

# North Dallas Gazette



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## Greiner Yellow Jackets Eager For Change, Hope Make 'Bee-Line' For Reunion Arena Rally

Cutting class was never an option for four Dallas middle school students, but that changed Wednesday morning when Brandon Porragas, Kevraye' Wright, Briana Cross and Devondria Robertson (see photo to the right) didn't show up for school.



Instead, they (and their parents) were among the estimated 17,500 people who flocked to Reunion Arena on February 20th for the rally in support of presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama. Representing their families, W. E. Greiner

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## Tom Joyner, NAACP Launch Voter Empowerment Hotline

(NNPA) The Tom Joyner Morning Show and the NAACP National Voter Fund have partnered to launch 1-866-MYVOTE1 as part of a year-long voter registration, education and empowerment campaign.

"This is truly one of the most exciting and important presidential election years we've ever

had," said Joyner, the nationally syndicated radio personality whose radio show is aired in 115 markets reaching nearly eight million listeners. "This partnership with the NAACP National Voter Fund is our way to make sure we register as many voters as possible, and give our community the tools to become active

players in this year's election."

Julian Bond, chairman of the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization, said that "the stakes in this year's elections are extremely high and for the first time in US History the African-American vote will be decisive in both the Primary and General

Elections."

Bond added, "The NAACP and NAACP National Voter Fund's Partnership with the Tom Joyner Morning Show could not come at a better time. The Tom Joyner Morning Show's national promotion will play a major role in our efforts to register and empower

See NAACP, Page 6

## Pro Football Great Emmitt Smith To Be Endowed With Scholarship by Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity

The national chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. will present the first annual Emmitt Smith Scholarship Gala on Saturday, March 8, 2008 at the Renaissance Hotel in Dallas, Texas. This



Emmitt Smith

first annual gala will also kick off an endowed scholarship in Mr. Smith's name benefiting college athletes who are members of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity. Also at the gala Mr. Smith, who is a Phi Beta Sigma

Fraternity life-time member, will be honored for his many contributions and accomplishments to the community. Several of his former Dallas Cowboy teammates, along with elected officials,

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## Turning Shame to Fame!



Searching for essential treasures among the trash of others. "We want to shed light on the homeless community and let others know that they are ordinary people, too."

See Shame, Page 9

Blackonomics

## Whites Should Really Love Blacks

By James Clingman

After arriving in America, Black people played a major role in creating the wealth that is now enjoyed by millions of White people. Black people fought and died in all of the wars started by White people. Black folks have suffered all sorts of mistreatment by Whites, even the bane of U.S. society: lynching. Black people nurtured White children, sometimes neglecting our own in the process. Black people were the

critical link to the prosperity of the so-called founding fathers of this country and their families.

Fast forward to 2008, past the enslavement, the torture and murders, the exploitation, the discrimination, and centuries of inequity, and we see the same thing occurring to Black people.

George Bush is in Africa trying to create a "legacy" by mingling with Black folks and making promises; all of this hoopla after seven

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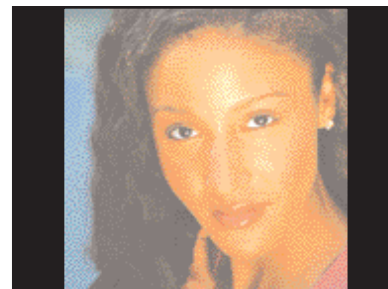
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## People In The News...



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## Steve Stroute

Former Interscope Records executive Steve Stoute has branched out to open a multi-cultural advertising agency in partnership with recording artist Shawn "Jay-Z" Carter and Interpublic Group.

IPG, which in October acquired Stoute's Translation Consultation + Brand Imaging, has taken a 49 percent stake in the new agency, which is called Translation



Advertising. Stoute, 37, and Carter, 38, own the rest.

Translation Advertising will specialize in creating ads that are intended to appeal to African-Americans and more broadly, multicultural consumers. To provide specialty marketing services such as events, the New York-based shop will access other IPG agencies like Jack Morton.

"The current fashion and standing that African-Americans hold in the world

today -- especially in American culture -- isn't fully represented in the advertising community," said Stoute, in a statement. "We want to show this community in advertising that's fresh, accurate and perfectly executed."

Stoute and Carter, the former president and CEO of Def Jam Recording and Roc-A-Fella Records, follow in the footsteps of other prominent African-Americans who have launched ad agencies, with

mixed success, including Spike Lee (Omnicom Group-backed Spike DDB), Russell Simmons (the now defunct dRush, a joint venture with Deutsch) and Sean Combs (Blue Flame Marketing and Advertising).

Stoute and IPG will "jointly oversee" the hiring of a senior management team to run the business, IPG said. Translation Advertising opens with one client that IPG declined to disclose.

In October, IPG paid an estimated \$10-15 million in cash for Stoute's brand consultancy, which at the time had estimated revenue of \$5-10 million and about 45 staffers. That deal gave IPG a branded entertainment specialist that shared a major client in General Motors and had ties to the music industry and urban culture. At the same time, Translation gained access to IPG's clients, with an opportunity to expand its operation.

## Naima Imani Lett

Naima Imani Lett\*\* (Laura Wingfield) Just named on the coveted Dallas Weekly "Top 25 to Watch" 2008 list, Naima Imani Lett is a professional screen and stage actor, writer, producer and co-founder of Lett's Rise! Productions. A summa cum laude graduate of Howard



University (BFA, Acting), Naima continued her theatrical career at the Tony-Award winning Crossroads Theatre and studied classical theater with the British American Drama Academy in Oxford, England. She recently received the first Masters in Media & Communications from

Theological Seminary, and she was a resident artist with Fellowship for the Performing Arts for several years. Naima has written and performed several one-woman plays including "Shattered Silhouettes" nationwide, and she received an EDOC Film Festival Best Actress Nomination.

Recent onscreen credits include Fox's "Prison Break" and Lifetime's "Inspector Mom". Naima can be

seen next as lead on the BBC America series "Wire in the Blood". More info at [www.NaimaLett.com](http://www.NaimaLett.com)

## Alonzo Walker



Alonzo Waller\*\* (Jim O'Conner)- Recently delivered a memorable performance in the Jubilee Theatre's production of "A Lovesong for Miss Lydia". The Fort Worth Star Telegram wrote of Alonzo's performance:

"There are uniformly fine performances all around, but Alonzo Waller stands out for not standing out, a high compliment for an actor". Last year, he appeared with the legendary Irma P. Hall in The Corner Theatre's "A Raisin in the Sun." Alonzo's theatre credits also include "Eve's Garden," "The Colored Museum," "Split Second," "Two Trains Running," and "Blind Lemon: Prince of Country Blues." Alonzo is an actor, writer and producer, whose film

and television credits include "Fire And Rain," "Born On The 4th of July" and "Barney and Friends." He's also appeared in many nationally televised commercials for Advil, Southwest

Airlines, Lowenbrau Beer, Pilgrim's Pride, Macaroni Grill, Greyhound and Cingular Wireless. He says that working in the theatre has taught him that "Life is about the journey, not the destiny."

On March 14-30, 2008 Teatro delle Muse, is featuring an all African-American production of the American classic "The Glass Menagerie" co-starring Naima Imania Lett as Laura Wingfield and Alonzo Walker as Jim O'Conner. For tickets and information call 972.424.MUSE (6873).

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## Hot Off the Press Senior's Quarterly January-March 2008 Edition

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



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



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




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**North Dallas Gazette**  **Founded 1991**

**1100 Summit, Suite 101 • Plano, Texas 75074**

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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**

# THE TRUTH CLINIC

## Silliness And Egotism Attack The Obama Express

The much anticipated primary debate that was supposed to be the beginning of the come back for Hillary Clinton was held at the University of Texas on last Thursday night.

Pre-debate publicity promised fireworks on issues that included healthcare, immigration, the war, and the economy. There were a few feisty exchanges but both Senators Barack Obama and Clinton seemed to be taking the political high road by defining their differences in a civil manner.

However, civility was ignored for a moment when Senator Clinton went on the offense and jabbed at Obama over a previous allegation that he had appropriated words from the 2006 campaign of Massachusetts Gov. Deval L. Patrick and used them in his campaign speeches. Her campaign had labeled this as outright plagiarism.

Clinton chastised Obama with, "I think that if your candidacy is going to be about words, then they should be your own words. That's, I think, a very simple proposition. Lifting whole passages from someone else's speeches is not change you can believe in, its change you can Xerox."

The audience must have perceived her comments as negative. There was a collective gasp and spontaneous booing, indicating a rejection of her attack.

Obama responded by referring to the attempted put down as "silly" since Gov. Patrick, one of his national campaign co-

chairs and a personal friend, had suggested that he use the material to help emphasis his vision of hope and unity.

Speaking in Milwaukee two nights later, Obama drew a standing ovation when he defended his speechmaking and continued appeal to the people's sense of hope as tools of a worthy leader. He said, "The most important thing we can do right now is to reengage the American people in the process of governance and get them excited again."

