

North Dallas Gazette



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Palin's Speech No Slam Dunk, Black Women Say

By Eric Mayes
NNPA

Sarah Palin's speech last week at the Republican National Convention evoked mixed reaction among Black women, who, rather than backing either candidate because

of his or her race or gender, insist they are simply backing the best candidate.

Race and gender have been volatile issues in this presidential election cycle, which has seen a Black man secure the nomination of the Democratic

Party defeating a woman, to face another as his opponent's running mate.

That slate of candidates made Black women one of the most discussed demographics of the campaign season. Polls show that the vast majority intend to

See *REPUBLICANS*, Page 12



COVER STORY

Masters of the Grill



See *RICKY RAYS*, Page 9

RISD to Implement New Anti-Bullying Program

From staff reports

A little common courtesy and social development goes a long way for elementary students in Richardson ISD. Imagine seven year olds from all ethnicities, economic and social backgrounds greeting each other warmly,

working cooperatively on tasks, and expressing real gratitude to each other along with other kind words.

This is how a new anti-bullying program called RTime works, and RISD is the first district in the United States to implement the program, which

has been used in England since 2002 with impressive results. RTime was introduced at three pilot campuses in RISD during the first week of classes, Bukhair, Mohawk and Springridge Elementary Schools.

Using just 15 minutes of class time each week,

RTime seeks to teach social behavior and skills to students from Kindergarten through 6th-grade. The lessons learned are then reinforced by teachers and administrators throughout the week.

"This is the most

See *BULLYING*, Page 6

Get your blues fix at the Blind Lemon Blues Festival this weekend

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



COMMENTARY

What Has Happened to the Black Republicans?

By Harry C. Alford
NNPA Columnist

The times are quite different now. Gone are the days when the Chairman of the Republican National Committee (RNC) would make deliberate outreach efforts within the Black community. Former chairs Jim Gilmore and Ken Mehlman would aggressively attend events,

make speeches and order their staff to recruit aggressively.

It was RNC co-Chairwoman Pat Harrison who came to the 2000 National Black Chamber of Commerce annual convention and asked our participants to give the Republican Party a try. Former Chairman Ken Mehlman came to our annual event in 2005 along with Lt. Governor Michael

See *BLACK GOP*, Page 12



Holy Month reignites commitment to service

By Joshua C. Johnson
Special Contributor

The morning started calm and one couldn't help but notice the scriptures in Arabic posted

along the walls and the ladies wearing head scarves dawned in colorful African garb, but those who truly benefited from Saturday's events wore anything but.

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People In The News...



Dr Pamela Thompson



Dee Marshall



Anita Renee' Johnson

See Page 2

Dr Pamela Thompson

Dr. Pamela Thompson is a psychologist-turned-professional life coach specializing in: (a) performance enhancement (e.g., academic, physical fitness, public speaking); (b) assertiveness training (including personal and professional boundary-setting); and (c) healthy development and enhancement of relationships (e.g., professional team-building, family, male-female). She has helped approximately 100 clients a year to clarify their thought processes and life's vision while strengthening prob-

lem-solving, decision-making, and communication skills.

Dr. Thompson has catered significantly to the Christian community, providing services for adult males and females, married couples and adolescent females. In support of this population, she is a member of the network of providers associated with two nationally syndicated radio shows: "New Life Live" and "The Dave Ramsey Show." In addition to her work with clients of all faiths and backgrounds, she is an

online columnist with Divorce360.com., a website dedicated to helping those contemplating, going through, or adjusting to divorce. She is also a contributing writer for Pink Magazine online.

Dr. Thompson has owned Building Bridges to Better Lives, P.C. since 2004. Prior to owning and operating her private practice, she worked as a psychologist at Metro State Prison for women in Atlanta where she oversaw the mental health assessment of some 50 new inmates a week and facilitated several groups on the subjects of "forgiving yourself," "emotional eat-

ing," "choosing to live," and "empowering minds." Based on her experiences at the prison, she co-authored a chapter on "Mood Disorders in Incarcerated Women" in a textbook entitled Health Issues Among Incarcerated Women.

Psychology is a second career for Dr. Thompson. Previously, she worked in public relations in various capacities for Mayors Andrew Young and Maynard Jackson. Her last position with the City of Atlanta was Executive Director of the Atlanta Clean City Commission where she focused her efforts on neighborhood



and the Georgia School of Professional Psychology where she received her M.A. and Psy.D. in clinical psychology. She completed her clinical internship at the University of Tennessee (Memphis Consortium) and her post-doctoral fellowship at Metro State Prison for Women. She has been licensed to practice psychology by the state of Georgia since 2002.

In her spare time, Dr. Thompson has enjoyed beautification and recycling efforts. She is a native Atlantan educated at the University of Georgia where she received her B.A. in journalism (concentration in public rela-

tion) and the Georgia School of Professional Psychology where she received her M.A. and Psy.D. in clinical psychology. She completed her clinical internship at the University of Tennessee (Memphis Consortium) and her post-doctoral fellowship at Metro State Prison for Women. She has been licensed to practice psychology by the state of Georgia since 2002.

Dee Marshall

A sought-after speaker, career and business coach, TVOne Makeover Manor Life Coach Dee Marshall is the founder of Raise The Bar, LLC a coaching, training and development practice dedicated to helping women achieve their career and life goals and realize their full potential. Her practice focus is life skills and soft-skills, helping individuals to self-discover, clarify val-

ues and discover their passions. Her challenge to women is seek meaning and purpose for your life, develop yourself personally and professionally and strive for continuous growth.

She is the producer of "Women Raising The Bar" a themed development conference for women and creator of other Raise The Bar, LLC brands The Women's Network, Raise

A Book, Raise The Bar, The "D" Factor, E Page 221 and The Entrepreneur's Roundtable.

Marshalls' speaking and coaching credits span from the larger conference circuit to women's ministries to College and University campuses. In 2006 she was a featured guest coach for Essence Magazine Women Who Are Shaping The World. In the same year she began career coaching hundreds of women pass-



ing through Women For Hire career events; her keynote addresses include Progressive

Achievers Women Of Power, Newark Women's Conference, New Jersey State Parole Board Offender Reentry, Howard University John H. Johnson School of Communication, Strive National Job Training Initiative any many more.

Marshall not only has a passion for inspiring, motivating and challenging women to be their best, she is an active member of First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens. As a communi-

ty servant, she sits on the Board of Directors for both the YWCA Central New Jersey and Public Allies New York. In addition to her work in the community, Marshall's professional memberships include the International Coach Federation (ICF) New York Chapter, American Society of Training & Development (ASTD), National Association of Female Executives (NAFE), and National Sales Network New York/Jersey Chapter.

Anita Renee' Johnson

Anita Renee'. Johnson was destined to be an expert speaker in financial management for women. Knowing and understanding the function of money has given her a wealth of knowledge.

An entrepreneur since 1993, she has consulted over 500 individuals in managing their finances. Ms Johnson turned her attention to assisting women with finances; after seeing countless women not making the grade managing their finances as well as seeing her own family members suffer financial ruins, led her to create a curriculum that will allow women to become finan-

cially savvy. It is estimated that 90% of women will retire in poverty. These numbers outraged her so much she decided to focus her efforts towards assisting women by opening The Noble Meadows Foundation, created to assist women with financial literacy through classes.

Ms. Johnson has won several awards including Business of the Week, Business of the Year, Madam CJ Walker Entrepreneur Award, Who's Who of Women Executive and Business of the Year-Northern California while serving as President of the Sacramento Black



Chamber of Commerce, Inland Tax Consultants, Toastmasters, Chairman of the Advisory Board for a Capital Power Credit Union, and radio host of The Anita R. Johnson Financial Report.

Ms. Johnson currently holds a BBA in Accounting, MS in Taxation and has penned a workbook Financial Management for Small Businesses.

Ms. Johnson teaches at the Sacramento City College and University of Phoenix

It is important that everyone receives sound financial knowledge to become financially savvy.

A well-recognized entrepreneur in the Central Valley of California, Ms. Johnson has committed herself to the education of various audiences in basics of financial management; a subject often terrifying for everyone.

Ms. Johnson has developed a series of Financial Management courses.

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COMMENTARY

Poverty: Beyond Breaking News

The political hoopla has obscured a critical new data release about poverty. As the respective political camps debated their agendas, there is evidence that people at the bottom of the economic spectrum are still scratching their way toward survival, and that, despite proclamations by President Bush and Republican candidate McCain that the US economy is strong, the real deal is that nothing has improved for the poor. The US Department of Census released data on August 26 that showed that one in eight Americans live in poverty. The numbers are larger for people of color, with one in four African American households experiencing poverty, and more than one in five (21 percent) of Hispanic households experiencing poverty. The differences are simply a function of income and household status. While White families had an average income of \$54,000, African-American families had an average income of \$33,000, and Hispanic families had an average income of \$38,000.

