. A tool box or tool bag is a great practical gift that will be genuinely appreciated over the years. Tool bags are more portable, and come in many attractive fabrics and styles including canvas, nylon and leather.

CableOrganizer.com offers around-the-clock, single-point access to the most complete selection of products that serve to manage cable, wire, hardware and other home or remote office equipment. They can be reached directly through their Web site at <http://CableOrganizer.com> or via toll-free telephone at 1-866-222-0030.

Giving, Page 1

Christmas is a time to enrich the lives of our children by sharing with them the joy and gift of giving. This can be done in many ways. While shopping with your children, have them select a toy to give to a poor child. Bake together a few dozen cookies and take them to your local children's hospital or nursing home to brighten the day of someone less fortunate.

There are many in need not only in our own communities but in our global community. I am reminded of the wonderful children's story of Beatrice's Goat by Page McBrier about a young Ugandan girl whose dream of going to school seems out of reach because her family is poor.

But things change for Beatrice when her family is selected to receive a goat from Heifer International, a program that provides livestock to those in need around the world. After months dutifully tending the goat and

selling its milk at the market, Beatrice finally has enough money to pay for books and a school uniform. Then one day, dressed in her new school uniform, after taking the goat's milk to market, Beatrice makes her way to her first day of school.

You can participate in the Heifer International program (heifer.org) by giving a struggling family in another land the gift of a goat, alpaca, camel, cow, donkey, horse, llama, pig, sheep, a water buffalo, yak, honey bees, a school of fish or a flock of chickens, ducks or geese.

In exchange, the receiving family promises to pass the first offspring on to another family—it's called "Passing on the Gift." This living chain of giving is a dynamic and sustainable approach to grassroots economic development.

The gift of a dairy goat (at \$120) can supply a family several quarts of nutritious milk a day—a ton of milk a year. Extra milk can be sold or used

to make cheese, butter or yogurt. Goats can thrive in extreme climates and on poor, dry land by eating grass and leaves. Because goats often have two or three kids a year, Heifer partners can help lift themselves out of poverty by starting small dairies that earn money for food, health care and education. Geese (at \$20) are easy to care for. They don't require much shelter and can adapt to most climates. They can lay up to 75 eggs a year providing a ready source of protein and income.

My grandchildren picked the animals they wanted me to give in their honor with great excitement! This year I'm also buying my grandchildren three banks each for Christmas: one for saving, one for spending, and one for sharing. I hope this will teach them the value of thrift and how to share their good fortune with others. I also hope this will help them understand the true meaning of Christmas.

DBDT, Page 1

everyone for the Dallas Black Dance Theatre."

To achieve the fundraising goal, Mrs. Malone has secured exquisite, one-of-a-kind blown glass vases and bowls from Seapoot's Studio Collection that will serve as centerpieces on each table and will also be available for purchase. Silent auction items include Airline Tickets, Sports Tickets, and Hotel Packages.

This annual fundraiser celebrates the vision of DBDT Founder/Artistic Director Ann Williams and recognizes civic and business leaders for their contributions both to the community and to the arts. The 2008 honorees are The Warrior Group, Texas

Instruments, Incorporated and Texas Instruments Foundation. The event host is Fox 4 News, Clarice Tinsley.

Last year over 900 community and corporate patrons attended the luncheon, raising over \$100,000 for DBDT's operations and community education and outreach programs.

Individual tickets range from \$50 - \$150 and can be purchased by calling (214) 871-2390. Table sponsorships are also available. For recognition in the program, the submission deadline is January 4, 2008.

Citibank is Presenting Sponsor of this year's luncheon with Honorary Chairpersons Veronica and William Frazier. The

Steering Committee of community volunteers includes Bonnie Alex, Michonne Baker, Celestine Tisdale-Barnes, Susie Bell, Diedrae Bell-Hunter, Cheryl Brown, JoAnn S. Brown, Toni Bryant, Sharon Modabberri Cornell, Gina Grant, Marge Irwin, Cynthia Jackson, Betty S. Johnson, Shari Lamb, Gloria Lockett, Claude Maples, Verna Mitchell, Herdercine Nash, Hattie Newhouse, Hortense Ransom, Emma Taylor, Audrey Thomas, Claude Tyus, Candace Waterman, Patricia Webb, Angelia Williams, and Shirley Williams.