Even if Obama and Patrick didn't know each other it is highly probable that they might use some of the same phrases. Precedent indicates that public figures speaking on similar issues frequently draw from common resources of public rhetoric. Labor leaders often quote Walter Reuther or A. Philip Randolph; civil rights leaders use the same scriptural passages and historical references; conservative Republicans repeatedly invoke Ronald Reagan; and Democrats lean toward Franklin D. Roosevelt or John F. Kennedy.

The tangential non-issue allegation of Obama's plagiarism took on a life of its own and stoked the fires of media attention. Was this simply a case of the pot calling the kettle "Barack" or possibly the desperation response of a mortally wounded campaigner grasping at a last straw? Obama's press secretary, sent out several memos in which Clinton used Obama

catchphrases such as: "Yes We Can," and "Fired Up And Ready To Go."

In like manner, the non appearance of Senator Obama at the State of the Black Union (SOBU) conference in New Orleans hosted by Tavis Smiley on February 22-23 became another non-issue campaign controversy.

It seems that Smiley was miffed enough by Obama's decision not to attend that he spoke out to several media outlets. "I think it's a missed opportunity on Mr. Obama's part."

Smiley also indicated said that his criticism of Obama has resulted in backlash via angry e-mails and threats both to himself and his family.

Obama had sent a letter to Smiley earlier in the month commending him for his efforts in structuring the forum and explained his need to focus on the very critical and crucial March 4 primaries. "In the final stretch, I will be on the campaign trail every day in states like Texas and Ohio talking directly with voters about the causes that are at the heart of both my campaign and the State of the Black Union [SOBU] forum. That is why, with regret, I am not able to attend the forum."

So what is the real beef with Obama not attending the SOBU annual conference?

Black leaders, whether they support Obama or not, should understand the urgency of seizing the opportunity that could close the deal on the democratic nomination. Texas and Ohio are statistically

close. Personal visits to as many precincts, counties, and cities to fortify support and clarify message in the few remaining days available just might turn the tide in Obama's favor and preclude potential convention chicanery.

And for this one conference could not the likes of Mayor Ray Nagin; Cornel West; Bishop Paul S. Morton; the Rev. Al Sharpton; the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr.; Dick Gregory; Michael Eric Dyson; and Michael Steele hold the fort and thoroughly discuss the role African Americans must play to create an America as good as its promise in education, health, the justice system, and wealth-building?

Or did the Tavis personal ego overlook the real possibility of Obama ushering in a new America that moves beyond race and seeks the high moral ground that embraces all God's people?

In state after state, voters are agreeing with Obama that "this campaign can't only be about me. It must be about us." They want change they can believe in. They are rallying and chanting "Yes we can."

We must seize this moment and look beyond the centuries of fear and pain. The Obama Express can move faster without carrying the excess baggage of silliness and egotism.

*James W. Breedlove*  
Comments or opinions may be sent to the writer at: [www.truth-clinic.com](http://www.truth-clinic.com)

## Feminist Supermodel Feared Dead

By Chieh-Yu Lee

(NNPA) - Described as Yves Saint Laurent's "muse," Katoucha Niane was the first French supermodel coming from Guinea, West Africa, and an outspoken activist against female circumcision. She disappeared earlier this month and is feared dead.

According to official reports, on Feb. 1, Niane was returning to her houseboat on the Seine near the Alexander III bridge in Paris from a party when she went missing. Her purse was found outside the door to her boat.

Detectives believe the mother of three lost her footing and slipped into the river accidentally.

Born in Conakry, Guinea, Niane modeled for



Katoucha Niane

Thierry Mugler, Paco Rabanne, and Christian Lacroix. In 1994, she turned her focus to activism and started the organization Katoucha for the Fight against Excision.

In 2007, Niane, daughter of Djibril Tamsir Niane, a writer and historian, published her own book about her personal circumcision at the age of nine.

I grew up surrounded

by hibiscus and ylang-ylang flowers. I used to get drunk on the richest perfumes and saw myself as a perfumer or a model,' she wrote in the book. But her life changed forever after she underwent excision. 'One day, mother said we were going to the cinema. And I found myself the victim of a horror movie. 'An unimaginable trauma that I had never managed to talk about, until I found love and wrote 'In My flesh.'

She said she saw her career as a top model as a form of 'revenge' for the horror of excision. 'I embodied the most arrogant and admired kind of femininity, I who was supposed to be diminished.'

Niane, called the "Peul Princess" for her ethnic group, was 47 years of age.

## Collin College's Live Smart! Health and Safety Fair

Collin County Community College saves the day by partnering with area hospitals to host the collaborative inaugural Live Smart! Health and Safety Fair. Medical organizations such as the Medical Center of McKinney, Centennial Medical Center, Baylor Regional Medical Center, Medical Center of Plano, and the Presbyterian Hospital of Plano are co-sponsoring the event and offering valuable services to attendees. You will be able to participate in proactive health screenings, watch informative health presentations, learn about fire safety and dental hygiene, donate blood, and more. "This is a wonderful collaborative effort between

Collin and the local hospitals," says Dr. Linda Adams, director of the Collin College Wellness Program. "The cost of healthcare can be great, and this is an opportunity for people to get diagnostic tests and hear fantastic speakers from local area hospitals - all free of charge." Medical experts will speak on a variety of topics including breast cancer awareness, smoking cessation, stroke, women's health, cardiac health, sports injuries and medical ethics; free glucose screenings, hearing checks and body fat testing will also be available.

Collin County Community College District serves more than 41,000 credit and continuing education students

annually, and offers more than 100 degree and certificate programs. Collin College, the only public college in the county, is a partner to business, government and industry, by providing customized training and workforce development. The Live Smart! Health Fair is free and open to the public and will include activities for people of all ages. Participants will also be able to enter drawings for door prizes. The health fair will last from 9:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. on Friday, March 7, at the college's Central Park Campus at 2200 W. University Drive in McKinney. For more information on the Live Smart! Health Fair call Dr. Linda Adams at 972-881-5777.

## "Things Fall Apart" Marks 50 Years in Print

(NNPA) - Things Fall Apart, the classic novel by Nigerian-born Chinua Achebe, of the encounter between Africa and Europe and the tragic dimensions of that clash, marks its 50th anniversary of publication this year.

"Things Fall Apart is the all-time most widely read novel by an African author; fifty years into its life, it continues to outsell most just-released novels," said author and professor Okey Ndibe who recently visited Professor Achebe at his home in upstate New York.

"(The book) has been translated into more than 50 languages around the world, making it the most translated work by an African author; it is a staple of



Chinua Achebe

humanities courses on all the continents; it has made every list of the most important books of the last 100 years; it has also been named one of the most remarkable books ever written; it has spawned whole libraries of theses and dissertations around the world."

Celebrations have been lined up in various parts of the world, including Nigeria,

Portugal, India, Kenya, Gambia, England, the U.S., Jamaica, France, South Africa, Brazil and Ghana, Ndibe noted, in anticipation of an interview held with the celebrated author for the Association of Nigerian Authors.

"There's no question at all that the story of our encounter with Europe was one of the most important stories of our time," Ndibe recalled Achebe telling him.

Ndibe's full interview with Achebe can be read at [www.saharareporters.com](http://www.saharareporters.com) A tribute to the great man of letters will be held in New York on Feb. 26 at Town Hall, sponsored by the freedom to write PEN American Center.

## LEGAL NOTICE

These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will close on March 17, 2008. You have until September 13, 2008, to redeem any tickets for these games:

- #778 Lucky 7's (\$1) overall odds are 1 in 4.48
- #789 Billiards (\$1) overall odds are 1 in 4.65
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- #814 Roll The Dice (\$1) overall odds are 1 in 5.41
- #815 Gold Rush Luck (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 3.70
- #816 Cherry Twist (\$2) overall odds are 1 in 4.07
- #840 Big Money Bingo (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 3.61
- #841 Green Stuff (\$2) overall odds are 1 in 4.19
- #842 Pot O' Gold (\$3) overall odds are 1 in 3.73
- #1017 Candy Cane Cash (\$2) overall odds are 1 in 4.07



The odds listed here are the overall odds of winning any prize in a game, including break-even prizes. Lottery retailers are authorized to redeem prizes of up to and including \$599. Prizes of \$600 or more must be claimed in person at a Lottery Claim Center or by mail with a completed Texas Lottery claim form; however, annuity prizes or prizes over \$999,999 must be claimed in person at the Commission Headquarters in Austin. Call Customer Service at 1-800-377-LOTTO or visit the Lottery Web site at [www.txlottery.org](http://www.txlottery.org) for more information and location of nearest Claim Center. The Texas Lottery is not responsible for lost or stolen tickets, or for tickets lost in the mail. Tickets, transactions, players, and winners are subject to, and players and winners agree to abide by, all applicable laws, Commission rules, regulations, policies, directives, instructions, conditions, procedures, and final decisions of the Executive Director. A Scratch-Off game may continue to be sold even when all the top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 years of age or older to purchase a Texas Lottery ticket. PLAY RESPONSIBLY. The Texas Lottery Supports Texas Education. © 2008 Texas Lottery Commission. All Rights Reserved.