Some cities had staggering poverty rates. In Detroit, for example, a third of the people are poor. Cleveland is another city with extremely high poverty. Invariably, the cities with high poverty are Black and Brown, old and young, and also industrially abandoned. When there are turnaround efforts, they are snagged up with the politics of race, class, and sometimes gentrification. Every number represents an urban tragedy, but the news cycle has not taken us past the numbers. The macroeconomic story of poverty and joblessness is compelling, but the microeconomic story is heartbreaking.

I get email daily from



A sale sign is displayed in front of a home in an older neighborhood in Little Rock, Ark., Monday, Aug. 25, 2008. Sales of existing homes rose 3.1 percent in July, surpassing expectations, as buyers snapped up deeply discounted properties in parts of the country hit hardest by the housing bust. (AP Photo/Danny Johnston)

brothers and sisters trying to make it and finding survival a basic challenge. A woman wrote that she spent a year at an HBCU but cannot get a transcript because she has not paid her outstanding bill. She did not return to school because an aging parent required her care, and when the parent died, she lost any inheritance she might have hoped for because an older sibling staked a better-documented claim. Family challenges left her homeless and she is looking for a chance to complete her education. She is a victim of family drama, but also of an economy that cannot embrace her, and a higher education system that will close doors unless she is properly financed.

She won't be properly financed in the current climate, yet this young, bright, focused black woman deserves a place at the educational and employment table. The higher education act does not have room for her – it barely has the dol-

lars for minimally funded Pell grants.

To criticize this Higher Education Act, my colleagues say, is to bite the hand that feeds too many HBCUs. The fact is that our nation can only prevent poverty by investing in education, and heretofore, our investments have been scant and insufficient. The Census data would suggest that we have invested in health care. The number of people who lack health care has dropped by about a million, with 47 million lacking health insurance in 2006, and 45.7 million lacking health insurance in 2007. This may be described as commendable, but it may also be described as a political sleight of hand. Because of changes in Medicare rules, a million or so more people, mostly children, get a break. But our health care system still fails to deliver for many working Americans. Our monthly data on employment and unemployment suggest that there is insuffi-

cient value for the workers whose efforts keep our economy alive. Health care is the tip of the iceberg, with data woefully insufficient because they fail to capture the burden some families take on when they simply try to pay their share of a health care premium or a co-payment. Unemployment is another part of the challenge families face, with too many being shrugged off so forcefully that they don't turn up in the data. Thus, in a period when economic growth has been robust, the poverty level has not dropped. This is the story that may have been swallowed in the middle of the political rhetoric. If poor people could organize, they would offer a compelling statement about the ways poverty data has been ignored in favor of so-called breaking news.

Julianne Malveaux is President of Bennett College for Women.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The North Dallas Gazette has recently conducted research on Wells Fargo Bank and their lending practices within the minority community. If you would like to offer any special comment regarding your interactions with Wells Fargo Bank – pro or con – please contact our Publisher, Mr. Thurman Jones at publisher@northdallasgazette.com. Please include "Wells Fargo" in the subject line of your email. You may also send any comments to P.O. Box 940226, Plano, Texas 75094-0226.

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

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

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

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

Italy Agrees to Reparations for Libya

NNPA

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi has signed an agreement to pay Libya \$5 billion and make "complete and moral acknowledgement of the damage inflicted on Libya by Italy during the colonial era".

"In this historic document, Italy apologizes for its killing, destruction and repression against Libyans during the colonial rule," Col. Muammar Gaddafi said.

Berlusconi said the deal, which sees the money being released

over 25 years, ends "40 years of misunderstanding". Libya was occupied by Italy in 1911 before becoming a colony in the 1930s.

As a goodwill gesture, Italy also returned an ancient statue of Venus, the headless "Venus of Cyrene", which had been taken to Rome in colonial times.

Rome and Tripoli have spent years arguing over compensation for the colonial period. Libya will be the first African country to be compensated for crimes committed during colonialism.



Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi, right, and U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney shake hands during their meeting at Chigi palace, Premier's office, in Rome, Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2008. Cheney's visit to Italy is part of a tour that also took him to Georgia, Ukraine and Azerbaijan. Over the weekend he addressed a conference of global business and political leader and issued a strong rebuke of Russia's actions in Georgia last month. (AP Photo/Gregorio Borgia)

Don't Let Ovarian Cancer Be a Silent Killer

By Larry Lucas
NNPA

Women's intuition can be a powerful thing: Every time I squeeze in a round of golf instead of running errands, my wife knows it by the time I've walked in the front door! This kind of sixth sense isn't just useful to your marriage, but also to your health. It's important that we all listen to that little voice that whispers, "Hey, something isn't right here."

For women, it could save your life when it comes to ovarian cancer.

Ovarian cancer causes more deaths than any other cancer of the female reproductive system – more than 15,000 deaths are expected in 2008, according to the American Cancer Society (ACS). The reason for this startling statistic is because many women aren't catching it early. This is particularly true in the African American community – in general, people in our community are diagnosed with various cancers at later stages than our white counterparts due to lack of screenings and other obstacles.

Put it this way: If ovarian cancer is found and treated before the cancer has spread outside the ovary, the 5-year survival rate is over 90 percent. Unfortunately, less than 20 percent of all ovarian cancers are found at this early stage, according to ACS. Early symptoms of ovarian cancer include abdominal swelling or bloating, pressure or abdominal pain, difficulty eating or feeling full quickly, and having to urinate urgently or often. Sound familiar?

Sure, because these are the same symptoms you might have when you eat too much spicy food, or have an easy-to-treat (and common) urinary tract infection. But when the symptoms are caused by ovarian cancer they tend to be more severe and are a change from how a woman usually feels. And that's the critical point: knowing and listening to your body close enough to distinguish a difference.

When it comes to ovarian cancer, it's important to know your risk factors. According to the Mayo Clinic, the most significant risk factor for ovarian cancer is having an inher-

ited mutation in one of two genes called breast cancer gene 1 (BRCA1) and gene 2 (BRCA2). In addition to causing some breast cancers, they're also responsible for about 5 percent to 10 percent of ovarian cancers. Other risk factors include your age, whether or not you've had children, a history of infertility, and childhood obesity.

Few things cause patients more fear and uncertainty than a cancer diagnosis. But today ovarian cancer increasingly can be managed and even beaten, especially when it's detected early. According to a recent survey by the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, there are now 47 new medicines in development for ovarian cancer, including one potential medicine that works to stimulate the body's immune system to kill the tumors by attacking the proteins that it releases into the bloodstream.

Patients who need help accessing their prescription medicines for ovarian cancer and other conditions can turn to the Partnership for

Prescription Assistance for information. Since its launch in April 2005, the Partnership for Prescription Assistance has helped connect more than 5 million patients in need to programs that provide either free or nearly free medicines. For more information about how to apply, patients can call 1-888-4PPA-NOW or visit www.pparx.org.

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YWCA Back to School Fair a Success

From staff reports

The Young Leaders Board of the YWCA of Metropolitan Dallas is proud to announce that it raised \$3,577.79 in in-kind and cash donations through its inaugural Back-To-School Supply Drive. The event benefited the children of the YWCA After School Club.

The YWCA Young Leaders Board originally set a goal of \$1,000 to provide school supplies for the YWCA After school Club in Irving, but the wonderful outpouring of donations allowed the group to provide every school-age child with a backpack filled with all of



their required supplies for the school year. They were also able to purchase needed supplies for the YWCA After School Club programs.

School supplies were delivered to students prior to the tax-free weekend, when many parents seek out school supply deals. The YWCA Young

Leaders Board plans to make this project an annual charitable event and hopes to bring in even more in donations next year.



Black Cinematheque Celebrates the 100th Birthday of Richard Wright

From staff reports

Black Cinematheque Dallas and SDCC join the nation in honoring the 100th anniversary of award winning author, Richard Wright's birth with a film entitled RICHARD WRIGHT: BLACK BOY Friday, Sept. 19, 2008, 8:00 PM, South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 S. Fitzhugh Street, Dallas, Texas 75210. Suggested donation is \$5.00 or pay what you can. For information the public should call Marilyn Clark at 214-426-1683 or 214-939-2787.

Produced by Eyes on the Prize veteran Madison D. Lacy, Richard Wright - Black Boy is destined to become a definitive literary biography. It skillfully inter-cuts dramatic excerpts from Wright's own work with historical footage and the recollections of friends, associates and scholars such as Ralph Ellison, Margaret Walker, and Wright's daughter, Julia. They trace Wright's later development as a writer back to

the brutality and racism of his Southern childhood - his father deserted the family, his uncle was lynched and he often went hungry. Wright's indelible portrayal of Bigger Thomas in Native Son and his own autobiography Black Boy lay bare the tragic connection between racism and powerlessness, despair, and self-destructive violence in many black males.

