

North Dallas Gazette



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Inaugural Entertainment Includes Aretha Franklin

From staff reports

Senator Dianne Feinstein, Chairman of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies, announced the program for the 56th

Presidential Inauguration, which will take place on the West Front of the U.S. Capitol on January 20, 2009.

"I am delighted to

See FRANKLIN, Page 12

A celebration of family, community & culture

From staff reports

2008 Citywide Kwanzaa Calendar

Friday, December 26, 2008 Umoja (Unity) 12:00 p.m. Gwaride (Parade) Participants line-up at Lincoln H.S at 11:30

am – Hatcher & Malcolm X Blvd. Gwaride starts promptly at 1:00 p.m. Co-sponsored by The Act of Change, Inc.& The Pan African Connection Bookstore, Call 214-372-3500 or 214-943-8262.

7:00 p.m. "Unity in the

Community". The residents of Park Manor Apartments, along with the Forever Forward Youth Group, invite the community to the first night of Kwanzaa. There will be dancing, drumming, singing and refreshments. 3333 Edgewood.

Call 214-942-0117.

7:00 p.m. "Celebration of Umoja" The Act of Change, Inc. 3200 Lancaster, Ste. 320, An evening of cultural activities celebrating the principle of unity. Call, 214-

See KWANZAA, Page 5

DFW Airport Unveils New "Santa Tracker" Web Site

From staff reports

DFW International Airport's "SantaTracker" (www.dfairport.com/santatracker) Web site debuts today as the Airport welcomes an expected 2.99 million passengers between Dec. 18 and Jan.

6, 2009. SantaTracker, the Airport's interactive Web site is upgraded and will once again track the movements of Santa and his reindeer and offer interactive games and holiday web links for families to enjoy.

Utilizing one-of-a-kind

navigational technology, DFW will track Santa and his sleigh as he makes his swift trip around the world and visits the good children of North Texas. DFW has it on good authority that Santa will be landing at DFW between 11 p.m. and midnight Christmas

Eve. SantaTracker will also continue to provide families an opportunity to follow Santa's trip around the world with telephone updates at 972-586-NOEL (6635). The phone line updates will be available

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COVER STORY

Positioned to Serve



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Mary Mary Headlines Premeire of The Gospel Of Music

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

COMMENTARY

Black State Legislators Want Economic Bailout

By Hazel Trice Edney
NNPA Editor-in-Chief

They clearly won't have it by Christmas, but the nation's Black state legislators are now looking for what they perceive as their fair share of an economic bailout 'the neighborhood' while Congress is doling them out to corporations.

"While we support the bail out of Wall Street, the bail out of the finan-

cial institutions, and the automobile industry, we feel very strongly that Main Street and our streets need to be bailed out as well," says Georgia State Rep. Calvin Smyre, president of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators. "So, with that in mind, we need to finish a package whereas a check can get into the

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People In The News...



Dr. Alduan Tartt



Kevin Williams



Shawn Dove

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Dr. Alduan Tartt

Dr. Alduan Tartt is a positive psychologist, professional speaker, life coach, author and Christian with a true passion for improving relationships. He uses his electric and humorous personality and wealth of experience from ten years of practicing psychology, coaching, mentoring and consulting to help both professionals and children to improve the quality of their relationships at home, work, and romantic lives.

Dr. Tartt is a Morehouse

graduate and is the youngest African-American to receive his PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of Michigan. Dr. Tartt is the online relationship expert for TVOne's hit show Black Men Revealed as well as Atlanta-based V103 radio station. He is also on the Board of Directors for the 100 Black Men of America (DeKalb Chapter), spokesperson for the Taskforce to Stop the

Sexual Exploitation of Children and author of The Ring Formula: How To Marry MR. RIGHT- a self help dating manual for women who wish to better understand the male psyche in relation to dating and how to be the "ONE" that men always dream of.

The dating scene can be brutal, especially if you don't have a formula for success. In fact, if you're like millions of Americans you know someone who is single regardless of your age. You make plans for your finances and career but have you developed a

plan for your romantic life? Dr. Tartt helps men and women of all ages to upgrade the quality of their personal relationships through his interactive seminars, small group workshops and personal one on one relationship coaching models. Additionally, due to overwhelming demand, Dr. Tartt works with teenagers to have healthier dating lives- speaking on the importance of abstinence, the emotional danger of sex, the lost art of courting and the importance of self-confidence and self-respect



in relationships.