## North Texas Cluster Chapters of The Links, Incorporated Hosts Series Of Workshops To Help Local Women Learn The Heart Truth

To raise awareness among local African-American women that heart disease is their #1 health threat, today the North Texas Cluster Chapters of The Links, Incorporated-Dallas Chapter, Fort Worth Chapter, Mid-Cities Chapter, Plano North Metroplex Chapter, and Trinity Chapter-announced The Heart Truth Women Of Color.

According to Shari K. Lamb, President of the Plano North Metroplex Chapter, The Links, Incorporated, "Our sessions are a great opportunity to reach out to women in our community and alert them to their personal risk factors for heart disease. By joining together we can raise awareness locally about heart disease and help

lead women on the path to prevention."

This year, the Plano North Metroplex Chapter, The Links, Incorporated will host the first in a series of five sessions for The Heart Truth Women Of Color campaign on With Every Heartbeat Is Life-Knowledge Is Power: Know Your Risk For Heart Disease at the Plano Medical Center on February 28, 2008, where African-American women will learn of the risks of cardiovascular disease and how to care for her heart.

The Heart Truth, Women of Color Initiative is a national awareness campaign warning women about their risk of heart disease. The campaign is sponsored by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), part of the

National Institutes of Health (NIH), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), in partnership with: The American Heart Association; Office on Women's Health, DHHS; WomenHeart: the National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease; and other groups committed to the health and well-being of women. The Heart Truth Women Of Color has formed a partnership with The Links, Incorporated, a premier national non-for profit service organization to implement a series of community events-Heart Truth Women Of Color workshops and risk factor screenings-designed to increase awareness of heart disease among African-American women.

## Former Dallas ISD Student Gives Back to Her School District Through a Scholarship

YES, Inc. Presents: The Herndon Academic-Athlete Scholarship Youth Equipped for Success Incorporated is offering a new scholarship for athletes with high academic performance.

The Herndon Academic-Athlete Scholarship, created by a former graduate and athlete of the Dallas Independent School District recognize the

intellectual talent of athletes.

HAAS' mission is to promote the overall success of an athlete's academic performance in the classroom, as well as on the playing field by encouraging academic-athletes to be students first and athletes second.

Any DISD senior is eligible to apply to the Herndon Academic-Athlete Scholarship. HAAS is offer-

ing a one-time book scholarship of \$350.00 to the recipient's college or university.

Deadline for the scholarship is March 7, 2008. For a scholarship application or additional information, contact HAAS at PO Box 170891, Dallas, Texas 75217, email teachyes@yahoo.com or go to the website at www.teachyes.com and click on the scholarship link.

## 2nd Annual Trailblazer Luncheon



(Left to Right): Mr. Clovis L. Prince, Dr. Myrtle Hightower, and Mr. Leonard Evans

The Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce hosted its 2nd Annual Trailblazer Luncheon Thursday, February 21, 2008 at Ralph & Kacoo's Restaurant in Allen, in conjunction with Black History Month.

The 2008 recipients were Dr. Myrtle Hightower, a prominent educator and community activist in the city of Plano. Mr. Leonard Evans, former educator, coach, and owner of the McKinney Driving School. Evans Middle School in

McKinney is also named after Mr. Evans. Mr. Clovis L. Prince, a citizen of Collin County, a well-known business leader, community activist, entrepreneur and owner of one of Collin County's newest chain of restaurants, Prince Bistro.

## The 11th Annual Denton Black Chamber of Commerce Banquet

Prepare yourself by marking your calendar for a momentous Sunday next month. Yes, Sunday March 29, 2008, The Denton Black Chamber of Commerce is hosting its 11th Annual Banquet themed "All About Business". The purpose of the banquet is to raise awareness and funds for the Chamber's many seminars that raise money for children's scholarship opportunities.

The Banquet also boasts its keynote speaker this year will be NFL Pro Bowl Player Everson

Walls, a kidney donor to his teammate Ron Springs. Sharon McClellan describes Walls as a "phenomenal man", one whom she enjoys listening to. Ms. McClellan represents one of many locations where tickets to this event may be purchased. Tickets are priced at \$45.00 for individual seats, or \$360.00 for a table of eight, although other sponsorship opportunities are available.

Tickets may be purchased at Lone Star Car Wash, Inwood National Bank, through John

Baines, Kerry Goree, a State Farm Insurance Agent, or Walter Eagleton of Eagleton Photography. Remember to be at The Gateway Center (UNT) Campus at 801 North Texas Boulevard, in Denton, Texas 76201. The Banquet will last from 6:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. If you are interested in purchasing an ad for the program, please email The Denton Black Chamber of Commerce at info@dentonblackchamber.org. For more information please contact Sharon McClellan at 214-783-4401.

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## Craig Watkins responds to Steve Blow's Column, "When DA spoke of JFK, he misspoke for Dallas (No JFK conspiracy, just embarrassment)"

Published in the Dallas Morning News on February 21, 2008

Someone recently asked me, "What has been the biggest surprise since taking office?" I would have to say after a year that what has surprised me the most is defending this office and myself against what appears to be intentionally inaccurate reporting by certain members of the news media. I read with amazement this morning Steve Blow's take on our release of the items connected to Jack Ruby and the assassination of JFK that had been locked up in a safe for decades. According to Mr. Blow's column, he is embarrassed by this administration's decision to share the existence of these artifacts with the American people and characterizes the news conference we held on February 18, 2008, as "irresponsible."

Let's compare the facts

of our announcement earlier this week against Mr. Blow's opinion of why we exposed the information. The headline in the news release distributed to media from our office the morning of the news conference was, "District Attorney Craig Watkins Discloses Historical Documents Connected to Jack Ruby Discovered in DA Office Safe." Similarly, my comments at the news conference simply state how and when I learned of these documents and that we determined the public should know that this information had been stored at the DA's Office for an unspecified amount of time and should in fact be examined and preserved in a proper place.

As I mentioned at the news conference, the fact that this safe existed was brought to my attention by investigators at the DA's Office shortly after I took office in 2007, just as it

was brought to the attention of both of the prior administrations who were elected after Henry Wade.

Among his criticisms, Mr. Blow falsely accuses this office of getting off to a bad start in this matter by searching for the Kennedy material because we heard that the gun used by Ruby to kill Lee Harvey Oswald might be found in this safe. Not once did I nor did anyone from this office state that we were searching for Ruby's gun. The gun was never even mentioned.

Next, Mr. Blow says I overstated the fact that the alleged transcript of Ruby and Oswald was somehow legitimate. We gave no impression of the legitimacy of the transcript. In fact, I stated at the news conference that I did not know of its legitimacy and that it probably was a fake.

When Mr. Blow and I spoke on February 20th, I shared with him what our intended message to the public was. Our message

was largely centered on the fact that first, these documents had been secretly stored in this safe all these years; and second, to expose the racial and faith-based prejudices found throughout a number of the congratulatory letters and notes written to former District Attorney Henry Wade, who prosecuted Ruby in 1964. As I stated at the news conference, those documents remind us of the racial climate in this country in the 60s, how a person's race or religion seemed more important than his guilt or innocence during that era and just how far we have progressed as a nation in terms of race relations. I spoke with Mr. Blow extensively on this subject, but he failed to include anything from our conversation.

In keeping with this administration's philosophy of transparency, we simply said here are some historical items we found

and we think the public has a right to know about it. Whether or not the information has already been seen by investigating authorities in the past or what it means, if anything, is for experts to determine and I have maintained that position from the very beginning. Mr. Blow also cites several international articles and their sensational headlines on the issue. Surely he knows better than most, that headlines are created to sell newspapers and that I certainly cannot control what angle a reporter takes on a story. If I had that kind of power, this would not be the second response to a Dallas Morning News article that I have written in 48 hours.

Finally, Mr. Blow characterizes our news conference on the JFK documents as an "embarrassment." I wonder if he was embarrassed by this administration when we exposed the fact that inno-

cent people have been wrongfully convicted by previous administrations and collectively served more than 218 years in prison. Was he embarrassed when 34 Hispanic citizens were convicted for crimes they did not commit in the fake-drug scandal?

I would think the citizens of Dallas County are more embarrassed by Mr. Blow's exaggerated criticism and mischaracterization of a news conference concerning a safe and its contents, when he has had ample opportunities to express his embarrassment over more serious issues like the wrongful convictions, racially-biased prosecutions and prosecutorial misconduct that this administration continues to uncover.

Craig Watkins  
Dallas County  
District Attorney  
CrWatkins@dallascoun-  
ty.org

### NAACP, Page 1

hundreds of thousands of African Americans and especially young voters throughout the United States."

The toll-free number can be used by callers around the country and will operate through the November 2008 election. After callers dial the 866-MYVOTE1 (866-698-6831), they can enter their zip code and select from one of several options:

1) Request a voter registration application, which they can sign and return to their local county elections board;

2) Find the closest polling place to their home;

3) Record up to a: 60 second complaint if they have encountered any problems, or

4) Transfer to a person at their local county elections office.

Throughout the primary season and Election Day, Joyner and the NAACP will be encouraging tens of thousands to register to vote and be able to monitor any problems voters might have at their polling places.

The voter hotline is a part of Joyner's and the NAACP broader initiatives to educate and inform residents to get involved in what is one of the most racially diverse presidential campaigns ever.