Wright overcame a childhood of poverty and oppression to become one of America's most influential writers. His first major works, Native Son and Black Boy, were runaway best sellers which are still mainstays of high school and college literature and composition classes. According to critic Irving Howe, "The day Native Son appeared American culture was changed forever."

When asked in 1945 why he wrote Black Boy, a harrowing account of his Southern childhood, Wright replied that he wanted to "give [his] tongue to voiceless Negro boys." Quoting Walt

Whitman, he added, "Not until the sun ceases to shine on you will I disown you." Wright played an important role in many of the important social movements of his time. The film follows his journey through the Chicago black cultural Renaissance of the '30s, the Communist Party during the Depression, the witch-hunts of the McCarthy era

and the American expatriate community in Paris in the '50s. This biography urges us to take a fresh look at the often-neglected work of Wright's exile years including The Long Dream and his championing of Pan Africanism and the newly emerging nations of Africa and Asia.

By the time of his mysterious death in 1960 at age 52, Wright had left an

indelible mark on African American letters, indeed, on the American imagination. This film biography demonstrates Wright's life-long belief that "words can be weapons against injustice." It will

encourage students of American Literature, Black Studies and 20th Century American History to revisit Wright's work with fresh enthusiasm and deepened understanding.

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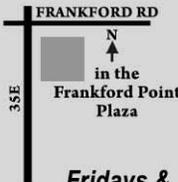
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DCCCD Students Recognized for Leadership and Academics with 2008-2009 LeCroy Scholarships

From staff reports

Nine high school and college students from throughout the Dallas metroplex have been named 2008-2009 LeCroy Scholars by the Dallas County Community College District Foundation for their outstanding leadership and academic achievements. The program honors DCCCD's former chancellor, Dr. Jan LeCroy, who served in that capacity from 1981

to 1988. Each LeCroy Scholar receives up to \$3,200 (\$800 per semester, with a maximum of four semesters) to attend any of DCCCD's seven individually accredited colleges: Brookhaven, Cedar Valley, Eastfield, El Centro, Mountain View, North Lake or Richland.

The LeCroy Scholars fund was made possible by a grant established in 1988 by Mike A. Myers and the

Mike Myers Foundation. A long-time Dallas business and civic leader, he provided funds to recognize LeCroy's leadership; the program was the first major student recognition and incentive scholarship created for DCCCD. Myers currently is chairman and president of the Myers Financial Corporation. He will be honored in November as one of four 2008 Stars of Texas when he is inducted into the Texas Business Hall of Fame.

The students began attending classes for the fall semester during the last week of August. The scholarship recipients, the colleges they attend and the fields they are studying are:

- Elizabeth Erickson of Carrollton, Brookhaven College, arts;
- Rachael Halsdorf of Forney, Eastfield College, mathematics;
- Trish Harding of Garland, Richland College,



Maika A. Myers

mathematics;

- Brandy Nichole Laney of Coppell, North Lake College, elementary education;
- Fabiola Olvera of Dallas, Mountain View College, education;
- Crystal Pacheco of Irving, North Lake College, journalism;
- Alicia Rood of Coppell, North Lake College, business;
- Vanessa Tapia of Carrollton, Brookhaven

College, public policy; and

- Daniela Villegas of Irving, El Centro College, nursing.

Six other DCCCD students are returning 2007-2008 LeCroy Scholars. They are:

- Norma Broussard of Mesquite, Brookhaven College, nursing;
- Stephanie Cailloux of Dallas, El Centro College, nursing;
- Wendy Camarena of Dallas, Brookhaven College, communications;
- Pamela Juarez of Carrollton, Brookhaven College, criminal justice;
- Aisha Khan of Mesquite, Eastfield College, pharmacy; and
- Perla Sanchez of Dallas, Brookhaven College, biology/business.

Anyone interested in learning more about how to apply for a LeCroy Scholarship can visit www.dcccd.edu/fdn/scholarships/foundation/lecroy.

COLLEGE CORNER

Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship

Offers grants for U.S. citizen undergraduate students of limited financial means to pursue academic studies abroad. Such international study is intended to better prepare U.S. students to assume significant roles in an increasingly global economy and interdependent world.

International experience is critically important in the educational and career development of American students, but it can also require a substantial financial investment. The Gilman Scholarship Program broadens the student population that studies abroad by supporting undergraduates who might not otherwise participate due to financial constraints. The program aims to encourage students to choose non-traditional study abroad destinations, especially those outside of Western Europe and Australia.

The Gilman scholarship aims to support students who have been traditional-

ly under-represented in study abroad, including but not limited to, students with high financial need, community college students, students in under-represented fields such as the sciences and engineering, students with diverse ethnic backgrounds, and students with disabilities. The program seeks to assist students from a diverse range and type of public and private institutions from all 50 states.

Award recipients are chosen by a competitive selection process and must use the award to defray eligible study abroad costs. These costs include program tuition, room and board, books, local transportation, insurance and international airfare.

Award Amount:
Up to \$5,000

Location:
October 7, 2008

Website/Contact Info:
www.iie.org/programs/gilman/apply/spring.html

BULLYING, continued from page 1

impressive anti-bullying program I've ever seen, said RISD Director of Student Assistance Programs Jill Darling. "Starting from their first day at school, students learn to see their peers as people, get a chance to work one on one with them, learn about them, and form the foundation for friendship. The lessons learned through RTime are consistently reinforced throughout the year, at every level, to the point that a culture of mutual respect and understanding pervades the campus. It's extraordinary."

During RTime, students are randomly paired, and work with a different part-

ner for each lesson. Eventually, every student works with one other, allowing them to meet and work with other students they might otherwise never have a chance to. The children introduce themselves to their partners with positive greetings, and then work together on an age-appropriate activity. The next step involves the children coming together as a group to share their experiences and provide feedback to each other and their teacher. Finally, the children thank their partners and end their time together by saying something positive about their partner that they learned during the experience.

This past spring, Ms. Darling was able to see the program in action in England, and knew it was

something that could greatly benefit RISD. "I saw entire campuses that had been transformed by RTime into places where every student respected themselves and others, which allowed the focus to

be on learning and achievement, not social pressures."

A week before the start of school, Darling led a day-long training session for the more than 130 teachers and administrators

at the three campuses, and the program was met with instant enthusiasm and discussions of how to adapt the components into various situations and activities.



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GARLAND

Duck Creek Treatment Plant Receives Peak Performance Award

From staff reports

Garland's Duck Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant has been selected to receive a Peak Performance Award. The Peak Performance Awards program presented by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) recognizes public wastewater treatment facilities for their outstanding compliance

records in the 2007 calendar year. NACWA was proud to recognize over 400 Peak Performance Award facilities during the Association's 2008 Summer Conference and 38th Annual Meeting, held July 15-18, 2008 in Anchorage, Alaska.

The Duck Creek Plant received a silver Peak Performance Award which recognizes facilities that have received no more

than five NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit violations per calendar year. The Duck Creek facility only had one violation in 2007.

The City of Garland recently completed a \$40 million expansion at the Duck Creek Treatment Facility. The five year project, which increased the capacity of the plant by about fifty percent,

became necessary because of more stringent federal regulatory requirements and Garland's population growth. The Duck Creek project has enabled Garland's Water Utilities department to meet the criteria required for its discharge permit. According to Brian Williams, Garland's Wastewater Treatment Director, the project played a major role in the facility's recogni-

tion by NACWA. Williams stated, "This project has not only helped us to meet increasing regulatory mandates, but also demonstrates Garland's commitment to enhancing the environment."

"The Duck Creek Plant is an outstanding example of environmental efforts. NACWA is honored to showcase the achievements of the City of

Garland Water Utilities and our nation's public wastewater utilities through the Peak Performance Awards Program." Ken Kirk, NACWA's Executive Director.

For more information on Garland Water Utilities' water quality efforts, contact Shelley Franklin at 972-205-3285, or go to www.garlandwater.com.

DALLAS

Designing Dreams Partners with Macy's Shop For A Cause Event

From staff reports

Dallas Designing Dreams is offering exclusive Macy's shopping passes that can be used for discounts when shopping during the Shop for a Cause event on Saturday, September 20, 2008.

As a participating charity, Dallas Designing Dreams retains 100% of all proceeds from the sale of each pass to support ongoing DIY Couture workshops and entrepre-

neurship programs for kids ranging from 8-16 years of age. The goal this year is to raise \$2,000.