The price of success can be high sometimes. In fact, one of the biggest complaints from highly successful professionals and entertainers is that their

family lives suffer as a result. When you couple that with the unrealistic expectations to support the entire extended family and lead a company at the same time, you have recipe for overwhelming stress. Dr. Tartt helps professionals and entertainers solve conflict both at home and work with the greatest of confidence, skill and loyalty so that they can enjoy the one thing in life that matters most: Peace of Mind. You're looking out for everyone else...now it's time for Dr. Tartt to look out for you.

Kevin Williams

General Motors recently appointed Kevin Williams to GM North America Vice President and General Manager of GM Service & Parts Operations (SPO). Williams previously served as president and managing director of GM de Mexico.

In his new position, Williams, 47, will report to Troy Clarke, GM Group Vice President and President of GM North America, and remain a key member of the North

American Strategy Board; chair the Global Aftermarket Advisory Board; and operate as the Global Process Leader for the after-sales portion of the Global Sales Service and Marketing function. The U.S. Field Sales, Service and Marketing Operations of SPO will continue to report to Mark LaNeve, GM North America Vice President, Vehicle Sales, Service and Marketing.

Williams joined GM in 1983 as a reliability analyst at Buick City in Flint, Michigan. He earned a bachelor's degree in business management from Tennessee State University in 1983 and a master's degree in business administration from Central Michigan University. Prior to his previous assignment, Williams served as assistant managing director and manufacturing manager, GM de Mexico; as vice president of Quality, GM North America; as global executive director, Supplier



Quality and Supplier Diversity, Worldwide Purchasing; and as executive director, Supplier Quality, GM Europe, with responsibilities spanning 22 countries.

Williams joined GM in 1983 as a reliability analyst at Buick in Flint, Mich. In 1989, he was named general supervisor of production at the Lansing Craft Centre in Lansing, Mich., and in 1991 he was appointed program readiness manager for GM's EV1 electric car program.

In 1993, Williams was named reliability engineer at the former North America Truck Group, and two years later he became assistant production superintendent at the Janesville assembly plant in

Wisconsin. In 1996, he was named area manager of general assembly. In 1997, Williams was executive director of supplier quality for GM Europe, and in 2000 he returned to the United States as global executive director of supplier quality, development and supplier diversity, before he was named to his current post in 2003.

He has a bachelor of science degree in management from Tennessee State University and an MBA from Central Michigan University.

Shawn Dove

Shawn Dove joined the Open Society Institute in May 2008 as the campaign manager for the new U.S. Programs Campaign for Black Male Achievement. Dove is leading this effort to challenge the stigmatization, criminalization, and exclusion of black men and boys from the economic and political mainstream. The campaign will focus on narrowing the achievement gap in schools and the workplace as well as continuing to build on the Open Society Institute's efforts to reduce over-incarceration and promote racial justice in the United States.

The Campaign for Black Male Achievement was launched in 2008 as a three-year, cross-program campaign to provide expanded

resources to address, and help reverse, the ways in which African American boys and men are stigmatized, criminalized, and excluded from the U.S. economic and political mainstream.

The campaign builds on the Open Society Institute's expertise and past work to reduce incarceration, promote racial justice, and support youth engagement and leadership development. The principal focus will be on under-educated, under-employed, and otherwise isolated black males who populate America's underclass. While still in the development stage, the campaign is likely to provide grantmaking and other operational support for education reform; promotion of economic opportu-



nity; criminal justice reform; and development of a communications framework to change public attitudes toward black males.

"The problems facing men and boys in the African American community do not exist in a vacuum. This is America's problem," said Geoffrey Canada, president and CEO of the Harlem Children's Zone and a board member

for U.S. Programs.

Dove has more than two decades of leadership experience in youth development, education, and community-building, designing and implementing innovative initiatives. During his career Dove served as one of the founding directors of New York City's Beacon School movement in the early 1990's while working with the Harlem Children's Zone. As creative communities director for the National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts he led a national initiative that partnered community schools of the arts and public housing communities in 20 U.S. cities.

As New York vice president for Mentor/National Mentoring Partnership he initiated a strategic response to the lack of African American and

Latino male mentors for New York City's boys by creating a public awareness

and recruitment initiative called The Male Mentoring Project.