Joyner's BlackAmericaWeb.com (<http://blackamericaweb.com>) will feature a special 'Moving America' section that will exclusively be devoted to covering the presidential race as well as other critical issues affecting African-Americans.

"Since the start of this new partnership in late November, 2007, over

10,000 listeners have already responded, "according to Greg Moore, executive director of the NAACP National Voter Fund. "Our overall goal is to register 100,000 new voters who will play a decisive role in the 2008 primary and general elections."

REACH Media Inc., founded by radio and television personality, philanthropist and entrepreneur Tom Joyner, is a multimedia company formed in January 2003. As the parent company of The Tom Joyner Morning Show, The Tom Joyner Show in television syndication, BlackAmericaWeb.com, The Tom Joyner Foundation and Tom Joyner signature events, REACH Media targets African Americans through radio, television, signature events and the

internet.

The Tom Joyner Morning Show is aired in more than 115 markets throughout the United States, reaching more than 8 million listeners every week. BlackAmericaWeb.com, which has more than 1.3 million registered members, is a virtual town square for visitors to get daily news, learn about issues affecting the Black community and listen to the Morning Show online. The NAACP National Voter Fund (NVF) was established by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) as a free-standing 501C (4) corporation in June 2000 to engage in civic participation and community-based mobilization efforts through education and awareness campaigns surrounding key issues in

communities of color. NVF's expertise lies in increasing voter turnout in the African-American communities through non-

partisan voter registration, voter education, and get-out-the vote efforts. Their Web site is [www.naacpn-vf.net](http://www.naacpn-vf.net).



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

The program is held on Tuesday's and Thursday's, from 6:00 - 7:15 pm, in the clubhouse at Indigo On Forest Apartments, 3685 Forest Lane, Dallas TX 75245.

Topics Discussed: Family Values, Juvenile Homicide & Felony, Alcoholism & Drug Addiction, Teenage Pregnancy & Self Preservation, Date Rape, and Molestation.



NANE is expanding to Plano and Allen, TX. If you are interested in volunteering please send your information to: [Richetta@nane-journal.com](mailto:Richetta@nane-journal.com). We are also partnering with Plano Housing Authority Family Self Sufficiency Program to reach the parents of our future generations. These meetings will be held at Plano Housing Authority, 1740 Avenue G, Plano, TX.

For more information, please contact:  
Founder/CEO - Richetta Weatherstone (940) 275-5678  
or VP - Penny Francis (214) 258-7178.





Mayor Ronald E. Jones  
and the Garland City Council  
celebrate Garland's diversity  
by remembering  
**Black History Month**

## 2007-2008 Garland City Council

Seated: Mayor Pro Tem Douglas Athas, Mayor Ronald E. Jones,  
Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Jackie Feagin  
Standing: Laura Perkins Cox, Darren Lathen, Larry Jeffus, Rick Williams,  
Preston Edwards, Barbara Chick

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Bill Dollar, City Manager  
Martin Glenn, Deputy City Manager



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or Coca-Cola Classic**  
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**Pringles  
or Lays Stax**  
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Tuna**  
6 oz, Starkist Chunk Light Tuna 3 oz  
pouch, or Kroger Canned Salmon 14.75 oz,  
Selected Varieties

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For  
SAVE WITH CARD



**Little Debbie  
Snack Cakes**  
10-6 oz Honeybuns, 12 oz Oatmeal Creme Pie or  
Sweet Cake Rolls or 12 oz Puffy Buns

**10\$10**  
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**Campbell's  
Soup at Hand**  
or Manicorville Red and White Bunch Selected  
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## Community Calendar

### February 28

#### "The Sales Doctor"

Sandler Training cordially invites you to attend a complimentary executive briefing for business owners, presidents, and directors of sales. This free informative seminar entitled, How To Hire The Best & Coach The Rest In 2008, will equip you with necessary resources to maximize sales, and sales management assessment tools. This awesome opportunity is brought to you by Sandler Training on Thursday, February 28th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at 13111 North Central Expressway, Suite 400, Dallas, Texas 75243 (Off of the Midpark exit on Central Expressway next to the Embassy Suites Hotel). Remember, seating is limited to the first twenty guests. Please be sure and RSVP to salestrac@sandler.com or call David Tyson 972-644-0454.

**TBAAL Black Academy: Ellis Island** at The Dallas Black Academy of Arts and Letters, Dallas Convention Center Theatre Complex. The show begins at 10:00 a.m. Admission is \$10. Call 214-943-2442 for any additional information.

**The Marian Anderson String Quartet** will perform live at the Allen Public Library, 300 North Allen Drive, starting at 7:00 p.m. This performance is free and open to the public. Please contact Tom Keener at 972-359-0656, for more information.

**Top Funder's Workshop** will help you identify new funding resources, learn more about your current

donors and develop more effective fundraising strategies. The informative workshop will be held at the Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway (Spring Creek & Jupiter Roads) from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. All participants will receive our Top Funders disk that lists hundreds of major funders/donors in your area. FundraisingINFO.com is a FREE workshop. For more information or to register, call 1-888-256-3229 or visit <http://www.fundraisinginfo.com/fristore/Dfwfeb2008.htm> online.

#### Estate Planning Seminar

Discover how easy it is to use a Living Trust or a Properly Drafted Will to save on Estate Taxes and Control your Assets. This free, 90-minute, educational program will be presented by Dallas Estate Planning Attorney, Richard P. Johnson, who is Board Certified in Estate Planning and Probate Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Come to the Plano Centre, 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway, (Spring Creek & Jupiter Roads) on Thursday at 10:00 a.m. or at 7:00 p.m. to learn important information on Texas probate laws. For reservations please contact Karen at 972-497-1010 or email Karen@RichardJohnsonLaw.com.

### February 29

**Girl Friends Tea Party** Local author will read excerpts from their books while ladies sample sandwiches, tea and pastries. Get your girl friends and spend the afternoon catching up. 12noon-2 PM Cost \$15 Stephanie's Gallery 920 18th St. Plano For tickets or additional information call 469 229-0024 or go to [www.stephaniewardgallery.com](http://www.stephaniewardgallery.com)

#### Collin College Host Debate

between Republican candidates for Collin County Commissioner, Precinct 3, from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Central Park Campus Pike Hall, 2200 W. University Drive, McKinney. Questions from a media panel and from audience members will be asked. Incumbent Joe Jaynes and opponent Corbert Howard will attend the debate. For more information, contact Collin College professor Larry Collins at [lcollins@cccd.edu](mailto:lcollins@cccd.edu) or Michael McConachie at [mmcconachie@cccd.edu](mailto:mmcconachie@cccd.edu).

### February 29 and March 1

#### The Alta L Buford Owens

"Choosing to Accept God's Grace" Women's Conference will consist of motivational and inspiring speakers and presenters, along with awesome praise and worship that will propel and encourage attendees to live more victorious and productive lives. The Conference will be held on Friday the 29th from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., as well as on Saturday, March 1st, from 8:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Registration for the event cost \$25. For more information email [altabufordowensministries@yahoo.com](mailto:altabufordowensministries@yahoo.com) or call 214-542-1252.

### March 1

**The North Dallas Graduate Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity 17th Annual Talent Hunt Competition** Plaza Theatre 521 West State Garland 75040 FREE Admission Competition is open in music (vocal and instrumental), classical, gospel, jazz and contemporary, interpretive movement to music (ballet, modern dance and tap, and speech (poetry, orations, and monologues. Competitors must complete entry form no

later than Wednesday, February 20, 2008. For forms and more information, contact Wayne Powe 214-906-9079 or [waynepowe@cs.com](mailto:waynepowe@cs.com)

#### TBAAL Black Academy:

**Film Festival** with Malik Yoba at The Dallas Black Academy of Arts and Letters, Dallas Convention Center Theatre Complex. The Film Festival begins at 12:00 Noon, and admission is \$5. For more information about this event please call 214-943-2442.

#### National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

The Officers, Executive Committee and members of the Garland Branch NAACP will host an invitational "All You Can Eat" Appreciation and Community Partnership Breakfast for Garland Area Pastors. This event is being held to show appreciation of their support and to receive input on how the Garland Branch NAACP can more effectively partner with the churches to promote community uplift. Also joining this fellowship will be The Honorable Ronald Jones, Mayor of Garland and The Honorable Linda Griffin. This breakfast will be at The Golden Corral Restaurant, 10538 Forest Lane (SW corner of Forest Lane and Plano Road) Dallas, Texas 75243, from 7:30 a.m. until 9:30 a.m.

### March 7

**AIDS Arms, Inc. and Coalition of Life** are hosting an event in commemoration of National Women & Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. The event is free to the community and will be held at the Hitt Auditorium, located at the Methodist Dallas Medical Center on the corner of Colorado Blvd and Bishop Avenue. The health

information fair begins at 6:00 pm with light refreshments being served and the program beginning at 6:45 p.m. Free confidential HIV testing will be available at the event. Free parking is available and the location is on a direct bus line. This event is open to the community of clients, service providers and committed stakeholders in the fight against AIDS. For more details contact AIDS Arms, Inc. 214-521-5191.