The one-day shopping pass is only \$5.00 and includes twenty-percent off regular, sale and clearance women's, men's and kids' apparel and accessories, fine, bridge and fashion jewelry, bed & bath items, housewares, frames, luggage, china, crystal & silver, all kitchen & personal care electrics & technology items, and

ten-percent off regular, sale & clearance furniture, mattresses & rugs.

Get your exclusive discount passes at the studio located at Dallas Designing Dreams (www.designingdreams.com) located at 1409 S. Lamar Street, Suite 102, Dallas, Texas 75215 or by contacting the Young Entrepreneurs Program Coordinator directly at the studio at (214) 421-9900 or at (972) 529-4323.

OAK CLIFF

Museum to Feature Hiltburg Wussom's Quilts

From staff reports

The International Museum of Cultures, 7500 W. Camp Wisdom, Dallas, will feature several quilts from the works of Hiltburg Wussom of Germany. The Museum's theme for Quilt Mania II is "We Cover The World", which opens September 27th. The exhibit will include quilts made in Korea, Egypt, India, Indonesia, and Lithuania

to list a few.

Among the quilts to be exhibited include "Berlin 2000", a Wussom design made especially for the exhibit "Fireworks 2000", organized by Madeira thread. The free-motion machine work is embroidered on silk. The Reichstag is the only piecing done in the quilt. Mrs. Wussom is a member of the International Women's Club-Sofia. Among her exhibits have

been the French Cultural Center and a solo exhibit in Plovdiv. Her works are artistic inventions and display enormous diligence, marvelously combined to produce all of her creations with technical skill and a mastery of color combinations.

The museum is open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tours for ten or more may be scheduled by calling 972 708 7406.

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Ongoing

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

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

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

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

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

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

SHARE! PISD International Exchange

Student Program is in the process of finding new host families to share their hearts and home with an exchange student for the 2008/2009 School Year. For more information on or how to become a host family, call 1-800-941-3738, or www.sharesouthwest.org.

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

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

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

September 11

Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce General Membership Meeting Call 469-424-0120.

September 13

NAACP Garland Branch Presents 18th Annual Freedom Fund Silent Auction and Brunch at the GISD Special Events Center 4999 Naaman Forest Blvd at North Garland Ave. and President George Bush Turnpike,

Garland, TX 75040. The silent auction begins at 9:00 a.m.; the brunch begins at 10:00 a.m. and costs \$40 for Individuals and \$400 for a table. Call 972-381-5044.

September 13

History Comes to Life In Downtown McKinney. Visit <http://atomicdnc.bm23.com/public/>

Professional Achievers for Community Excellence (PACE) is sponsoring a Garage Sale and Bake Sale to benefit their scholarship fund. Saturday from 7: A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Location is Keller Springs Baptist Church at 2237 Keller Springs Rd, Carrollton. To inquire about scholarship applications write to PACE P. O. Box 112721, Carrollton TX 75011-2727.

"Anybody Can Write" Writer's Workshop 1:30 - 3:30 PM; Speaker: Rev. Peggy Teague, \$25 fee includes workbook; \$35 at the door. peggyteague@dfwair.net or 972-924-2727

"Refiner's Fire" Gathering at the Best Western - McKinney 9:00 - Noon. We will worship and prepare to refine our hearts toward God. Lunch is on your own. A Freewill offering taken.

The Blind Lemon Blues Festival at Poor David's Pub, 7 pm - 1:00 am; doors at 6:15 pm Tickets are on sale now at the festival web site: <http://blindlemonbluesfest.com>

September 14

TeCo Theatrical Productions Hosts Grand Opening Gala Street Festival Saturday Sept. 14th. This community-wide festival is open to the public at no cost. www.tecotheater.org/ or 214-948-0716

September 17

Internet Basics Class at South Branch Library from 2:00 p.m. - 3 p.m. at 3228 Teasley Lane, Denton, TX 76204. If you are just beginning to use the Internet or thinking about It, or If you would just like a refresher, this class is for you. The class size is limited so call 940-349-8726 or email fred.kamman@cityofdenton.com.

September 18-20

Loving Kindness Ministries 2008 Women's Conference "Hold On ... To Your Faith" at the Prava Suites 13402 Noel Road, Dallas TX 75204. Come and embrace God's glory. Registration is \$50 for Adults and \$15 for youth before August 18. Call 469-254-8436.

Tears of Joy Ministries, Inc. will host its first women's conference September 18-20, 2008 at Embassy Suites Hotel in Irving, Texas. Theme is "Come Aside and Rest for a Time of Refreshing, Renewal and Restoration." Contact Pastor Vanessa Smith at (609) 556-5656 or (214) 407-7946.

September 19 & 20

Harkey Production Auditions for Upcoming Gospel Musical Play Singers, rappers, and actors are all welcome to come to Greater Saint John Revelation Church 3633 Atlanta Street, Dallas, TX 75215 from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Call 214-607-7802 or email harkeyproduction@yahoo.com.

September 20

My Second Chance Fundraiser will honor women who make a difference in the lives of girls and women. The "Living the Dream" banquet will be held at Christ for the Nations 3516 Conway St., Dallas, TX from 7 p.m. -

11 p.m. Tickets are \$40 per person and \$300 per table. Call 214-448-3106 or email royceadams@mysecondchanceinc.org.

September 20

Young Professionals Leadership Development Conference from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the University of Texas at Dallas School of Management 800 W. Campbell Road, Dallas, TX 75080. A variety of workshops to groom young professionals to achieve higher levels of leadership, professionally and socially will be available. Visit www.ulgdyp.org

4th Annual Youth Fishing Derby, 8AM - Noon at Shawnee park, 3380 Sherwood Dr. Youth ages 5-16 years are invited.

September 26

SOLUTIONS - Youth Violence is Real! Now is the time for Real 'SOLUTIONS' 10:30AM at Booker T. Washington High School, 2501 Flora St, Dallas, TX 75201. No Admission fee but donations appreciated and pre-registration required. 972-218-1921.

September 27

NOCC and Pureology 5K Walk to Break the Silence on Ovarian Cancer Join hundreds In the Dallas-Fort Worth metro community at this fundraising event at the Baylor Regional Medical Center 1650 W. College Street, Grapevine, TX. Call 212-973-5351 or email jfigueiredo@pureology-usa.com.

September 30 - Oct. 19

Oprah Winfrey Presents The Color Purple at Fair Park featuring stars of the Broadway production, Jeannette Bayardelle, Felicia P. Fields and Angela Robinson, along with American Idol alum Latoya London. Tickets are \$25-\$77 at the Box Office or any Ticketmaster.

Call 214-631-ARTS.s

October 2-3

National Association of Black Social Workers Southwest Regional Conference at the Holiday Inn Select, 3300 W. Mockingbird Lane, Dallas, Texas. The conference theme is: "Reclaiming Minority Youth: Are We Listening?" Visit NABSWDALLAS.COM or Audrey Brown, 214-670-6739 or Abtbinc@aol.com, or Treva McDaniel, 214-915-4610, tmcdaniel@ulgdncntx.com.

October 3

Prairie View A&M University Alumni 13th Annual Scholarshp Gala at the Westin City Center Hotel 650 N. Pearl St, Dallas, TX. The reception begins at 6:30 p.m. and the dinner program will proceed at 7:30 p.m. Call 972-979-9000. Ticket deadline is September 25, 2008.

Allen Chamber Golf Classic at Chase Oaks Golf Club 7201 Chase Oaks.

October 5

V Events Presents Non-Profit Organization of the 3rd Quarter, AIDS Arms Inc. join AIDS Arms and LifeWalk and LifeBark from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. for entertainment, food, games, and more. The walk will be held at Lee Park In Dallas, Texas. Registration begins at noon. Visit www.life-walk.org.

October 23-35

Girls Night: The Musical a tell-It-like-It-Is look at five friends as they re-live their past at the Eisemann Center.

October 25

Frisco Arts Gala Supporting all the fine arts In Frisco Funding grants and scholarships at the Westin Stonebriar Resort. <http://atomicdnc.bm23.com/public/>

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RickyRay's Serves Unique Barbecue

Grill Masters

By Tessa Howington
North Dallas Gazette

RickyRay's may have opened in April of 2007, but they have been serving up "Barbecue and Down Home Cooking" for quite a while.

Ricky House and Ray Cotton catered for 4 years before they decided to open a store front business. Their catering business started small, as backyard or garage barbecues, and due to demand, the two of them decided to open a restaurant in Plano.

Mr. House says they opened because "he bugged me," jokingly referring to Mr. Cotton. In his defense, Cotton, an Inola, OK native, said that the reason is because he "can't find no good barbecue in Texas."