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Publisher's Office:
Phone: (972) 516-2992
Fax: (972) 509-9058
publisher@northdallasgazette.com

Sales Department:
Phone: (972) 606-7498
Fax: (972) 509-9058
opportunity@northdallasgazette.com

Editorial Department:
Phone: (972) 516-2992
Fax: 1 (261) 569-4191
editor@northdallasgazette.com

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Chairman Emeritus
Jim Bochum

Published By
Minority Opportunity News, Inc.

Assistant To Publisher
Rosie Roberts

Office Manager

Production
Joshua C. Johnson
Randon Knightsen

Special Projects Manager
Edward Dewayne
"Preacher Boy" Gibson, Jr.

Account Executive
Faye Tsai

Religious/Marketing Editor
Shirley Demus Tarpley

Assignment Editor
972-606-3890

Editor
Ruth Ferguson

Publicist
Cheryl Jackson

Contributing Writers
Jacqueline Murphy
Tessa Howington

Theater Critic
Rick Elina

Photography
Laquisha Buchanan
Edna Dorman

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

THE TRUTH CLINIC

Messianic Obama Transitions to President Obama

For there is born to you this day a savior. Luke 2:11

By James W. Breedlove
NNPA Columnist

There was a Messianic undertone and a religious tenor evident throughout the Obama campaign for President of the United States.

At times his rhetoric hinted at resurrection, redemption, and second comings. There are reports of women weeping, swooning, and exhibiting symptoms of hysteria.

An Obama volunteer expressed this observation after attending a New Hampshire rally, "Excuse me, but this sounds more like a cult than a political campaign. The language used here is the language of evangelical Christianity – the Obama volunteers speak of 'coming to Obama' in the same way born-again Christians talk about 'coming to Jesus.'"

A huge rally held in the 80,000 seat Willams-Brice Stadium, Columbia, South Carolina was reported in The State newspaper as suffused with Christian-and at times messianic-rhetoric. Obama's wife, Michelle, opened the rally with a description of her husband using biblical passages that could be construed as depicting Jesus.

"We need a leader who's going to touch our souls. Who's going to make us feel differently about one another. Who's going to remind us that we are one another's keepers. That we are only as strong as the weakest among us."

Oprah Winfrey who was campaigning with Obama in South Carolina also invoked a messianic theme during her remarks when she said, "I do believe we have the answer to Miss Pittman's question – it's a

“ At times his rhetoric hinted at resurrection, redemption, and second comings. There are reports of women weeping, swooning, and exhibiting symptoms of hysteria. ”

question that the entire nation is asking – is he the one? South Carolina – I do believe he's the one."

So how can this infatuation with Obama be explained? The religious fervor? The adoration? The weeping and fainting and utter euphoria surrounding a relative political novice who had the audacity to run for leader of the free world promising simply hope and change?

The legions of youth who packed convention halls and stadiums provide insight into the making of this new world order.

For them the foundation for the Obama adoration transcends normal political or policy reforms. There is a hunger and yearning for something spiritual that has been missing in the traditional religious approach leaving an unfulfilled void in the forgotten generation. Obama brought them back with his message of hope and change.

One Obama messiah website features a quote strategically excerpted from a Jan. 7, 2008 speech at Dartmouth College just before the New Hampshire Primary in which he told students, "My job is to be so persuasive that if there is anybody left out there who is still not sure whether they will vote, or is still not clear who they will vote for, that a light will shine through that window, a beam of light will come down upon you, you will experience an

epiphany, and you will suddenly realize that you must go to the polls and vote for Obama."

Pundit Chris Matthews compared the Obama campaign to Biblical scripture. "I've been following politics since I was about 5. I've never seen anything like this. This is bigger than Kennedy. Obama comes along, and he seems to have the answers. This is the New Testament."

Notwithstanding the messianic implications that many Obamites embrace an op-ed in the Boulder Weekly provides another perspective on Obama's victory. It is still hard to imagine that Americans would flood polling places to elect an African-American man as president, especially when that man had a weird name like "Barack Hussein Obama."

Part of what drove voters to the polls was the loathing and contempt for the Bush administration. Bush used fear, terrorism, and religious extremism to hold onto the presidency while dividing the nation. Many Americans grew tired of this, repudiating fear and religious extremism in favor of hope and moderation.

Much credit for this victory goes to the grassroots coalition of Americans that came together and walked the streets of neighborhoods across the country canvassing and working to get out the vote on Nov. 4.