For more information on DBDT, visit the company's web site at www.dbdt.com or call (214) 871-2376.



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Massage Therapist Offers Stress-Less Holiday Tips

By: Kathryn Reynolds

(Allen, TX) - It is that time of year again. Time to pull out the decorations, cook the holiday dinner, prepare for guests (invited or not), buy presents, clean the house, mail holiday cards, attend holiday parties, plan and prepare your own holiday party, and purchase your secret Santa gift for work. When it's all said and done, you are left with credit card debt, a house full of toys, and relatives that won't seem to leave. This holiday season can be less stressful by following some of these simple tips.

Remember the reason for the season.

Everywhere we turn we are pressured to buy, buy, and buy. It's really easy to charge now and pay later, but keep in mind that later is only next month. Remember the holidays are for spending time with your family and friends.

Make it a potluck

Why not cook the main entrée and assign everyone a dish to bring? There is always someone with a great recipe that the family loves, so it's a win-win for everyone.

Have some "My Time" each day

After a long day of working, shopping, and preparing the house for guests, you are in desperate need of some time to yourself. Establish a designated time frame that no one can

disturb you.

Wash your cares away with a nice hot bubble bath with some lavender oil to help you have a good night's sleep.

Take a much needed nap or read a few chapters in your favorite book. Just do something for yourself that you enjoy.

Studies show that a brief walk outside in the fresh air can reduce stress. Take some deep breaths, clear your mind and relieve your tension, not to mention burn some calories in the process.

Stretching is a great way to relieve tension in the body. You can take a yoga class, or buy a yoga DVD and stretch at home on your own schedule.

Get a massage

Massage is one of the best ways to relieve stress during the holidays and anytime of the year. Find a therapist that has been licensed for at least 3 years, that way you know they should have enough experience. Ask the therapist to work on your upper body because this is where most people carry their stress.

Kathryn Reynolds is a Licensed Massage Therapist of 13 years and owner of Zenity Day Spa (http://zenityspa.com) in Allen, TX. She is the host of the Day Spa Lovers Social club http://skincare.meetup.com/46/ and offers health and wellness tips at her My Time meet up group http://women.meetup.com/512/.



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Financial Services Specialist-Treasury-PT

Graduate Engineer

Maintenance Worker I

Maintenance Worker III Pump station

PW Heavy Equipment Operator H20 Distribution

Senior Engineer

Senior Permit Technician

Signal Technician

Telecommunication Dispatcher

Telecommunication Shift Supervisor

To view/apply for a career opportunity go to:

http://www.cityofcarrollton.com

Click on "Jobs" at the bottom of the page

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Community Newspaper seeking Freelance Writers to cover Community Events. Familiarity with AP style a plus. Please send your resume along with a writing sample.

Attn: Publisher
Email: assignmenteditor@northdallasgazette.com
Phone: 972-606-3890
Fax: 972-509-9058
EOE

CITY OF PLANO, TEXAS



CAREER EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

www.plano.gov
AA / EOE / ADA

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT on the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

Dist/Div: FORT WORTH
Contract # 090-48605 for REPAIR/RECONSTRUCTION OF LARGE GUARD RAILS in TARRANT County will be opened on January 08, 2008 at 1:30 pm at the State Office.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalification Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Office listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequal forms and materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.

NPO: 25316

State Office:

Const./Maint. Division
500 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78734
Phone: 512-416-2540

Dist/Div Office(s)

Fort Worth District
District Engineer
2501 Southwest LP 820
Fort Worth, TX 76133
Phone: 817-770-6300

Minimum wage rate and any applicable living allowances and the costs will be part of the contract. TxDOT certifies that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.

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Church Happenings

ABUNDANT LIFE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

December 23, 2007

You are invited to our Christmas Program Service @ the Homewood Suites Hotel, 2601 E. George Bush Turnpike.

December 31, 9 pm

Join us for our New Years Eve Celebration @ the Homewood Suites Hotel, 2601 E. George Bush Turnpike.