Regardless, they opened their doors on April 6, 2007, serving up barbecue with all the trimmings. Cotton says that what makes their barbecue unique is "that it's a variety, a little bit of everything." House simply says, "It is barbecue. Not watered down."

They also pride themselves on the variety of methods they use to cook the food. Not only have their recipes come from years of family tradition, but are also steeped with regional influences from Kansas, Oklahoma, Memphis, Pittsburg, and even East Texas. "We cook it their way," House says. House, growing up in



Ricky House and Ray Cotton

the "deep East Texas" town of Omaha, even gets sweet potatoes from the small East Texas town of Golden, to ensure authenticity and taste.

Besides their famous barbecue, they also serve a variety of homemade desserts and sides. Cotton's favorite is the "bread pudding . . . or the banana pudding." House isn't sure what his favorite is, but knows, referring to the puddings, that they "sell a lot of it."

They both agree that their "gourmet

baked beans" are the best in town, they are known to brag about their sweet potato fries and ribs, and are proud to be the only restaurant in Plano serving GG's Sweet Tea from McKinney.

While they have the restaurant, they still do catering as well. Although the restaurant's menu focuses on barbecue, but they can cook anything and have no problem tailoring a meal to a client's requested menu. This is where the "Down Home Cooking" plays a part in the business.

House says that they are happy to cook anything, and laughs as he adds "possum, raccoon, armadillo. . ."

RickyRay's is a member of the Chamber of Commerce in Plano and also works with the Eternal Life C.O.G.I.C., where House is the pastor. Besides being the pastor, church plays a large role in both their lives; Cotton refers to church as "a mainstay" in their lives and their business. As a matter of fact, the two future partners met 11 years ago at Moore's Chapel C.O.G.I.C in Allen, TX.

And while the demand was a large factor in opening a restaurant, they both admit that their main inspiration was the desire to provide a service that people really enjoy and that they are always "governed by the Spirit of God."

Looking at the growth from the original backyard catering business, clearly customers truly enjoy their food. RickyRay's has catered the Plano Senior High School's Twilight Dinner for the past few years, the 4th of July Parade for Allen and McKinney, and also handles various events for McKinney ISD. In addition, they cater private events such as weddings, receptions, and other church related activities. Currently the duo are excited about an upcoming event with the Legacy Christian Academy in Frisco.

As smart businessmen, they are also

See RICKY RAY'S, page 16

MUSIC

The Blind Lemon Blues Festival This Weekend at Poor David's

From staff reports

The North Texas Blues Society is proud to present the second annual Blind Lemon Blues Festival, September 13, 2008 in Dallas, Texas. The festival venue is Poor David's Pub, at 1313 South Lamar Street in the shadow of downtown Dallas.

The 2008 Blind Lemon Blues Festival, is an all acoustic event honoring the traditional blues music style of Texan, Blind Lemon Jefferson. Mr. Jefferson played the blues on the streets of Dallas beginning in 1912 and became the first commer-

cially successful male blues recording artist in the 1920's. Blind Lemon's music not only inspired and influenced such early blues music giants as Leadbelly, T-Bone Walker, Lightnin' Hopkins, and Robert Johnson; but also present day rock and roll icons such as The Rolling Stones and Elvis Presley have also performed his tunes.

In the comfort of air conditioning and in one of the best listening venues in North Texas, you will hear two incredible local acts: Hash Brown – solo, and Texas Slim and JMAC –duo. Each of these gen-



tlemen are not only phenomenal guitar players, acoustic and electric, they are some of the most knowledgeable blues historians around. They each have their own bands and JMAC is also the Monday night DJ for Texas Blues Radio on KNON 89.3 FM...for twenty plus years!

We are thrilled to have

in our third set this year an upcoming blues star from Maine, Samuel James. For a young man in his twenties his talents as a song writer, guitar player, harp, banjo and keyboards are stunning. While you can hear influences of Charlie Patton, Sonny Terry, and Skip James his style is very much his own. Samuel has been busy this

summer playing festivals supporting his recent Northern Blues release, Songs Famed for Sorrow and Joy.a

Paul Geremia, a master of the Piedmont style blues and as Acoustic Guitar magazine says, "one of the best country blues finger-pickers ever." Geremia has been traveling Uncle Sam's Backyard (the title to his last live CD release) for 40 plus years. His latest 2008 DVD release is Guitar Artistry of Paul Geremia. . As Mr. Geremia says, "It's all about the music; keeping the dying ghosts of the old masters alive with love, a

couple of finger picks, and an old beat-up guitar." Paul has created a style which is very much his own combining his interpretations of the music of Blind Lemon Jefferson, Robert Johnson, Blind Willie McTell, Scrapper Blackwell and Blind Blake. Paul Geremia is truly a living legend of the blues!

The Blind Lemon Blues Festival, September 13, 2008 Dallas, Texas at Poor David's Pub, 7 pm – 1:00 am; doors at 6:15 pm Tickets are on sale now at the festival web site: <http://blindlemonblues-fest.com>.

THEATER

Frisco Community Theatre announces their first show of the 2009 season

From staff reports

ROUNDING THIRD is the tumultuous journey of two Little League coaches through an entire season, from their first tentative meeting to the climactic championship game. The audience is the stand-in for the team, so the coaches speak directly to the audience about competition, character, punctuality, and the importance of wearing the right equipment.

Don is the tough, blue-collar, win-at-all-costs veteran coach whose son is the star pitcher.

Michael is a newcomer both to the town and to baseball. He's a corporate executive who agrees to be Don's assistant because he wants a special activity with his son, who's never played baseball before.

Despite their differences, Michael and Don form an uneasy alliance for the benefit of the team. And over the course of exhilarating victories, heartbreaking defeats, and interminable rain-outs, the two men battle over how to lead the team.

Michael believes that the job of the coaches is

to shield the kids from the intense pressure of competition while making sure everyone has a good time. Don thinks they should be teaching the kids how to win. Out of these conflicting philosophies, the real issues of the play emerge: how should we raise our children? Since we live in such a ferociously competitive society, do we protect our children as long as possible? Or do we prepare them to be tough enough to win? And what does it mean to be an American man?

By the end of the play,

Don's personal life has come crashing down around him and he's forced to see both his son and the team in a different light. And Michael must confront an unfamiliar but powerful sensation: he really wants to win.

Performance will take place at the Cox Building Playhouse, 1517 Avenue H. Plano, TX 75074, October 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25 at 8 p.m and October 12 & 19 at 2 p.m.

The part of Don will be played by J. Rod Pannek and the part of Michael by Erik Knapp.

The play will be directed by Joan S. Davies. The stage manager is Nicole Wooddell.

McKinney hosts Youth Theater Auditions



From staff reports

Auditions for fall productions of Sound of Music, Wizard of Oz, and Cats, the musical are September 13 and 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at McKinney Performing Arts Center, 111 N. Tennessee in downtown McKinney. Please bring

a song and a CD to accompany. Cold readings will be available. Casting youth, ages 7-18.

Since 2005, McKinney Youth Theatre has been bringing the best of Broadway and dramatic scripts to the youth of McKinney and surrounding cities.

McKinney Youth Theatre offers after-school and summer classes for youth, birthday and scout parties, and performing arts training to North Texas youth. For more information go to www.mckinneyyouththeatre.com or (972) 422-2575.

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on September 15-17, 7:30 pm nightly, close out is September 21st @ 3:30 pm. Bishop Warren spreads the good news by preaching, prophecy, teaching, acting, producing, singing and more!

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Black Social Workers host Southwest Regional Training Conference

From staff reports

The Dallas Chapter of the National Association of Black Social Workers is proud to sponsor the 2008 Southwest Regional Conference on October 2-3, 2008 at the Holiday Inn

Select, 3300 W. Mockingbird Lane, Dallas, Texas. The conference theme is: "Reclaiming Minority Youth: Are We Listening?" This two day conference will feature outstanding presenters and very informative work-

shops. Our Speakers are: Dr. Jim Davis, Regional Representative, U.S. Department of Education, Mr. Leon Mc Cowan, Regional Administrator, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services and Mr.

Will Harrell, Chief Ombudsman, Texas Youth Commission.

Workshops will cover issues that are adversely affecting our youth: legal; truancy, detention and incarceration; education – low performance and

dropout rates; health – substance abuse, mental, physical and infectious diseases; Employment – work inhibition, job readiness and stability. CEU's will be available.

For additional information on the Conference and

NABSW-Dallas Chapter visit our Website: NABSWDALLAS.COM or contact Audrey Brown, 214-670-6739 or e-mail Abtbnic@aol.com, Treva McDaniel, 214-915-4610 or e-mail tmcddaniel@ulgdncntx.com.

Commuting Alternatives Save Region 1 Million Miles

From staff reports

Drivers in the Dallas-Fort Worth area fight heavy traffic every day on the way to work and important appointments. With thousands of vehicles on the roads at the same time, traffic congestion is the inevitable result.