White, black, Asian,

American Indian, young, old, rich, middle class, poor, blue collar, white collar — those who worked for the Obama campaign demonstrated exactly how a society as diverse as ours can pull together to achieve the impossible.

But Obama himself deserves the greatest credit for this victory. He campaigned hard, debated well and delivered inspiring, thoughtful speeches. He did something an American leader hasn't been able to do for a long time. He believed in us more than we believed in ourselves, sharing with us a vision of who we are and then making us believe it.

The celebration after his victory was more than an acknowledgement of the repudiation of the Bush administration's failed policies. America took a step on Nov. 4 toward redeeming itself and living up to its promise as a nation, a promise that has always given people around the world something to believe in. When we fail, we let not only ourselves down, but everyone who cherishes the ideals of freedom and government by and for the people.

Obama captured the essence of his mission in his post-Super Tuesday speech when he told an inspired audience that, "We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."

Perhaps President-elect Obama is the new messiah.

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.



Jose Eduardo

Strapped Angolan President Returns to China for Cash

NNPA

Beijing was the destination of Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos who hopes to attract new financial

investment to counter the drop in world oil prices.

Dos Santos starts his second trip in five months to Angola's top economic partners and

will visit with Chinese President Hu Jintao for four days.

Dos Santos is hoping to use Chinese financing to fulfil his promise during September elec-

tions to build one million homes, the official added.

Angola, which rivals Nigeria as sub-Saharan Africa's biggest oil producer, has borrowed

close to \$7 billion in oil-backed loans from China to help rebuild roads, bridges and ailing communications since the end of its 27-year civil war in 2002.

Meanwhile, Angola launched its first private TV channel - TV Zimbo - on Sunday, marking an end to an era of government monopoly over television broadcasting.

Congresswoman Waters Urges The African Union To Denounce President Mugabe Of Zimbabwe

From staff reports

Congresswoman Maxine Waters (CA-35) sent a letter to His Excellency Jakaya Kikwete, the Chairperson of the African Union and President of Tanzania, urging the African Union to denounce the failed government of Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe and encourage him to step down. Copies were sent to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State-nominee Hillary Clinton, and USAID Administrator Henrietta Fore. The text of the letter follows:

I appreciate the important role the African Union plays in the political, economic and social development of the African continent, and I write to you today to express my grave concerns about the situation in Zimbabwe and the countries surrounding it.

Throughout my career, I have been a friend of Africa, beginning with my time in the California State Assembly when I led California's divestment from corporations doing business with South Africa's apartheid regime. In 1990, I chaired the welcoming committee that greeted Nelson Mandela for his first visit to the United States. For the past ten years, I have led efforts in the United States Congress to cancel the debts of heavily indebted poor countries. In 1999, I worked with the Clinton

Administration to develop the Enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative. Since then, I have worked tirelessly to expand the initiative to provide complete debt cancellation to participating countries and allow additional African countries to participate. I have also sponsored initiatives in Congress to provide humanitarian assistance to African countries affected by natural disasters, support newly-elected governments with development assistance, and address the global HIV/AIDS pandemic.

I have great respect for the sovereignty of all nations. However, there comes a time when a nation presents such a great risk to other nations that it becomes necessary for the international community to respond. Zimbabwe presents such a risk to its neighbors. The cholera epidemic, which is now raging in Zimbabwe, has begun to spread to Zimbabwe's neighbors. Meanwhile, the collapse of Zimbabwe's infrastructure, hyperinflation, hunger, disease and violations of human rights are creating a flood of refugees into neighboring countries that is too large for these countries to absorb. Therefore, I urge the African Union to denounce the failed government of President Robert Mugabe and encourage President Mugabe to step down.

The World Health Organization (WHO) esti-



Zimbabwean president Robert Mugabe, center, and his wife Grace, right, attend the funeral for a retired army general who had fought British rule in Zimbabwe, in Harare Tuesday, Dec 23, 2008. In an address to mourners Mugabe said the U.S. and Britain are "stupid" to think he shouldn't be part of a unity government. (AP Photo)

mates that the cholera epidemic already has infected 16,141 people and caused 775 deaths since August. Last week, the WHO requested \$6 million in donor support for its cholera response plan, and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) appealed for \$17.5 million for its cholera treatment efforts. Meanwhile, the epidemic has spread into South Africa, where refugees from Zimbabwe are seeking food and medical treatment, which they cannot find at home.