Call 972-781-8225 for information about the above two evens.

Abundant Life Fellowship Church
Elder Daniel Richard, Senior Pastor
 2601 E. George Bush Turnpike
 (Service Location Only)
 Plano, TX 75074
 972-781-8225

CATHEDRAL OF HOPE

December 21, 7 pm - 10 pm

Earth Rhythms will pres-

ent and you are invited to our 15th Annual Winter SolstiCelebration, "Finding Our Voice." This is Dallas' largest and longest running seasonal tradition and it celebrates the interfaith community, emphasizing the qualities and concerns we share as humans. Featured is a diverse group of musicians, dancers, singers and poets. Special guest this year is The Women's Chorus of Dallas.

Doors open @ 6:30 pm, Service is 7 pm - 9 pm, and Yule Fest is 9 pm - 10 pm. A \$5 donation is requested, along with canned food and winter clothes for charity collection. Service will be signed for the deaf, and childcare will be available.
Cathedral of Hope
Lisa Taylor, Contact Person
 5910 Cedar Springs @ Inwood, Dallas
 Dallas, TX
 214-943-1099

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAMILTON PARK

(FIRST CHURCH)

Month of December

Our Agape Youth Ministries are now taking pre-orders for their Annual Poinsettia Fundraiser. See any member for details or call 972-235-4235.

On-Going

Our Family Assistance Center's operating hours are: Mondays, 10 am - 2 pm; Wednesdays, 2 pm - 6 m; and Saturdays, 10 am - 2 pm. For more information contact the Center 972-234-3115.

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

December 26 - 29, 2007

You are invited to our Youth Congress.
Full Gospel Holy Temple
 Apostle Lobias Murray,

Founder/Senior Pastor
 39727 West LBJ Freeway
 Dallas, TX 75237
 972-572-3448

MT. HEBRON MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH (THE MOUNT)

December 25, 10 am

Please join us for our Christmas Day Service.

December 31, 10 pm

You are invited to join us as we close-out 2007 and welcome-in 2008 as we worship and praise God for all of His blessings.

Mt. Hebron Missionary Baptist Church (The Mount) - Garland
Rev. Leonard O. Leach, Pastor
 1233 State Highway 66 @ Country Club
 Garland, TX 75040
 972-276-5218

OPEN BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

January 4, 11 pm Thru January 5, 6 am

Join us for our Prayer Shut-In #3 Program, "For Women Only." Theme: "A Call for the Wailing Women."

Open Bible Fellowship Church

Rev. Don Bright, Senior Pastor
 2701 Briarwood Drive
 Plano, TX 75041
 972-422-4248

SAINT MARK BAPTIST CHURCH

January 12, 2008, Noon - 2 pm

Senior Saints (ages 55 and above) please join us for lunch, bingo and prizes during the "Double Nickel Luncheon" @ Newsome Homes Community Center, 230 Amscott Street, McKinney, TX 75069. FREE home delivery available to house-bound seniors within the city only. Please call 972-542-6178 no later than Friday, January 11th with your name, phone number, address, and the

number of meals desired.
Saint Mark Baptist Church
Rev. Charles Wattley, Senior Pastor
 1308 Wilcox Street
 McKinney, TX 75069
 972-542-6178

SUPPORTING OTHERS THROUGH MENTORING (SOTM, INC.)

January 5, 2008, 9 am

Our Wives of Excellence group will have our first meeting of the Year @ 450 W. Wheatland Road in Cedar Hill, TX. This meeting is for wives and wives-to-be with marriage coaches for support, learning, and discussing issues affecting marriages. There is NO CHARGE to attend, but you must RSVP by calling 972-709-1180.
SOTM, INC.
Sandra Brown, Contact Person
 423 W. Wheatland Road, Suite 101
 Duncanville, TX 75116
 972-709-1180

EBENEZER WORSHIP CENTER



Rev. Cecil T. Smith, II
Senior Pastor

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SUNDAY

10:00 am: Sunday School
 11:00 am: Morning Worship
MONDAY

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm: Men of Power and Women of Power

TUESDAY

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm: Bible Study & Worship Service

14000 Preston Road • Dallas, TX 75254 • 972-980-0977 (Church Phone)

PRIME BURIAL LOTS FOR SALE

One, two or three lots for sale at Restland in North Dallas; located in the beautiful and peaceful Serenity Gardens Section (Southeast corner of Greenville Avenue & Restland Road.) Market value \$3450 each, but selling price negotiable. View plots by appointment only. Call 972-606-3878, 972-416-6109, or 469-235-5808.