Many drivers have become part of the congestion solution by sharing rides with coworkers or employees of nearby com-

panies. Some are even staying off the roads entirely by telecommuting.

Since October 2006, commuters have been able to track their savings by visiting www.tryparkingit.com, a regional alternative-commute Web site. Its popularity has grown with the escalation of gas prices. In fact, in early August, users of the site surpassed 1 million saved miles since the site launched in 2006.

And the financial reward

is significant. Since logging the first alternative commute on the site, motorists have saved an estimated 50,000 gallons of gas and more than \$2 million. With their contributions quantified through calories burned, emissions reduced and money saved, participants are able to clearly see how they are helping improve quality of life.

The benefits stretch beyond the pocketbook and

environment. Residents who ride their bicycles to work or walk to lunch may also record the number of calories burned. And eating lunch at the office instead of going out also qualifies as an alternative because it eliminates the need for mid-day car trips.

In addition to commuting-related savings, users are making lasting contributions to the region's air quality, helpful as the region works toward com-

pliance with federal ozone requirements. The Dallas-Fort Worth area is in the midst of the peak ozone season, which ends Oct. 31. But the emphasis on alternatives to driving alone does not end when the calendar turns to November. Sharing trips and embracing other alternatives to driving alone are encouraged throughout the

year. Tryparkingit.com has proved individual choices are significant in a region with more than 6 million people. As the population continues to grow, the decisions people make will more dramatically influence how easily they move throughout the region and the quality of the air they breathe.

RAMADAN, continued from page 1

There was something different about this church.

"What kind of church is this?" asked one of the many disenfranchised members of the community that took part in Saturday's activities.

"It's a mosque," one of the servers replied.

"Oh like a Muslim mosque?" Asked the homeless man who soon began to open up more about his relocation to Dallas from St. Louis, Missouri. "Well there is only one God. So when do you all have services?"

And with his answer he left as quietly and quickly as he had entered what he now knows is a mosque.

Saturdays from 10 a.m. until Noon members of the Masjid Al Islam take time from their busy schedules to serve some of the homeless and downtrodden members of the South Dallas community.

The fact that Sister Bettie Shaheed thought

was paramount.

"Because of the area that we are in we wanted to give back," said Sis. Shaheed. "A lot of times we would drive to the masjid [mosque] and see people living and sleeping on the streets and we knew that there was a need."

The idea of giving back the community was nothing new to the members of Al Islam for years they served food and donated clothes to those Dallas homeless who would gather at the Day Resource Center.

But after much debate about the need and feasibility for a new municipal homeless shelter city officials opened 'The Bridge.'

And with that came a bevy of new rules and regulations.

"The first time that we went out we had 26 people with us and it was an amazing experience," said Imam Khalid Shaheed. "But since then the laws

changed and we got certified to serve here."

Saturday, August 30 marked the date when the Imam, which is the equivalent to a pastor or minister of church, and his followers reengaged the fight to take back South Dallas.

"Hopefully if we consistently do this the word will catch on," said Imam Shaheed as entered the masjid to catch his breath and regain his composure after braving the elements—traveling to nearby hotspots where the homeless and drug addicts are known to congregate.

"See we don't push an agenda here," he confidently explained. "If you need help you don't have to attend a service or listen to a prayer. Just come in and get what you need."

With a handful of members and two solid hours more than thirty people got a chance to beat the heat, find some gently used clothing and get a lunch or

two.

But the feedings at South Dallas apartment complexes, the masjid and shelters are just primers to their upcoming Humanitarian Day program, September 21.

"Last year I think we served about 600 and in years past we have served as many as 1,500 people. I remember last year one lady asked if we had a certain color sleeping bag," laughed Sister Shaheed. "I guess they have their preferences too."

Like many non-profits, donations are heavy during holidays and post tragic events.

Even if you aren't able to come and spend some time with the members of Masjid Al Islam at 2604 S. Harwood St. Donations of food, clothing and money are greatly needed and appreciated. For more information you can contact Imam Khalid Shaheed at 214-421-3839.

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REPUBLICANS, continued from page 1

vote for Obama.

Renee Amore is not one of them.

An ardent Republican, Amore was one of the speakers at this week's Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minn. She thought Palin's speech on Wednesday was just what the party needed to energize Republicans.

"Sarah Palin kicked butt and took names," said Amore, speaking to the Tribune from the convention. "I think it went very well. The floor was off the wall. The energy was phenomenal."

Amore expected Palin to pull disenchanted supporters of Sen. Hillary Clinton to McCain.

"She has pulled some already," she said. "People have called my office wanting to get involved. People

have said they will vote for McCain because of last night."

Republicans hope to use the divisions that emerged among Democrats to steal away a significant number of voters.

"The Democratic Party has some issues," was how Amore summed up the situation.

Palin's speech resonated with Amore, she said, adding that she identified with Palin as a married, working mother. Amore added that she was mystified by the assumption that Black women would vote for Obama simply because he was Black.

"I'm not going to vote for somebody just because they are Black," she said. "That's really sad. I'm very excited for (Obama) but, on the other hand, his values

are not like mine so I can't vote for him."

And, she's not alone, she said, adding that just because the majority of African-Americans who live in Philadelphia are Democrats, people should not assume that is the case on a larger scale.

"When you look at the country as a whole, it's different," she said. "There are a lot of people of color who are for McCain."

Denise Clay, a Democrat, was also focused on the issues, but in her opinion, Palin didn't address them in any substantive way.

"I didn't hear anything in her speech that wasn't a McCain talking point," she said. "And, most of his issues don't dovetail with my issues. They're talking about everything but the issues that are important to

Black people."

Clay, who is also a feminist, said she doubted that McCain's choice of a woman as running mate would affect many African-American women.

"I really don't think it's going to attract a lot of Black women," she said. "The only reason they did it was they were trying to pick off Hillary women. We're supposed to automatically run to him? That also insults our intelligence. Would I like to see a woman in the nation's highest office? Yes. But, it has to be the right woman."

Clay doubted that Palin was the right one, saying she based her opinion on Palin's record as governor of Alaska and reports of partisan-based firings along with questions about the truthfulness of her state-

ments on earmarks.

"We have two people now who have no respect for the Constitution," Clay said. "Just to bring in someone who has no respect, just because she wears a skirt, is asking a lot. Anyone who has sat down and taken a look at this woman and what she stands for is going to say no, that's OK."

She did give the Republicans a bit of credit for putting a woman on the ticket.

"It's nice that the Republican Party finally realized that women exist," she said, laughing.

Treading between the two sides was Janice Hollis, a registered Republican who has not yet chosen her candidate.

Palin's speech did nothing to help her solidify her

opinion but she felt it was good introduction to the potential vice president.

"I think it was an effective job in terms of introducing her personality on the scene," Hollis said, adding that she admired Palin as a working mother with a supportive husband and family.

But, it did little to address issues.

Hollis thought that it should serve as a wake up call to Obama, forcing him to stop speaking in platitudes and start addressing specifics.

"He should thank her," Hollis said. "They're playing this intellectual game and she's going to force him to reassess his game. If you're going to be better at your game, you have to play with someone equal or better."

BLACK GOP, continued from page 1

Steele (Maryland) and Secretary of HUD Alphonso Jackson and demonstrated sincerity and inclusiveness. We were impressed and it made our political outlook "balanced".

Some of us were Democrats and some were Republicans. Most were actually undecided until election time. Now those who are Republican are keeping it quiet. It is not just because we have a dynamic African-American on the Democratic ticket but there appears to be a definite indifference shown by the RNC. You get the feeling that we aren't wanted anymore. As I write this I cannot recall the name of the RNC Chairman as opposed to Gov. Howard Dean for the DNC. That says a lot.

In 2004, the RNC seated a record number of delegates at its Presidential Convention. This year they had the lowest Black representation in 40 years (according to Joint Center

"How could the Republican Party let this happen and to what success do they think it will lead?"

for Political and Economic Studies). In 2004, the convention had Black delegates that comprised 6.7 percent (167 delegates) of the total.

This year, that number was a dismal 1.5 percent (36 delegates) which equates to a 78.4 percent decline. By contrast, the Democratic National Convention had over 24 percent Black participation. There was a majority female population among the delegates and Hispanics reached the 14 percent level.

Gays and Lesbians held a higher percentage of delegates at the DNC event than Blacks at the RNC event. The DNC was undoubtedly and proudly inclusive and the RNC appeared to be very old school.