### March 8

#### Men's Prayer Breakfast

Come enjoy breakfast with a blessing, and not to mention, fellowship. All men are invited to come and be blessed at the New Light Church, 9314 Elam Road - Dallas Texas 75217. Special Guest Speaker Pastor G. Robinson will be presiding over the breakfast celebration. And yes, every breakfast is a celebration. Come feed on the Word. For more information, please call the New Light Church at 214-391-3430, or visit [www.newlightchurchdallas.com](http://www.newlightchurchdallas.com) on the web.

#### TBAAL Black Academy: Children's Chorus and Youth String Orchestra Concert

at The Dallas Black Academy of Arts and Letters, Dallas Convention Center Theatre Complex, starting at 7:30 p.m. Admission to this event is \$10. For more information please call 214-943-2442.

The Fort Worth Business Assistance Center is presenting a free seminar, from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon, detailing the pros and cons of franchising. Learn methods of franchising that could potentially build your entrepreneurial dreams. Explore the methods that are expanding Texas businesses today. Pre-registration is required for this event, so register

now by calling 817-871-6025, or by visiting [www.fwbac.com](http://www.fwbac.com).

#### The Sigma Youth Symposium,

The Zeta Delta Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc, "It's in the Bag" presentation designed to teach our youth persistence not resistance. Speakers will address prevalent topics of serious concern, which negatively affect the community, such as truancy, gang violence, intimidation, discriminations, drug sales/use, vandalism, homicides and more. The Symposium will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Mountain View College, 4849 West Illinois Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75211. Free and open to the public. For more information call Leslie Chatman at 972-821-8112.

### March 15

#### TBAAL Black Academy:

**An Evening with Erykah Badu** at The Dallas Black Academy of Arts and Letters, Dallas Convention Center Theatre Complex. The show will begin at 8:00 p.m. Admission to this event will range from \$25 - \$30. For more information please call 214-943-2442.

### March 28 - 29

#### TBAAL Black Academy: Urban Writer's Conference

"A Night with Zane" Urban Writer's Meeting will be held at The Dallas Black Academy of Arts and Letters, Dallas Convention Center Theatre Complex, Friday at 9:00 p.m. Admission to will be \$20. On Saturday the meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. and admission will range from \$45 - \$55. For more information contact TBAAL at 214-943-2442.

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# Proud To Be An Active Partner In The Community



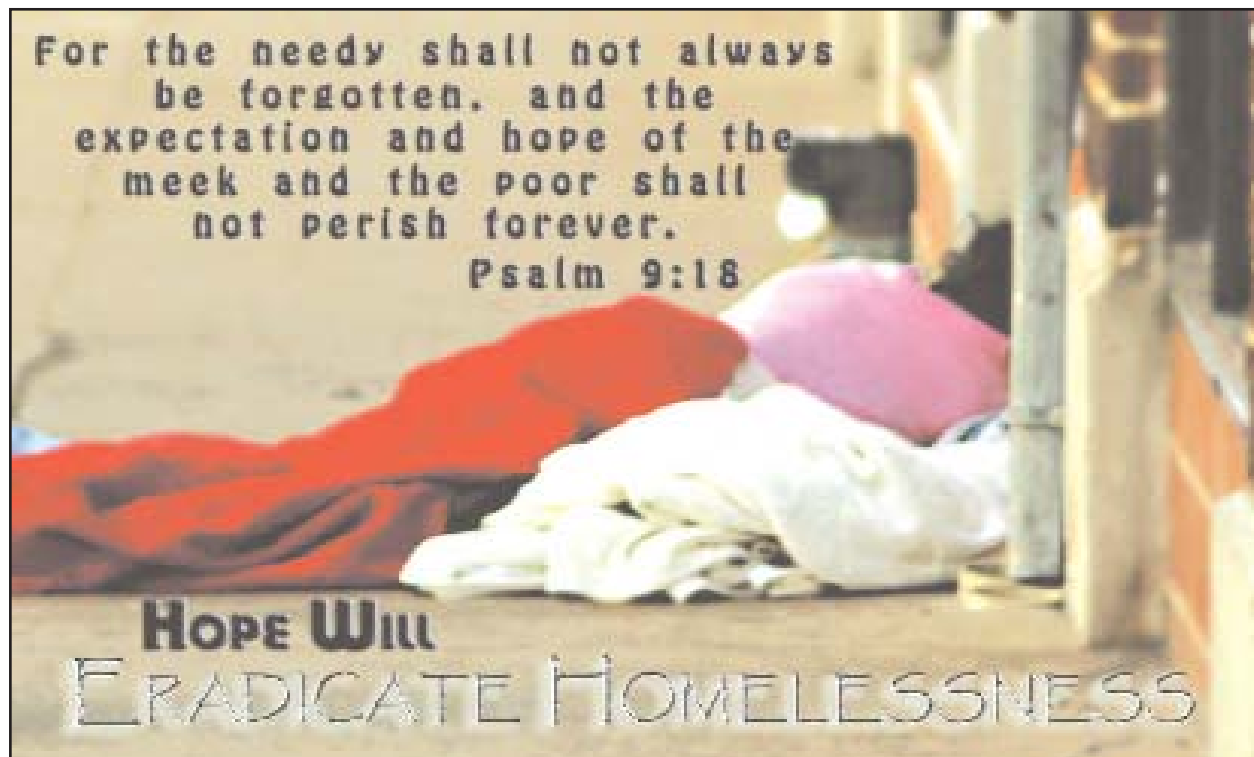
# Turning Shame to Fame! Change Reactions Productions LLC.

By: Jacquinette  
Murphy

Homelessness is the state of life for hundreds in the Collin County area. The partners of Change Reactions Productions, LLC. are working to decrease this number one person at a time. Recently formed in 2007, this organization is designed to give more than a hand out to the individuals of the homeless community but will offer them a stabilizing hand up.

"Our mission statement is 'empowering communities through demonstrations of real life experiences causing transformation of mentalities, views and actions,'" stated Audra Beard, the chief operations officer of Change Reactions.

Their plan is simple to raise awareness and to



programs along with their signature stage performance titled, Man-in-the-Mirror. This innovative arts entertainment production is slated to provide an eye-opening outing for families while re-

will have to guess who's who on stage," she explained.

The men from the homeless shelter will commit to working with the performance for six months. In turn, they will receive donated clothes, haircuts and other basic necessities to keep for future use. Then, they will be placed next to the other actors and the audience will be asked to determine who's who in the performance during the big reveal at the end of the evening.

"We want to shed light on the homeless community and let others know that they are ordinary people, too," she concluded.

The proceeds raised during this event will be used to meet the immediate needs of the actors from the homeless community. "The ultimate goal is to be able to pay their rent for four or six months. This could help them get on their feet," shared Beard.

She further explained that their target group is the homeless individuals that are in transition to be on their own. "We are not prejudiced. They do not have to look like us. We want them to tell their stories. Age does not make a difference. We are trying to get them on their feet." The group is currently targeting the homeless male and plans to do something later for the women that are homeless.

"Once a man becomes homeless, everyone looks down on him because he is the head of the household," informed Beard. "If we can get those men to hold their heads up and get their self-esteem back, they can help themselves," she said.

Through this event and the other counseling aspects of this program the group hopes to inspire and rebuild the self-esteem and character of the individuals from the homeless community.

Ms. Beard, Donna

Coffee and Kevin Dukes are all well experienced in the fashion industry and are the masterminds behind this stunning theatrical twist and non-conventional approach to bettering humanity. The organization was born through the desire to sincerely help and to not



exploit the homeless by only offering fee-based access to necessary resources.

"We wanted to do something that has never been done," commented Beard as she spoke of the yearning to see the success of this program. Our slogan is to 'change water into wine.' The slogan

references the recorded first miracle in Holy Bible performed by Jesus Christ and describes the hope for upward mobility that lies within the core of this organization.

Change Productions, LLC. is ready to debut their signature production, but is still seeking for a church or comparable venue to host its new approach to humanitarianism. If you or your organization desires to provide space for this social awareness and character building stage performance, please call one of the production partners.

Beard summed, "We are three people trying to eradicate homelessness. I will be happy to get the phone call from one of them to say 'I got my first apartment!'" Then, she will know that this is one less individual living under discarded materials and trying simply to sur-

***"Once a man becomes homeless, everyone looks down on him because he is the head of the household." informed Beard. "If we can get those men to hold their heads up and get their self-esteem back, they can help themselves," she said.***

provide a one-way ticket of complete restoration for those that are less fortunate." We can all make a difference, if we would help one another," she added.

Help is the common element in the array of assistance offered by Change Reactions Productions. This organization's services will include mentorship, credit restoration, debt counseling, image consulting

shaping the societal view of those that often live without the basic necessities on a daily basis.

"It is just like you are going to a show or matinee," described Beard. "It is a true red-carpet showing with times of 3:30 p.m. and 7:30p.m. The show is \$10 per person. We will have 14 men from the Samaritan Inn in McKinney, Texas and six men that are not homeless in the show. The audience

vive on goods scavenged from another man's garbage.