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www.fbcofallen.org

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 Lady Tasha Stafford

8:15 AM Fellowship Baptist Main Sanctuary
 200 Belmont Dr.
 Allen, TX 75013

11:00 AM Story Elementary School
 1550 Edehweiss
 Allen, TX 75002

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300 Chisholm Place Plano, TX 75075 972-633-5511

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 10:00 am

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 KGGP 1040 AM MONDAY - FRIDAY @ 5:25pm - 5:30pm



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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Shaun Robb, Senior Pastor

www.newlightchurchdallas.org



Sister Tarpley

Why Jesus is Better than Santa

Jesus is everywhere; Santa lives at the North Pole. *Jesus* rides on the wind and walks on water; Santa rides in a sleigh. *Jesus* is an ever present help; Santa comes once a year. *Jesus*

know your name, all he can say is, "Hi little boy (girl), what's your name?" *Jesus* has a heart full of love; Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly. *Jesus* offers health, help and hope; Santa offers "Ho! Ho! Ho!..." *Jesus* says, "Cast all your cares on Me for I care for you." Santa says, "You better not cry!"

Jesus makes new lives,

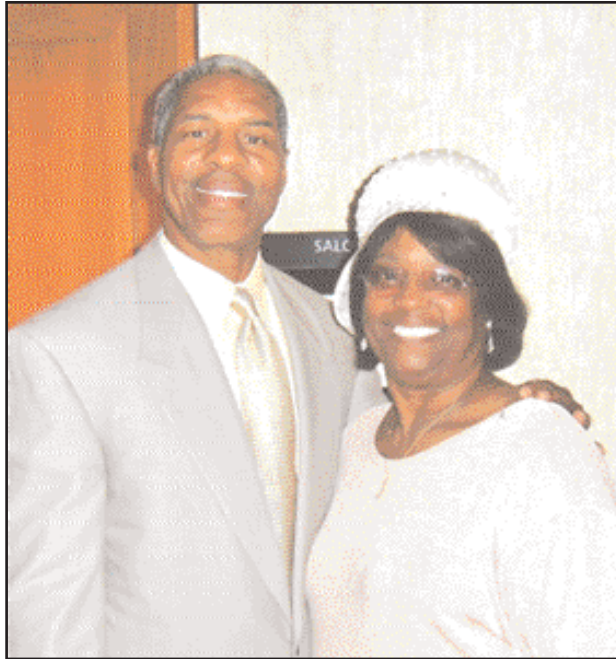
the New Year, it is time that we: **Stop Making Excuses** – If we can understand this, we're going to give our life for something – the question is what? Is it sports, a hobby, fame, or wealth? None of these bring lasting satisfaction!

Service is the pathway to joy and fulfillment! It's through a ministry for Christ 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 it is what you are a part of. **1 Corinthians 12:14, 19.**

"Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of His body." **Romans 12:5** If we aren't involved in something greater than ourselves, we just exist because life is meant for a ministry. God wants us to love and serve others unselfishly. He wants us to make a difference in His world: He wants to work through us. Ultimately what matter is not how long we live, but how effectively we live!

If we're not involved in any form of service today, what's our excuse? Abraham was old. Jacob was insecure. Leah was unattractive. Joseph was abused. Moses stuttered. Gideon was poor. Samson was co-dependent. Rehab was immoral. David had an affair resulting in all kinds of family problems; and Elijah was suicidal.

Jeremiah was depressed. Jonah was reluctant. Naomi was a widow. John the Baptist was eccentric. Peter was impulsive. Martha worried a lot. The Samaritan woman had several failed marriages. Zacchaeus was crooked. Thomas had doubts; and Paul had poor health. That's quite a variety of misfits, yet God used each of them – and He will use us too, if we stop making excuses.