Yvonne R. Davis has this to say about the trend, "Since the 2000 and 2004 Republican conventions, a lot has changed for African-American Republicans. I was a vice chairwoman for Bush in Connecticut, a national co-chairwoman for African-Americans for Bush, a surrogate spokeswoman for the Republican National Committee and worked on Latino outreach efforts nationwide.... There were rainbow coalitions of interns and delegates. Featured speakers such as Colin Powell, J.C. Watts Jr., Condolezza Rice, black actors and ministers and gospel singers played a role on prime-time television....I've gone from having VIP seats sitting in the Bush family box to having a premier seat on my living

room couch.... Real or perceived there was an effort to engage us." Things have certainly changed now.

A close friend of mine, who I won't expose right now, is a former "Eagle" in the Republican Party. That's a person who contributes at least \$50,000 per year to the party. This time around, he is quite active in the "Veterans for Obama Committee". He has done a complete turnaround and is actively recruiting Black Republican veterans.

Raynard Jackson, a long standing Black Republican advocate, has now started the "Black Republicans for Obama" movement. He is populating the Internet with his message and throwing it right up into the RNC's face. As though he is saying "You dis us; you will miss

us".

Senator Obama's charisma and Senator Biden's statesmanship contrasted to that "pesky" Senator McCain and Gov. Sarah Palin who appears to be an "outback nut case" replete with "Red Neck legacy" makes things rather non-competitive in the Black community everywhere. The movement amongst Blacks all over the world is overwhelming. Prosper Adabla, an entrepreneur in Ghana, wrote me, "Hope you are well. My family and I cried uncontrollably for most of the speech period (Obama's acceptance speech). The only other time I cried so, was when S. Africa held its first election. We saw people, sick and able, grandmothers and parents, sinners and the saved, the oppressors and the enslaved standing in long procession, waiting to cast their votes, with the national black anthem echoing in the background."

This equates to the same moods I detect in France, England, Brazil, Spain, and

throughout the rest of the world. The RNC is being viewed as the "oppressor" and the DNC as the "liberator".

How could the Republican Party let this happen and to what success do they think it will lead?

I have polled close relatives of mine who are Republicans. The majority of them have recently officially changed their registration to Democrat or Independent. I haven't seen such a "sea change" in my lifetime. It reminds me of the historical change that was led by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Maybe next time, the RNC will return to inclusiveness and open up that "big tent" once again. Right now, I am finding more and more disappointment and hurt. Isn't this 2008?

Harry Alford is the co-founder, President/CEO, of the National Black Chamber of Commerce, Inc. Website: www.nation-albcc.org.

Career Fair Offers Opportunities for Community

Every fall, Brookhaven College is the host site of a career fair that welcomes more than 50 companies offering opportunities for students and community members to speak directly with employers who are looking for workers. This year's fall career fair is set for Sept. 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Student Services Center, Building S, of the Brookhaven College campus.

The college's Career Development Center coordinates the fair and encourages all those attending to bring copies of their résumé. Employers will include banks, hotels and resorts, financial services, retail, insurance, government and technical companies. With the large number of employers who attend, potential job openings are available at national and local businesses, large and small. Past attendees have included businesses such as Hyatt Hotels and Resorts, Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District, and Parkland Hospital.

For more information

about the career fair, please contact the Career Development Center at 972-860-4894.



Store Management Opportunities

Hobby Lobby is a leader in the Arts & Crafts industry with 400 stores located in 32 states.

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Supermarket chain, Credit chain, Retail merchant, Drug chain, Building supply chain
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www.hobbylobby.com



The City of Allen Planning and Development Department is seeking qualified General Contractors for their Home Repair Program relating to the Community Development Block Grant Program.

Contact Kellie Wilson at 214-509-4165 to receive additional information and to request a Contractor application packet.



Dallas County

Dallas County is currently recruiting for the following positions:

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- Quality Assurance Administrator-Medical
- SNS Coordinator

Qualifications vary for each position. Visit www.dallascounty.org to complete the online application. *Starting salary is based on education and experience.* EOE



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Church Happenings

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALLEN

September 14, 8:15 am

Come to Founders Day and Church Anniversary featuring John Fuller, Sr. from Lewis Chapel MBC, Fayetteville, NC. Call 972-359-9956 for details. There will be a "Taste of Fellowship," favorite dishes from different parts of the USA will be served and there will be games, bounce houses, pie throwing contest and more.

Fellowship BC of Allen
Rev. W. L. Stafford, Sr.
M. Div., Senior Pastor
1550 Edelweiss is our
(Service Location)
200 Belmont Drive
(Church Address)
Allen, TX 75013
972-359-9956

FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS MINISTRIES

September 14, 3:30 pm

Come to our "6th Annual Appreciation Service for Bishop G. D. Crawford." Guests include Elder Eric Jones, OnPoint Ministries, MC; and Elder/Prophet Steve Cornett, The Potter's House, speaker. Theme: "Living the Kingdom Life;" and singers @

Heaven's Embassy Church, 1203 N. Cockrell Hill Road, Duncanville, TX. Call Sis. Sheanique Batty @ 214-780-7856 for details.

Fellowship of Believers
Bishop G. D. Crawford,
Founder & Pastor
501 Wynwood Village #423
Dallas, TX 75224
214-780-7856

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAMILTON PARK (FIRST CHURCH)

September 13, 8 am

Come to our "Women In Red Prayer Breakfast" sponsored by Daughters of Sarah.

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

HAMILTON PARK UMC

September 13, 1 pm - 6 pm

We will host the Allstate Gospel Superfest audition for the Opening Act Contest. The

grand prize winner will appear live in Atlanta this November! Travel to Atlanta is by American Airlines. Opening Act Contest information line is 212-631-4200 or 972-235-4633 for details.

Starting September 26, 2008
Wednesdays, 7 pm - 9 pm

For those interested in learning Black history there is a FREE 28-Week African African-American History Class with instructor John Ross. Mr. Ross is an anointed instructor and is well-versed in African History. He will give an in-dept view of our glorious past and present.

For information contact: John Ross @ 972-230-9096 or you may register at the church.

Hamilton Park UMC
Rev. Harold Dangerfield,
Senior Pastor
11881 Schroeder Road
Dallas, TX 75243
972-235-4633

NEW BELIEVERS MBC & SOUL SURVIVOR MINISTRIES

September 15-17, 7:30 pm & September 21, 3:30 pm

Join us for Dr. Bishop Veynell Warren's 9th Pastoral

Anniversary Celebration with Pastor Cedric Richardson, Holy Temple COGIC; Bishop R. L. Johnson, Bethesda Community BC and performances by praise dancers, stomp teams, gospel groups & soloists.

New Believers MBC & Soul Survivor Ministries
Dr. Bishop Veynell Warren
3523 E. Overton Road
Dallas, TX 75216
214-486-9198

NEW MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH OF DALLAS

September 13, 2008

The Mobile Mammography Unit will be at the church this Saturday. Call 214-947-0026 to register for the Mammogram Screening. All participants MUST schedule an appointment.

New Mount Zion Baptist Church of Dallas
Dr. Robert E. Price,
Senior Pastor
9550 Shepherd Road
Dallas, Texas 75243
214-341-6459

NORTH DALLAS COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

September 19, 2008
7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Join us for Poetry and Praise @ Plano Amphitheatre on Spring Creek at Parker.

September 20, 9:30 - 11 am
Spiritual Gifts Assessment Seminar (Spiritual Gas) to help you become acquainted with the person God created you to be; Call 972-437-3493 to register.

September 27, 8 am - 12 pm
Join us for Men's Transformation Leadership Seminar.

North Dallas Community Bible Fellowship Church
Dr. Leslie W. Smith,
Senior Pastor
1010-1020 South Sherman Street
Richardson, TX 75081
972-437-3493

SAINT MARK MBC IN MCKINNEY

September 21, 2008

Join us for our Pastor's Anniversary Service.

Saint Mark MBC, McKinney
Rev. Charles Wattley, Pastor

1308 Wilcox Street
McKinney, TX 75069
972-542-6178

SANCTUARY OF PRAISE FELLOWSHIP, ALLEN

September 14, 5 pm

Join us for our Men's Day Celebration "100 Men in Jeans" with speaker Rev. Charles Brown Sr. of New Birth Baptist Church in Sherman, TX.

Sanctuary of Praise Fellowship, Allen
Rev. John Wilson, III
Senior Pastor
1318 Avenue J
Plano, TX 75013
469-853-2380

THE GREATER MOORE'S CHAPEL COGIC

September 7 - 12, 7:30 pm

We continue our District Holy Convocation with Bishop T. W. Johnson speaking Tuesday night.