For more information, the message line is (641) 715-3900 x4117153 and mailing address is P O BOX 740696, Dallas, TX 75374. Also, visit <http://www.changereactionproductions.com>



## McDonald's® Inspiration Celebration Gospel Tour Stops in Dallas



Cliff Johnson, Smokie Norful, Wanda Johnson

Last week, Grammy Award-winning gospel sensation Smokie Norful visited Dallas during the 2008 McDonald's "Inspiration Celebration Gospel Tour." The free concert was held at Friendship West Baptist Church. The gospel concert also featured Myron Butler and Levi. This was the second year McDonald's has conducted the national tour. The music tour will visit eight cities during the month of February.

"McDonald's is pleased to

present this Inspiration Celebration Gospel Tour, featuring music that uplifts spirits and inspire us all," said Carol Sagers, Director of U.S. Marketing, McDonald's USA. "While this musical celebration occurs at mega churches during Black History Month, McDonald's recognizes and celebrates African American culture, heritage and achievements all year long - 365Black@! McDonald's is proud to be deeply rooted in the African American community."

New York, NY (BlackNews.com) - James McBride's 1996 memoir, *The Color of Water* was a bona fide literary phenomenon. His brilliantly reviewed account of growing up the son of a white mother and a black father and of his mother's previously hidden life spent more than two years on the New York Times best-seller list, was published in more than twenty countries.

In his eagerly awaited second novel, *SONG YET SUNG*, McBride tells the mesmerizing story of Liz Spocott, a beautiful runaway slave with troubling dreams of the future, whose escape exposes the barely concealed racial and social fault lines on Maryland's eastern shore a decade before the Civil War.

Fleeing a sexually abusive master, Liz is shot and nearly killed before being captured by brutal slave catchers. As she hovers between life and death, she shares one of her dreams with the old woman to whom she is shackled. Liz's vision is a distressing one, predicting that though her people will break from the bonds of slavery, they

will not achieve true freedom. In return, the elderly woman entrusts Liz with "the Code," a secret means of communication for runaway slaves seeking to board the Underground Railroad.

The Code is baffling to Liz at first, but eventually each piece of it will prove critical in her journey. "Chance is an instrument of God," the wizened woman tells her. "The coach wrench turns the wagon wheel. Scratch a line in the dirt to make a friend. Use double wedding rings when you marry. Tie the wedding knot five times. And find the blacksmith if you're gonna marry. And remember, it's not the song, but the singer of it. You got to sing the second part twice -- if you know it. Don't nobody know it yet, by the way. That's the song yet sung."

A desperate act of violence allows Liz to escape for a second time, and she melts into a labyrinth of swamps, woods, and waterways. Blindly following the Code, she receives sanctuary and glimpses a depth of love that she has never previously known. But Liz is relent-

lessly pursued by two rival slave-catchers -- a woman with no mercy and a man whose conscience has been stirred by personal tragedy. The sudden disappearance of two young boys, one black and one white, stretches the eastern shore's elaborate network of relationships to the breaking point and brings the novel to its stunning and profoundly moving conclusion.

Rich with history and authentic detail, *SONG YET SUNG* is based in part on actual historical events. With his trademark lyricism, McBride vividly evokes the atmosphere of a region that experienced the growing conflict over slavery as forcefully as any part of America. Just eighty miles from Pennsylvania, it was a borderland in every sense -- between land and water, North and South, slave and free. But change was coming: the Underground Railroad was picking up steam, and the abolitionists' message that slavery went against God's will was starting to sink in.

In *SONG YET SUNG*, James McBride looks to both the past and the future not only of the

black community, but of America itself, as his story poses questions about the true meaning of freedom, redemption, and justice. His is a morally complicated world, in which people may be seen as black or white, but right choices often are not. Yet it is also a world in which the infinite human capacity for love transcends all else, including issues of race, identity, and conflict. *SONG YET SUNG* will resonate powerfully for his legions of devoted fans and draw thousands of new readers of transfixing, touching, eloquently written fiction of consequence.

McBride's first novel, *Miracle at St. Anna*, has been optioned (and is now in production) by filmmaker Spike Lee. It has been called "a haunting meditation on faith that's also a crack military thriller" (*Entertainment Weekly*), "full of miracles of friendship, of salvation and survival" (*Los Angeles Times*), and "an intricate mosaic of narratives that ultimately becomes about betrayal and the complex moral landscape of war" (*The New York Times Book Review*).



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# 10 Things you need to know about the Texas Democratic Primary and Precinct Conventions (Caucus)

By Shawn Williams  
DallasSouthBlog.com

## 1. Texas has an open primary

You do not have to "register" with either party in order to vote in the Texas Primary. All registered voters are free to cast a ballot in either the Republican or Democratic Primary

## 2. Get proof that you voted

Someone should stamp your card when you vote to denote that you participated in the primary. Make sure that they don't

forget because you don't want to be left out of the precinct convention. Also note that provisional voters may participate in the precinct convention.

## 3. It doesn't matter if you vote early or on Primary Day.

There has been some discrepancy here, but early voters are welcome to participate in the precinct conventions as are those who vote on primary day.

## 4. Return to YOUR precinct.

In early voting you are able to vote at polling

places throughout your county. However you must attend the precinct convention at your polling place designated by where you live. Sometimes multiple precincts will hold separate conventions in the same facility. Find out exactly where yours will be.

## 5. Try to return to your precinct NO LATER THAN 7:15 p.m.

The precinct convention is scheduled to begin at 7:15 across the state. Get there early to ensure your full participation. If you are late you can still participate, however you cannot

change what has already happened.

## 6. The precinct convention does not have to start at 7:15.

Precinct conventions may not begin until the last voter has voted at the precinct polling place (TX Elec. Code Sec. 174.022). Anyone in line to vote at your precinct and votes in the Democratic Primary is eligible to attend the Democratic Precinct Convention.

## 7. You are not re-voting at the precinct convention

See Caucus, Page 12

Greiner, Page 1

Middle School, and a generation of teens who have real concern about major issues, these and other students listened intently, hoping to hear Sen. Obama's views on immigration, low-performing schools, the economy, rising gas prices, high taxes, the war in Iraq, and his promise for change in America.

"I wanted to be here because I've always wanted...a change in America," eighth grade Greiner student Kevraye' Wright explained. "It just seems like our former president never really got the job done. I was hoping that Barack Obama could."

Standing in line from 8:30 a.m. until almost 11:00 a.m., Wright and her classmates busied themselves with interviews, capturing the anticipation in photographs, and searching for ways to reach the front of the line quicker. Their reward? Floor access and seats near the stage. Kayln Hubbard, another student who arrived two hours later, wasn't even close.

Kayln Hubbard stood in a line packed "all the way to the fourth floor of the parking garage" at Reunion Arena with her uncle, who agreed that attending Wednesday's rally warranted time away from school.

Hubbard, also an eighth grader at Greiner Middle School wanted to participate in the rally simply to hear about what Sen. Barack Obama felt and to observe how he reacted to comments from democratic challenger Sen. Hillary Clinton.

Inspired by her first up-close and personal glimpse of politics at the electrifying rally, this future world-

traveler and professional photographer's ambitions are soaring. Hubbard, who has applied for acceptance in Skyline High School's photography cluster, is encouraged by Sen. Obama's professional political success. "Now, I feel like I can be President [of the United States], too."

Fully aware of the possibility that experiencing Wednesday's rally could

have an enormous impact on a child's future, and even participation in civic leadership and political affairs later in life, Greiner Middle School principal Dorothy Gomez made a special concession for a few students to attend the event. The conditions of the concession included that the students' parent and/or guardian attend the event with their children.



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years in office and after ignoring Black folks in New Orleans.

Teamsters President, James Hoffa, says, Barack Obama will "remake America," and millions of White voters are saying the same thing. That's a lot of weight for one man to carry; Obama better watch out. Are we still being used?

Some attribute our relationship with White people to psychological enslavement, the modern-day chains that bind us and keep us from moving forward collectively, despite having been in this country since its inception and having contributed so much to its tremendous growth and prosperity.

Whatever the reason for our demise, White folks should love Black folks so much that they should finally say enough is enough. They should just admit, "We have enough wealth; we have enough land; we have enough power; let's share what we have with those who helped us get it."

(Somebody pinch me quick; I must be dreaming.)

In 1863, there was an event called the Draft Riot in New York City. Angry Whites who could not afford the \$300.00 fee needed for a draft deferment made their way up to Harlem, killing Black people along the way, and finally murdering at least 100 and injuring 300 Blacks in total. Riotous Whites needed a scapegoat and found a convenient one in Black people. They were mad at the White-run government, Abe Lincoln, specifically, but took it out on us.

In 1921, angry Whites stormed the Greenwood District of Tulsa, Okla., killing hundreds of Black people, ransacking their homes and businesses and then burning the entire section to the ground. Once again, angry white people, jealous of the prosperity of Blacks in Tulsa, took their anger out on innocent men, women, and children. They shot them, fire-bombed them with nitroglycerin, corralled them in concentration camps, and took everything they had. Then, to add insult to injury, they made the survivors clean up the mess

the White folks made during their crime spree, without pay – another illegal act committed against Blacks.