Picture of The Week: Everson Walls, Former Dallas Cowboy's Player (an organ donor), and Sister Tarpley.

supplies all our needs; Santa fills our stockings with goodies. *Jesus* stands at your door and knocks; then enters your heart when invited; Santa comes down your chimney. *Jesus* is as close as the mention of HIS name; you have to wait in line to see Santa. *Jesus* lets you rest in His arms; Santa lets you sit on his lap. *Jesus* knew your name before you were born, He knows your address, your history and future, He even knows how many hairs are on your head; Santa doesn't

mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes and builds mansions; Santa's little helpers make toys. *Jesus* gives you joy that is your strength; Santa may make you chuckle. *Jesus* became our gift and died on a tree; Santa puts gifts under the tree. It's obvious there is really no comparison. We need to remember Who Christmas is all about. We need to put Christ back in Christmas. **Jesus is still the Reason for the Season!**

This Holiday Season, and in

Grief, Page 1

"I carried Dorian the full nine months. What I thought was his big kick of life was him dying. I really did not think I was going to survive that.

"Writing in that journal helped me stay sane."

It was also a path to healing, Jones stresses. Drawing on her professional and personal experiences, she began conducting memoir and grief writing workshops.

Carol Anne Gordon, a family services coordinator for the Southwest Transplant Alliance, attended one of Jones' workshops. She was so impressed that she told her co-workers about it. Her manager asked Jones to create a tip sheet on journaling through grief and invited her to share some of the tips at the transplant alliance's appreciation dinner for donor families.

"In my work, I help families in crisis and journaling through their grief is a good resource," Gordon says. "Not only did I learn how to present this type of journaling and tips for getting started, I got inspired to start journaling myself!

"Linda is a wonderful facilitator and a champ at creating a safe, inspiring, creative atmosphere to find your voice."

The positive response Jones received at the appreciation dinner last spring convinced her of the need for an instructive journal.

"This one really came from my heart," she says of *It's Only Temporary*. She wrote it to be a companion, a confidant for the bereft.

"Grief is such a personal and often lonely thing," notes Robbie Morganfield, executive minister of the Shaw Community Ministry in Washington, D.C.

"Many times people need to simply express themselves in an honest way. Often others grow weary in listening or are at a loss as to how to be present and helpful.

"A self-guided journal like *It's Only Temporary* is an excellent outlet for finding the recovery so many desire during times of loss."

Although Jones initially wondered whether the

slender, soft-cover journal would be enough at 59-pages, she has come to realize that it is ideal for getting any writer started. "I did not want it to be too demanding, just a gentle nudge," Jones explains.

Instead of a book of blank ages where one could ramble without direction, Jones says that she wanted space for rambling, but also "to hold the hand a little bit, to be a guide."

Published by ManeLock Communications, *It's Only Temporary...A Journal for Surviving Loved Ones* sells for \$12. It's available online at www.manelockcommunications.com/griefjournal.htm. To order by mail, send \$12 to ManeLock Communications, P.O. Box 720746, Dallas, TX 75372. Include an additional \$5 to cover shipping and handling costs for up to four books.

Friendship Baptist Church

4396 Main Street

The Colony, Texas 75056

(972) 625-8186

website: www.fbc-online.net



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 7:30 p.m.

Evening Bible Study

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Sunday School 9:45 am – 10:45 am
Wednesday Bible Study ... 12:00 noon & 7:00 pm

Office Hours

Monday & Friday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday ... 9:00 am - 6:00 pm
Saturday & Sunday Closed

Contact Info

Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church
11611 Webb Chapel Road • Dallas, TX 75229
Office: 972-241-6151
Email: info@dallasmtpisgah.org
Website: www.dallasmtpisgah.org

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T.J. Denson,
Saturday: Intercessory Prayer @ 7:00 am
Sunday Services: Sunday School @ 9:30 am • Morning Worship @ 11:00 am
Monday Service: Men's Group & Women's Group Bible Study @ 6:30 pm
Wednesday Service: Family Bible Study @ 6:30 pm

Local Optometrist Provides Tips on Selecting Functional and Fashionable Frames

DALLAS - Essential Vision, a black-owned upscale and fashionable optometric practice located in North Dallas near the Galleria, is hosting Frames R Fashion, a trunk show event featuring frames by some of the worlds most renowned eye-glass designers. This exclusive fashion showcase will be held at Essential Vision from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, December 22.