The Greater Moore's Chapel COGIC
Superintendent Willie Wilson, Pastor
306 North Cedar Drive
Allen, TX 75002
972-302-5272

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Senior Pastor

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11:00 am: Morning Worship

MONDAY

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

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8:15AM Story Elementary
10:45AM Story Elementary
1550 Edelweiss - Allen, Tx

Wednesday Night Live
Wed Prayer Service / Bible Study
7:00 PM
200 Belmont Dr - Allen, Tx



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Lady Tasha Stafford

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





Sister Tarpley

Every one has a special niche (function or role) in life, especially Christians. God created each of us to be unique. To be successful in your walk with God, you need to define your uniqueness and promote it with integrity.

“There are threescore queens, and fourscore concubines, and virgins without number. My dove, my undefiled is but one; she is the only one of her mother; she is the choice one of her that bare her. The daughters saw her, and blessed her; yea, the queens and the concubines, and they praised her.” Song of Solomon 6:8 & 9 (KJV.)

What is Your Niche?

When my mother's sister and also her best friend, Mrs. Jessie Baker Green,

was telling me one day, that at her age, 90 plus years old, she doesn't get around as well as she formally did, I told her that she was right where God wanted her to be in her life. She was always a prayer warrior, but now she devotes more time praying for others. Moreover, she has an early morning telephone prayer conference with several ladies that she knows; and when individuals call her, like me all times of the night, she says we don't disturb her because she can go right back to sleep. I truly thank God that she is my aunt. That is Aunt Jessie B's

niche and she is focused on it for the Glory of God.

Once your niche has been established then you need to remember and practice the 'Law of Attraction.' The 'Law of Attraction' indicates that 'like attracts like. We tend to attract whatever we give our attention to, whether we like it or not. Be in control of your life, find your niche and make it happen.

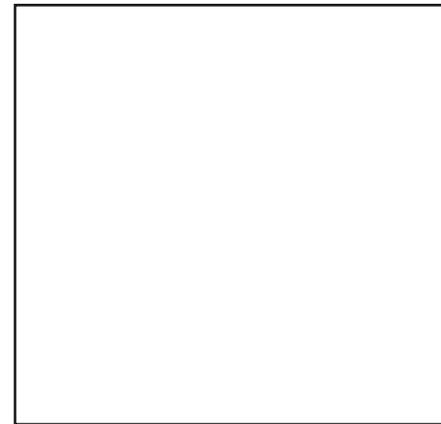
It has been said that attitude and attraction are the inevitable laws of the universe. Have you ever asked yourself how one individual with perhaps less education and requires more help from others for certain tasks can achieve better than others with equal or better qualification. You ask, "What is

he/she doing differently?"

"Why are they so happy and satisfied with life?" It's no secret, their minds are focused on God and they have found their niche.

Everyone doesn't have the same niche; therefore, it doesn't do you any good to discuss what your role in life. "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalm 139:23 & 24. Ask God to give you the wisdom, courage and conviction to know and use your uniqueness to give Him praise and help build His kingdom. This will help to separate you from the world.

Little Mister David Edward and his dad, William (Bill) Lott celebrating his mom's birthday.



Christian Wisdom: It has been said that life is like a bicycle...Stop peddling and you fall off. Regardless of hardships, keep peddling in life. Don't be caught in the trap of self-pity. In your trials, seek God and find the strength to help yourself and others. It doesn't do any good to worry and be anxious. Satan's desire is for us to walk in defeat, depression, discouragement, dismay, despair and dejection, but, "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into divers temptations; knowing this,

that the trying of your faith worketh patience." James 1:2 & 3. Joy lowers blood pressure, cholesterol and family friction. It reduces stress, anticipates hope and optimism with faith. Each day is a precious gift from God; face it with joy and anticipation.

When you sing to God, when you praise Him, when you worship Him, God gives you peace that you can't understand. He pours on you wisdom that you would not have had you not prayed and thanked Him and glorified Him. -Thelma Wells.

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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@dallasmpisgah.org
Website: www.dallasmpisgah.org

Ben Washington Baptist Church, Inc.
3901 Frisco Avenue
Irving, TX 75061
Church 972-710-8421 Fax 972-986-6590

Email: church@bwbcriving.org
web: bwbcriving.org

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7:30 p.m. Bible Study

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(972) 625-8186
website: www.fbc-online.net

Schedule of Services:

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Early Morning Worship-8:00 a.m.
Sunday School Classes-9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship-11:00 a.m.

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

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

"The Church with a Vision"

RICKY RAY'S, continued from page 9

seeking additional opportunities, including expansion to other locations in the future. And, since the restaurant and catering business is a side business for both Mr. House and Mr. Cotton, they would like to be working in the restaurant exclusively in a

few years.

As House says, they just "haven't gotten there yet."

Cotton & House want potential visitors to be aware that they "offer something that is not common in the area." Cotton says that they have a "good product and the

people that come in always come back." Or, as House simply says, "we're here" and that the "meat is cooked to perfection . . . you'll see."

So go see. RickyRay's Barbecue and Down Home Cooking is located at 3100 Independence

Parkway, Suite #299, in Plano, TX. They can also be found on the web at www.rickyraysbarbeque.com. They are open Tuesday – Thursday from 10:30 am to 9 pm, Friday's and Saturday's till 10 pm and Sundays from 11 am to 7 pm. Friday night is Rib Night, starting at 4 pm is all you can eat ribs for \$11.99,

Tuesday Night kids eat free, and 11 am to 2 pm Tuesday – Friday they have a lunch special of a large sandwich, side and drink for \$6.48 including tax.

If you have a party, want to make reservations, or need more information, you can also call them at (972) 867 – 2000.

Editor's Note: Last Friday I was in the area and stopped by [without introducing myself] during the lunch hour to get a to-go order. The staff was prompt, friendly and the food was good. My chopped beef sandwich overflowed with well seasoned brisket. It was my second visit and I look forward to returning.

"Teaching the Word with compassion, not compromise!"



ALLEN COMMUNITY Church

Join us for our sermon series: *Back to Basics*



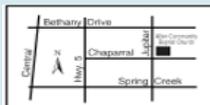
Pastor Dave Jenkins

Weekly Activities

Sunday
 Sunday School.....9:30am
 Morning Worship.....10:45am

Wednesday
 Prayer/Bible Study.....7:00pm

Allen Community Church
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Ramon Hodridge, Minister

www.avefchurchofchrist.org

Early Sunday Morning 8:00 am
 Sunday Bible Class 9:45 am
 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 @ 7:30 am on KIVN 970-AM Sunday Morning

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

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Sunday School
 9:30 am

Wednesday
 Night Service
 8:00 pm




Dr. Gregory Foster Senior Pastor
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Our Mission
To fulfill The Great Commission until Christ comes.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAMILTON PARK
 300 Phillips Street • Richardson, TX 75081 • 972.235.4235 • www.fbcjpa.org

Promiseland Television Network Broadcast – KTAQ-TV
"WALKING IN THE WORD"
 Weekly 30 minute broadcasts, each Saturday at 5pm and Sunday at 6pm

NORTH DALLAS COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
"A Spiritual Oasis for a Thirsty World" Isaiah 55:1

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

972-437-3493



Dr. Leslie W. Smith,
 Senior Pastor

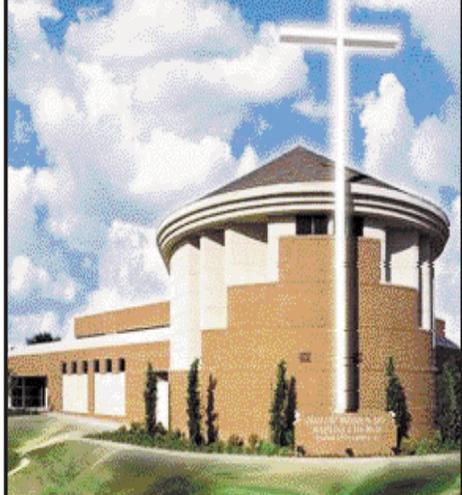
1010-1020 South Sherman Street • Richardson, TX 75081
www.ndcbf.org

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



Pastor Isiah Joshua, Jr.

FANNING THE FLAMES OF OUR FAITH



Sunday Worship Services 8AM & 11AM

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

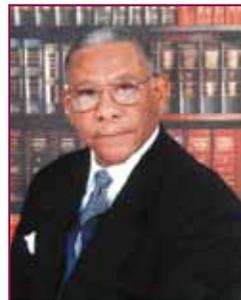
For more information call (972) 423-6695
www.shilohbaptistchurch.org

New Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Dallas

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

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

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



Dr. Robert E. Price, Sr.
 Senior Pastor

A Praying Church Family
"Watchmen on the Walls"

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

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

Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church

1308 Wilcox Street, McKinney TX
 Pastor Charles S. Wattlely



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

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

Friendly Fellowship with A Family Focus
 For More Information Call 972.542.6178
www.saintmarkbc.com • themark07@yahoo.com