The cholera epidemic is a direct result of the disintegration of basic public services in Zimbabwe. Water cutoffs are frequent and prolonged in Harare, Zimbabwe's capital, while raw sewage and uncollected garbage accumulate in the city's streets. The city's two largest hospitals

have been virtually shut down for weeks because the doctors and nurses stopped coming to work after the country's hyperinflation rendered their salaries worthless. Likewise, most of the nation's schools have shut down because teachers' salaries do not even cover the cost of bus fare to work.

Starvation has also become common in Zimbabwe. Many villages are entirely without food as a result of crop failure and economic collapse. Millions of people are reportedly surviving on nothing but wild fruit, and many have died. Last summer, President Mugabe suspended humanitarian aid in rural areas from June through August while accusing aid agencies of supporting his political opposition. Human rights

organizations have reported that the government's Grain Marketing Board has routinely denied food to opposition supporters.

Human rights violations in Zimbabwe have escalated. Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the Open Society Institute are demanding an end to abductions of human rights activists after several people were abducted within one week. On December 3rd, Jestina Mukoko, the director of the Zimbabwe Peace Project, a national human rights organization, was abducted from her home by a group of armed men who identified themselves as police. Two employees of the Zimbabwe Peace Project were abducted the following week. On December 8th, Gandhi Mudzingwa, a former personal assistant to Morgan Tsvangirai, the

leader of the Movement for Democratic Change, was abducted by a group of unidentified men.

This unconscionable tragedy should not be allowed to continue. I urge the African Union to call on President Robert Mugabe to resign immediately. Moreover, I urge the African Union to take all necessary and appropriate action to ensure that humanitarian aid agencies are able to operate freely in Zimbabwe and reach all who are in need.

Once democracy has been restored, I look forward to working with the African Union, my colleagues in Congress, and the international community to provide economic assistance to restore Zimbabwe's infrastructure and meet the needs of the impoverished people of Zimbabwe.

Downtown Association donates plaque for park

From staff reports

Located in a corner park next to the City of Rowlett clock tower on Main Street, a bronze plaque now honors two of Rowlett's most active and dedicated volunteers thanks to a generous donation by the Downtown Rowlett Association.

Dr. James H. and Betty Thornhill now have their names engraved in bronze

in Corner Park, located just east of the City's clock tower on Main Street, with special thanks for their dedication and volunteerism to the downtown revitalization efforts that have been accomplished over the past decade.

More than a dozen members of the Downtown Rowlett Association attended a gathering to present a check for \$6,000 to the City of Rowlett

Interim City Manager

George Harris and to pose for a photo on Thursday, December 11 at the park to commemorate the placement of the plaque in Corner Park.

"Dr. and Betty Thornhill were very active and extremely instrumental in making sure that historic downtown Rowlett was preserved as it should be and the City is very pleased to accept this

generous donation of a plaque in their name," said George Harris, Interim City Manager.

The Thornhills were very active with the Downtown Rowlett Association in 2001 when the group raised more than \$10,000 for downtown renovation of the historic water tower by writing and selling Rowlett cookbooks called "Downtown's Cookin'..."

Until 1954, the less than

1,000 people of Rowlett depended on dug wells, or cisterns, that collected water when it rained for their water supply. When rain was scarce, they even had to haul water in by trucks to put in the cisterns. Running water, as we know it, was unheard of until 1954, when the first community water well was dug in the old part of town, which is known as the "old town square." This water

well consisted of a 50,000 gallon overhead storage tank that would start with servicing 100 water meters for the first residents of Rowlett.

The Downtown Rowlett Association continually strives to ensure that Main Street and downtown Rowlett, the historic water tower included, is preserved and promoted as a destination for generations to come.

KWANZAA, continued from Page 1

372-3500.

7:00 p.m. "Organizing & Mobilizing for Free Universal Health Care & Six-hour Workday For All Working People in America" Pan African Connection Bookstore, 612 E Jefferson. Call 214-943-8262.

Saturday, December 27, 2008 Kujichagulia (Self-Determination)

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Kwanzaa ya Watoto (Kwanzaa for Children) Storytelling, drumming, theatre, crafts, with a live dressed performance by the participants on January 1st at the feast. The Act of Change, 3200 S Lancaster, Ste. 320 - Call 214-372-3500 or 214-374-1192.