"Frames have evolved to becoming more than just a necessity," said Dr. Veumer Clark, certi-

fied optician and owner of Essential Vision. "They are now a valued fashion accessory and are an essential element to a persons image, appearance and self confidence."

The "Frames R Fashion" trunk show event will showcase a trendy frame fashion show featuring exclusive designer frames by renowned fashion designer, Prada and new eyeglass designer, Italee. There will also be a presentation by experienced experts on effective

ways to select the right frames that possess great style, quality and comfort. Licensed opticians will also be available to offer guests guidance on choosing the right frames for their face shape. Additional event highlights include complimentary appetizers and a 20 percent holiday discount on frames by selected designers that include Fendi, Gucci, Christian Dior, Ooh La La de Paris, Coach, Giorgio Imani, Kate Spade and Kenneth Cole.

"In addition to frames being fashionable, they should also complement the shape of your face," said Dr. Clark. "In selecting frames it is best to select a frame with a shape that is opposite the shape of your face."

Essential Vision's opticians suggest the following tips as a guide for choosing the right frames for specific face shapes.

- Round shaped: Select styles that have a square shape frame to minimize the roundness.

- Heart shaped: Select frames with a low temple and with lenses that get wider at the bottom.

- Square shaped: Select a rounder frame to soften the lines of the face.

- Triangular shaped: Select a cat's eye shaped frame to complement a wider jaw line.

- Oblong shaped faces: Select frames with aviator or rimless bottoms that add width to the forehead, while softening and narrowing the appearance of the jaw, chin

and cheeks.

- Oval shapes faces: Select frames that are wide as or wider than the broadest part of the face to help keep the oval's natural balance.

For additional frame fashion tips, please attend the Frames R Fashion trunk show event. There is no cost to attend, however a RSVP is required and can be made by calling 214-571-0331 or via email at info@tdhconsultingagency.com.

Ben Washington Baptist Church, Inc.
3901 Frisco Avenue
Irving, TX 75061
Church 972-790-8421 Fax 972-986-6590
Email: church@bwbcirving.org
Web: bwbcirving.org
Dr. Joseph R. Shappard, Pastor
"THE CHURCH WITH AN OPEN BIBLE"

Sunday Worship Services 8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 6:00 p.m. Baptist Training Union	Wednesday 12:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Prayer Hour 7:30 p.m. Bible Study
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Avenue F Church of Christ
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"Our Pilgrimage to Heaven in 2007" - Hebrews 11:13-16

Ramon Hodridge, Minister

Sunday Bible Class.....9:45 am	Sunday Morning Worship.....10:45 am
Men Bible Class5:00 pm	Women Bible Class5:00 pm
Evening Worship6:00 pm	Wednesday Bible Class7:00 pm

Radio Program @ 7:30 am on KHVN 970 AM Sunday Mornings
Emery Tease, Associate Minister
www.avefchurchofchrist.org

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7:30 am and 10:30 am
Sunday School - 9:30 am
Wednesday Night Service
8:00 pm

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Rev. Anthony Foster, Pastor

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Wednesday Bible Study - 12:00 Noon & 7:00 pm

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972-239-1120 (Office) • 972-239-5925 (Fax)
templeoffaith_cme@sbcglobal.net (Email)

Healthy Beginnings Child Development Center - 972-404-1412

The Inspiring Body of Christ Church
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Dallas Texas 75237
Phone: 972-572-4262 Fax: 972-709-3888

Pastor Rickie J. Rash

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Monday School: 7:pm
Men's Fellowship: Friday 7:00pm

Website: www.ibocjoy.org

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Pastor Isiah Joshua, Jr.

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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

New Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Dallas

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

Wednesday Service
Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm
Brotherhood 7:00 pm
Missions 7:00 pm
Singles Group 7:00 pm
Bible Study 7:45 pm

Dr. Robert E. Price, Senior Pastor

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Pastor Charles S. Wattley

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

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

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