Yes, White folks should love us more than any other group. We have done so much for them, and we have been the brunt of their anger and crimes for centuries. We have suffered every sling and arrow, every fiery dart, every negative aspect of behavior, and been subject to every possible means of suppression, oppression, and discrimination. Yet, we are still here; we are still fighting for this country; and we are still fighting for our rights with little or, in some cases, no help from White folks. And now a Black man is being ushered in as the "American Messiah." Exploitation? Or real hope?

In 1867, U.S. Representative Thaddeus Stevens made every attempt to prick the collective conscience of this country with his Reparations Bill. His appeal, based on morality and ethics, has been ignored for 140 years. As

much as White politicians talk about character, morality, religion, and spirituality, they would at least acknowledge that Black folks have sacrificed more for this country, relatively speaking, than most folks who live here.

White folks, all over this country, should speak out against the injustices that still beset Blacks; they should rally against the police brutality that still exists; they should share their resources a whole lot more, not out of pity but out of obligation; and White people should look into the mirror and see what Thaddeus Stevens saw in 1867 – it's still there.

Stevens said, "The cause of the war was slavery. We have liberated the slaves. It is our duty to protect them, and provide for them while they are unable to provide for themselves... They and their ancestors have toiled, not for years, but for ages, without one farthing of recompense. They have earned for their masters this very land and much more. Will not he who denies them compen-

sation now be accursed, for he is an unjust man? If we refuse to this down-trodden and oppressed race the rights which Heaven decreed them, and the remuneration which they have earned through long years of hopeless oppression, how can we hope to escape still further punishment if God is just and omnipotent? It may come in the shape of

plagues or of intestine wars-race against race, the oppressed against the oppressor. But come it will."

Could the refusal to act upon Stevens' request be the reason for so much contention and dysfunction in this country? Think about it, White people. Meanwhile, as Donny and Roberta sang, "Where is the love?"

## Caucus, Page 11

Some people believe that voters will cast another ballot at the precinct convention and that's it. The precinct convention is similar to a caucus, though caucus is not the proper term for the event.

When you sign in at the precinct convention (see sign in sheet here, you will list which candidate you support. The percentage of individual supporters for each candidate will be calculated and delegates will be allocated accordingly.

Those in attendance at the precinct convention will select delegates to represent them at the county/senatorial convention (urban areas can have

more than one convention by Texas Senatorial District). Those county/senatorial delegates will then go on to the State Convention.

See Delegate breakdown by region here.

### 8. Delegates can switch their allegiance.

It is important to select delegates that strongly represent your candidate. By rule, a delegate can change their mind at the county or state convention up until sign in.

### 9. Elect alternates

Make sure your convention elects alternate delegates to serve at the coun-

ty/senatorial convention. The alternates should reflect the percentage of delegates assigned to your candidate.

You wouldn't want an alternate who supports your opponent to replace someone pledged to your candidate. IMPORTANT: Each precinct convention is entitled to elect one alternate for each delegate the precinct gets to elect to the County/Senatorial District Convention.

### 10. He/she who knows the rules has the power.

Each convention will elect a permanent convention chair and a permanent secretary. In many cases they will be people who work

with the party and have extensive knowledge of the process. They will also have a candidate that they are supporting as well.

It is important that when you attend the precinct convention that you have as much information as possible. That way if something shady goes on, you can stop it before it gets to far. Once the precinct convention is over, it's too late. Find out about voter education training in your area. Anyone reading this can become a convention chair at their precinct convention.

Knowledge is power, and now you're ready for the Texas Two Step.

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## Choice Hotels Continues Successful Recruiting of Minority and Non-Traditional Franchisees

### Emerging Markets Group Celebrates Year of Achievements

**SILVER SPRING, Md.** -- Worldwide lodging franchisor Choice Hotels International (NYSE:CHH) today announced that its emerging markets team added 40 new franchisees in 2007 -- approximately a 15 percent increase over 2006. With executed franchise agreements for all ten Choice hotel brands in 17 states nationwide, these new franchisees, comprised of African American, Hispanic, Native American and non-traditional hoteliers, all have majority ownership of a Choice brand hotel.

"We had another phenomenal year in 2007, recruiting minority entrepreneurs and first-time hoteliers into the Choice Hotels system," said Brian Parker, vice president, emerging markets and new business development. "Our desire and passion to educate novice hotel investors is second to none and our commitment to their individual success truly resonates."

One of the year's biggest highlights, Choice Hotels was recognized as one of the "Top 50 Franchises for Minorities" by the National Minority Franchising Initiative in a list that appeared in USA Today, launching the publication's annual Franchising Today section. According to the NMFI, Choice was selected from over 280 companies based on its aggressive and exceptional focus on recruiting and supporting minority franchisees into its system. Choice Hotels also added an

Adrian Award to its list of accomplishments, presented to the company for its emerging markets development marketing campaign.

Combined with its new initiatives, the emerging markets team continues to conduct well-attended franchise seminars across the country in an effort to educate minority entrepreneurs about the lodging industry and bene-

fits of hotel ownership. The department's Web site, [http://www.choice-hotelsfranchise.com/emerging\\_markets](http://www.choice-hotelsfranchise.com/emerging_markets), which launched in 2006, still serves as a key component in raising awareness among minority and non-traditional hoteliers, providing potential franchisees with a wealth of information about hotel investments and Choice hotel brands.

## New Radisson Dallas East and Conference Center Opens in Dallas

Radisson Hotels & Resorts announced the 236 room hotel located at 11350 LBJ Freeway at Jupiter in Dallas has been renamed as the Radisson Hotel Dallas East and Conference Center. The hotel was converted by Mahmood Investment Inc., owner of the hotel, as part of a plan to reposition the property and includes a \$3 million renovation that began in 2007. In addition to the newly renovated guestrooms, the hotel features more than 10,000 square feet of meeting space and complimentary

high-speed Internet access throughout the property.

The New Radisson Dallas East and Conference Center is located near the offices of several businesses including

Sears, International Trucking, Texas Instruments and Raytheon. The hotel is 2 miles from the DART Rail Station and only minutes from downtown.

### McKinney INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## Church Happenings

### DAYSTAR DELIVERANCE MINISTRIES

*March 1, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm*  
Pastor Minnie Ewing is opening the pantry doors to the public! Come to Helen's House to receive, to give, and most of all to fellowship. This give-away of food and household items is open to all those who could use a little touch in the D/FW Metroplex.

*March 4, and on Going Every Tuesday, 7:00 pm – 7:15 pm*  
WIT (Women in Transition) invites you to an exciting and fresh approach to Godly exhortation! Once a week, chime in to bond, via, Wit Women's conference call led by Pastor Minnie Hawthorne-Ewing of DayStar Deliverance Ministries in Richardson, TX. Dial 218-486-1616, Code: 106984 (this code may change each week.)

**DayStar Deliverance Ministries**

**WIT (Women in Transition)**  
**Apostle Minnie Hawthorne-Ewing, Senior Pastor**  
**635 W. Campbell Rd, Ste 210**  
**Richardson, TX 75080**  
**972-480-0200**

### FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALLEN

*February 29, 7:30 pm*  
Please join us for Black History Friday. There will be a movie shown about Black History, and there will be a historical overview before and after the movie. FREE hot dogs, popcorn and candy will be served. We encourage everyone to come out and celebrate Black History month with us. Childcare will be provided for toddlers.

*March 2, 11 am*  
Our 11:00 am Morning Worship Service will be held @ Story Elementary School, 1550 Edelweiss in Allen, TX. Children's Church and the Nursery will also be available

@ the school during this time.

*March 14 - 16, 2008*  
It's coming! Its coming and you are invited to join us at our Holy-Spirited 2008 Men's Empowerment Conference. Our theme: "Seasons of Change"; it will be held @ the Hilton Garden Inn, 705 N. Central Expressway in Allen, TX

For more information about the above events, please call the church @ 972-359-9956.

**Fellowship B. C. of Allen**  
**Rev. W. L. Stafford, Sr., M. Div., Senior Pastor**  
**200 Belmont Drive**  
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**972-359-9956**

### KOINONIA MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

*March 1, 7 pm*  
We present Yolanda Adams Live!! She is the winner of four Grammy Awards, four Dove Awards, seven NAACP Awards, three BET Awards,

and 13 Stellar Awards. Also featured is The Voices of Koinonia and Terrence Mackery and Nu Restorations. To be held @ 616 W. Kiest Blvd., Dallas, TX 7516.

For ticket prices, outlets, directions and more information call 214-417-6095.

**Koinonia Missionary Baptist Church**  
**616 West Kiest Blvd.**  
**Dallas, TX 75216**

### THE POTTER'S HOUSE

*Mach 6-8, 2008*  
We will host our 3rd National Men's Conference, "For Men's Only" a three day conference for men of all ages, backgrounds and ethnicities @ The luxurious Gaylord Texan Resort and Conference Center in Grapevine, TX. The theme is Manifest, Romans 8:19, where men were advised to reveal themselves as sons of God.