6:30 p.m. "Reparations: More Important Now Than Ever Before" Africans/African-Americans for Reparations. Pan African Connection Bookstore, 612 E Jefferson (near Marsalis): Thomas Muhammad, 214-460-7672.

Sunday December 28, 2008 Ujima (Collective Work & Responsibility)

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Kwanzaa ya Watoto (Kwanzaa for Children) Act of Change, 3200 S Lancaster, Ste. 320 - Call

214-372-3500 or 214-374-1192. Storytelling, drumming, theatre, crafts, with a live dressed performance by the participants on January 1st at the feast.

7:00 pm - "Tribute to Paul Robeson" Film & collective discussion. Pan African Connection Bookstore, 612 E Jefferson Blvd. Call Akwete 214-943-8262.

Monday, December 29, 2008 Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics)

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Kwanzaa ya Watoto (Kwanzaa for Children) Act of Change, 3200 S Lancaster, Ste. 320 - Call 214-372-3500 or 214-374-1192. Storytelling, drumming, theatre, crafts, with a live dressed performance by the participants on January 1st at the feast.

7:00 pm - "Organizing & Mobilizing for Reparations" N'COBRA sponsors event. Pan African Connection Bookstore, 612 E Jefferson Blvd. Contact: Akwete or Bande, 214-943-8262.

Tuesday, December 30, 2008 Nia (Purpose)

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Kwanzaa ya Watoto (Kwanzaa for Children) Act of Change, 3200 S Lancaster, Ste. 320 - Call 214-372-3500 or 214-374-

1192. Storytelling, drumming, theatre, crafts, with a live dressed performance by the participants on January 1st at the feast.

7:00 pm - "Organizing & Mobilizing Our Youth", Dramatic presentation, and poetry, from local youth organizations. Pan African Connection Bookstore, 612 E Jefferson Blvd. "call Akwete today before 4pm for the rest of the program: Akwete or Bande, 214-943-8262.

Wednesday, December 31, 2008 Kuumba (Creativity)

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Kwanzaa ya Watoto (Kwanzaa for Children) Act of Change, 3200 S Lancaster, Ste. 320 - Call 214-372-3500 or 214-374-1192. Storytelling, drumming, theatre, crafts, with a live dressed performance by the participants on January 1st at the Karamu feast.

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

7:00 pm - "Tribute to Amy Jacques Garvey" Collective discussion. Pan African Connection Bookstore, 612 E Jefferson Blvd. Call: Akwete or Bande, 214-943-8262.

Thursday, January 1, 2009 Imani (Faith)

2:00pm - 6:00pm Karamu Feast, Irie Connection, 2642 Beckley Ave., Dallas, TX. Please bring a covered dish of beef, fish, chicken, vegetables. Call 214-374-1192, or 214-372-3500.

Please consult the official Kwanzaa web site for information on celebrating our cultural holiday www.officialkwanzaaweb-site.org/index.shtml

Perry Appoints Willis to 429th District Court

From staff reports

Gov. Rick Perry has named Jill R. Willis of Allen judge of the 429th Judicial District Court of Collin County for a term to expire at the next general election. The 429th judicial district is a newly created court, and the position is effective Jan. 1, 2009.

Willis is a lawyer in private practice. She is a member of the Judge Paul

Brown American Inn of Court, Collin County Bar Association, and Collin County Bench/Bar Foundation. She is also past chair of the Collin County Bench/Bar Conference, and a past member of the U.S. Magistrate Judge Merit Selection Committee for the Eastern District of Texas. Willis was named a Rising Star by Texas Monthly in both 2005 and 2006.

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WSJ Ranks UT Dallas Executive MBA No. 6 in Nation in Return on Investment for Grads

From staff reports

The Wall Street Journal has ranked The University of Texas at Dallas Executive MBA (EMBA) program No. 6 in its latest rating of schools offering the highest returns on investment to students who graduate.

The rating is the second top-10 recognition that the UT Dallas program has received this fall. In October, the Financial Times ranked the program No. 10 in the nation and No. 1 in Texas for the second straight year.

The Wall Street Journal rankings, released Wednesday, Dec. 10, rate salary increases relative to tuition costs that alumni of EMBA programs reap after they complete their degrees.

In the listing, Texas A&M ranks No. 1, followed by the University of Florida and Ohio State. Three other Texas schools made the list, including the UT Austin at No. 5, Southern Methodist University at No. 7, and Rice University at No. 11.

"This recognition by the Wall Street Journal is a

great affirmation of the high quality of our EMBA program," UT Dallas School of Management Dean Hasan Pirkul said.

"It is also one more indicator that we are achieving our goal of becoming one of the nation's best business schools," he said.

Jasper Arnold, director of the UT Dallas EMBA,



Hasan Pirkul



Jasper Arnold

pointed to unique features of the program, such as an executive coaching component, that add extra value for graduates.

"Part of our value proposition is that, for a very reasonable tuition students get program features they can't obtain elsewhere, and these features translate into pay increases," he added.

Woogi World Getting Kids Reading by Bringing Books and Kids' Virtual World Together

From staff reports

Woogi World™, and leading children's publishers, HarperCollins Children's Books, Walden Media and Penguin Books, announced today their joint collaboration to introduce kids to great books through Woogi World's online WoogiReaders Club.

"We're excited to be part of this unique approach to enticing children to spend more time reading books," said Diane Naughton, Vice President of Marketing at HarperCollins Children's Books. "By melding the publishing industry with a popular children's virtual social site, we can create a new level of interest in reading, and thus capture even the reluctant reader's attention."

The Club launched Nov. 18 and hopes to be the catalyst to kids falling in love with books and reading. A basic club membership features an online version of a public domain children's classic (such as Rikki Tikki Tavi, by Rudyard Kipling). An upgraded club membership for \$7.95 a month entitles



children to receive age-appropriate popular titles on a monthly basis, provided by the three participating publishers. The first books offered are The Mouse and the Motorcycle by Beverly Cleary (HarperCollins Children's Books), and The White Giraffe by Lauren St. John, (Walden Media). Penguin will follow with The Cat Ate My Gymsuit by Paula Danziger. Children will be able to play chapter-oriented games and level up as they "pass off" each chapter of the current month's book.

True to Woogi World format, where all online

clubs employ an expert in the subject matter who guides activities and encourages advancement (Woogi World "leveling up"), the WoogiReaders Club will rely on Palace. The introduction of this inter-galactic club guru was one of the highlights of the national November launch.

"Combining the resources of HarperCollins Children's Books, Walden Media and Penguin (along with the reach of the Internet via Woogi World), means more children will have access to the best books available," said Scott Dow, CEO of

Children's Way, the creator of Woogi World. "Our partnership with these leading children's publishers makes it possible for Woogi World to ignite this generation of children with not just a love of reading, but we believe in the long run, a love of learning."

As with all Woogi World virtual clubs, children must apply for membership by first completing Woogi World's Internet Basic Training (where they learn how to stay safe in cyberspace). The application process also involves writing a brief paragraph as to why they want to join the club.

COLLEGE CORNER

Girls Going Places Entrepreneurship Scholarship Program

Girls Going Places® Entrepreneurship Award Program is Guardian's annual initiative designed to reward the enterprising spirits of girls ages 12 to 18.

Guardian awards prizes to 15 girls who demonstrate budding entrepreneurship; are taking the first steps toward financial independence; and make a difference in their school and communities. Prizes totaling \$30,000 are awarded to three top winners and 12 finalists each year, to further their entrepreneurial pursuits.

Applicants must submit a personal statement of no more than 250 words AND a 750-word recommendation letter from an adult endorsing

you as an accomplished young female entrepreneur.

For young women today, economic independence is a viable route to the greater goal of self reliance. At Guardian, we have long supported this spirit of achievement, and will continue to do so for generations to come.

Award Amount :
\$1,000 - \$10,000

Deadline:
February 29, 2009

Website/Contact Info:
www.guardianlife.com/womens_channel/girls_going_places/girls_going_places.html

Source: Blackstudent.com

USDA/1890 National Scholars Program

This program offers scholarships to U.S. citizens who are seeking a bachelor's degree at one of the eighteen 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Institutions and Tuskegee University to study agriculture, food, or natural resource sciences and related majors.

National Scholars are required to study in the following or related disciplines: Agriculture; Agricultural Business/Management; Agricultural Economics; Agricultural Engineering/Mechanics, Agricultural Production and Technology; Agronomy or Crop Science; Animal Sciences; Botany; Farm and Range Management;

Fish, Game, or Wildlife Management; Food Sciences/Technology; Forestry and Related Sciences; Home Economics/Nutrition/Human Development; Horticulture; Natural Resources Management; Soil Conservation/Soil Science; and other related disciplines, (e.g., biological sciences, pre-veterinary medicine, computer science).