Speakers include: Dr. Bill

Winston, Founder and Pastor of Living Word Christian Center in Forest Park, Illinois; Bishop Kenneth Ulmer, Senior Pastor of Faithful Central Bible Church in Inglewood, California; Pastor Ed Young, Senior Pastor of Fellowship Church in Grapevine, Texas; Bishop Noel Jones, Pastor of City of Refuge Church in Gardena, California; and the incomparable Bishop T. D. Jakes, Senior Pastor and Founder of The Potter's House of Dallas, Inc. Seminar topics will center on faith, family, finance, and business.

Evening sessions are designed to assist the men in claiming God's vision and ultimate goal for their lives. This will be accomplished through music presented by William Murphy, one of the most in-demand singers in the country, and through wise, inspirational words.

No conference is complete without a relaxing activity and For Men Only offers just that. The For Men Only golf tourna-

ment takes place on March 6, 2008, at 8:00 a.m. at The Golf Club at Castle Hills in Lewisville, Texas. Space is still available for men who want to enjoy eighteen holes and the fellowship of other lovers of the game.

To register for the event call 1-800-BISHOP2 or call Ann Fields @ 214-333-6319.

**The Potter's House**  
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*"O taste and see that the Lord is good." Psalms 34:8a*

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







## Sister Tarpley

Reconstruction was the period immediately after the Civil War, during which the freed slaves and their northern supporters tried to make America more racially inclusive. From 1869 to 1901, there were 22 African Americans in the House of Representatives, but the defeated South remained determined that white supremacy should be maintained by any means. **George H. White**, born in Rosindale, NC was the last Black Reconstruction Congress person, and the **last former slave to sit in the House**. White, not surprisingly, found it difficult to make his mark in Congress. However, he was able to obtain back pay for Black Civil War veterans, but his colleagues refused to hear his federal anti-lynching bill. However, twenty-five years later, **Oscar De Priest** of Chicago, was the next African American that was **elected to Congress**.

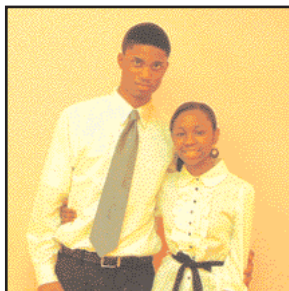
In 1791, Congress created the District of Columbia, where Washington is located; however, the City of Washington did not have its own local government or mayor. In 1974, Walter E. Washington was elected by the people of Washington, DC as their first mayor in 1974.

It is said that, "Necessity is the mother of invention" with that in mind, **Andrew Jackson Beard** was standing between

## MORE BLACK HISTORY FACTS

two railroad cars, linking them together; he was crushed between the cars and lost his leg. His accident was Beard's incentive to create **a device to hook cars together automatically**, an invention that became the model for a national standardized linking mechanism.

Beard also **patented a new form of plow and a rotary steam engine**.



Mr. Jordan Tinner is the escort of Debutante Ebony Regina Miller for the Annual Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Ball to be held March 22, 2008.

Otis Boykin invented more than 25 electronic devices used in computers and guided missiles. The actual heart pacemaker was first invented by Paul Boli. However, in 1955, Boykin created an electrical mechanism as **a regulating unit for the first heart pacemaker**. Boykin device uses electrical impulses to maintain a steady heart beat.

**Marshall "Major" Taylor**, known as **"The Black Cyclone"** became the first African American to win a national title in any sport in 1898. In 1896 he won the World One-Mile Sprint Championship at a Montreal meet and set a world's record in

a Chicago bicycle race. Taylor took his motto from Booker T. Washington: "I shall allow no man to narrow my soul and drag me down." He concluded his autobiography by asserting, "I am a Negro in every sense of the word."

**Walter S. McAfee** is the first African American mathematician and physicist who **first calculated the speed of the moon**. Participating in the U.S. Army program, Project Diana in the 1940's; McAfee made the necessary calculations and on January 10, 1946, allowed a team to send a radar pulse through a special 40-foot square antenna towards the moon. Two and a half seconds later, they received a faint signal, proving that transmissions from earth could cross the vast distances of outer space.

**Frederick McKinley Jones**, born in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1893 and orphaned at the age of nine, is best remembered for devising a **method to refrigerate trucks** carrying perishable food, an idea expanded to include air coolers for ships, planes, and trains. As a result of this method called pre-fabricated refrigerated construction, meat, fruit, vegetable, and butter could be transported long distances.

*Scriptures for March 2008 Be Printed on March 6, 2008. It is my desire to close out Black History Month with some facts about African Americans Accomplishments.*

Emmitt, Page 1

including Texas State Senator Royce West, will be on-hand to honor him.

"Our fraternity is excited about endowing this scholarship in Emmitt Smith's name. His life has been a wonderful example to all people, especially to the young men this scholarship hopes to help. The Emmitt Smith scholarship recipients will continue the legacy of brotherhood, scholarship and service exemplified by Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.," said

Paul Griffin, International President of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

The black-tie event will begin at 6:45 p.m. with a silent auction featuring Dallas Cowboy paraphernalia signed by Mr. Smith and other items. The gala dinner and program begins at 7:30 p.m. featuring live entertainment and special messages to Mr. Smith from his Phi Beta Sigma fraternity brothers, family and friends.

The gala is open to the general public. Tickets

are \$75.00 per person; \$1,000.00 per table of ten. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. For ticket/sponsorship information, please contact Sherman

Roberts, Chairman for the Emmitt Smith Gala at 214.734.1670 or email shermanlr@yahoo.com.

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, established in 1914, is an international community service organization with over 600 chapters and 125,000 members, with its corporate office in Washington, DC.

## PARTICIPATION REQUIRED

### \* VOTE \*

Early Voting Ends February 29th.

Tuesday March 4th Remember to do the Texas Two Step for Democratic

Primary/Caucus

The polls are open from 7AM-7PM for those that did not vote early.

Then at 7PM promptly return to your precinct to participate in precinct convention. Republican Primary Also March 4th

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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](mailto:info@dallasmtpisgah.org)  
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## Bishop T. D. Jakes And American Red Cross Team Up To Help Save Lives

Statistics show that someone needs blood every two seconds in this country. The need for blood donations is at an all-time high and beginning March 6, the American Red Cross Blood Services, Southwest Region – Texas is reaching out to one of the community's most influential leaders for help. At the national men's conference For Men Only, the American Red Cross will partner with globally-renowned leader and pastor of the 30,000-member

Potter's House church, Bishop T. D. Jakes.

"I am very proud of the men who donated blood during the first blood drive at For Men Only," says Bishop T. D. Jakes. "They responded to the urgent call, but more importantly, because of their unselfish act, the health and well-being of many people were positively improved. We continue to fight diseases like cancer and sickle cell, both of which require blood for treatment. I am excited

to once again have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of men, women and children who look to us to help save their lives.

The men's conference, carrying the theme "MANIFEST," will take place at the Gaylord Texan, located at 1501 Gaylord Trail in Grapevine, from March 6 to March 8. Bishop Jakes will encourage the men in attendance to either make an appointment or give blood on-site at the Gaylord Texan campus during the conference.

ence.

Increasing blood donations from minority groups, especially African Americans, is crucial because some rare blood types are often found in minority populations. One in 652 African Americans has sickle cell disease. Although sickle cell patients can receive blood transfusions from any donor, it is very likely a donor from the same racial group will be a better match.

Bishop Jakes continues,

"Because African Americans tend to have a higher mortality rate than other races, it is critical that minorities respond to the need for blood. It takes about 60 minutes to give blood and that translates into a life saved or years added to the life of a child battling sickle cell. I cannot stress enough the urgency and need to give."

Donors must be in general good health, weigh at least 110 pounds and be at least 17 years of age or older. Blood donors must

also show identification at registration – a valid driver's license with photo, a Red Cross donor card or another form of official picture identification. A Social Security number or Social Security card is not needed. To make an appointment during For Men Only attendees are encouraged to call 1.800.GIVE LIFE (1.800.448.3543) or become an e-Donor by logging on to [www.GiveLife.org](http://www.GiveLife.org) and enter the sponsor code "formenonly."

**Ben Washington Baptist Church, Inc.**  
3901 Frisco Avenue  
Irving, TX 75061  
Church 972-790-8421 Fax 972-986-6590  
Email: [church@bwbcirving.org](mailto:church@bwbcirving.org)  
Web: [bwbcirving.org](http://bwbcirving.org)  
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Early Sunday Morning	8:00 am
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Sunday Morning Worship	10:45 am
Men Bible Class	5:00 pm
Women Bible Class	5:00 pm
Evening Worship	6:00 pm
Wednesday Bible Class	7:00 pm

Radio Program (K 7:00 am or K 10:00 AM Sunday Mornings)  
Timothy Jones, Associate Minister  
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**The Inspiring Body of Christ Church**  
7710 S. Westmoreland Rd.  
Dallas Texas 75237  
Phone: 972-572-4262 Fax: 972-709-3888  
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Monday School: 7:pm  
Men's Fellowship: Friday 7:00pm  
Website: [www.ibocjoy.org](http://www.ibocjoy.org)

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**Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church**  
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Wednesday	7PM Mid-Week Service
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For more information call (972) 423-6695  
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9:00 am Sunday School

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Brotherhood 7:00 pm  
Missions 7:00 pm  
Singles Group 7:00 pm  
Bible Study 7:45 pm

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**Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church**  
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