Deadline:
Varies

Award Amount:
Varies

Website/Contact Info:
<http://www.ascr.usda.gov/1890programs.html>

Delta Sigma Theta to Host Founders' Day Luncheon

From staff reports

Suzanne Douglass Cobb, producer, star of stage, motion picture and television, to speak at Delta Sigma Theta ANNUAL FOUNDERS DAY event.

Chapters of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. all across the nation and the world will celebrate the founding of the beloved sisterhood. The North Dallas Suburban Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta will celebrate this historic moment in time at their annual Founders Day luncheon on Saturday, March 28, 2009. The luncheon, celebrating the founding of the international organization, will be held at the Hilton Dallas Lincoln Center, and is open to the public. For ticket information, visit the chapter's website at www.dstnds.org or call 214-452-7835.



Suzanne Douglass Cobb

The keynote speaker, Suzanne Douglass Cobb has had starring roles in several motion pictures, among them "The Inkwell", "Jason's Lyric", and "How Stella Got Her Groove Back". She appeared in a principal role as Jerri Peterson in the Television sitcom "The Parent Hood" and has had guest appearances in N.Y. PD Blue, Law and Order and roles in sitcoms such as The Cosby Show and The Parkers.

Feeling the Need to Give



With the holiday spirit floating through the halls at Accor North America's corporate office, employees felt the need to give. So, in lieu of an employee holiday party, Accor NA and its employees are donating \$10,000 to the Salvation Army Angel Tree Program. (From Left to Right) Patrick Ollivier, EVP of Human Resources and Quality, Glenda Shelby, VP, Diversity, HR and Training, and Assistant Area Commander Major Rick Raymer.

SANTA TRACKER, continued from Page 1

beginning at 3:30 p.m. on Dec. 23.

"SantaTracker is an interactive way for children of all ages to enjoy the festivities while traveling or just waiting anxiously for Santa to reach Texas," said Ken Capps, vice president of public affairs for DFW. "This is our eighth year to offer SantaTracker and it's become a fun tradition that we really enjoy offering our passengers, local citizens and Claus fans from around the world."

Passengers traveling through DFW this holiday season will also find new, free amenities to power up laptops and track the Jolly

Old Elf. DFW's expanded its Free Power/Free Wired Internet kiosks to 17 locations. The kiosks offer free power and wired Internet and are located at Terminal A, Gates 12, 20, 28; Terminal B, Gates 10, 29, 35; Terminal C, Gates 6, 20, 27, 35; Terminal D, Gates 21, 23, 30, 40; and Terminal E, Gates 10, 14 and 36.

SantaTracker invites visitors to play interactive games that include Snowball Challenge, Santa's Chimney Drop game and Wishlist Word Find. In addition to games, web surfers can view a virtual reality of Santa's land-

ing at DFW, send holiday e-cards and get travel tips and information on parking discounts at DFW.

DFW's SantaTracker site was designed entirely by the Airport's talented Marketing team and features unique music and animation to keep visitors coming back day after day. The site was designed using Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator. It was further developed using Adobe Flash CS3 and Action Script 3 as well as Bryce 3D software. The countdown feature utilized the DFW server clock to accurately track Santa's minute-by-minute trek

around the world and to North Texas.

DFW – What You Need To Know

- This year's Christmas – New Year's holiday, passenger loads are down approximately seven percent from last year, reflecting airline capacity cuts and current economic conditions.

- Guests arriving at DFW between Dec. 22 – 26 and Dec. 29 – Jan. 2, 2009 at either remote or express parking lots when they are full will receive a coupon for \$10 terminal or \$11 valet parking. Guests arriving at DFW on Dec. 27 and 28 at either remote or express parking lots will be offered a \$10 terminal parking coupon. All

coupons will be distributed between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m.

- Today's Web site debut kicks off a busy week of holiday travel. DFW's nationally recognized Holiday Helpers will also be out in force on Tuesday, Dec. 23 to spread holiday cheer on one of the busiest travel days of the season. The employee volunteers will be deployed throughout the Airport's five terminals helping passengers make their way through security quickly and easily.

- DFW has brought the SantaTracker Web site and the Christmas Eve phone updates to North Texas children since December 2001. The site can be accessed through the

Airport's main page (www.dfwairport.com) by clicking on the Santa image.

- The Airport will offer regular updates on the movements of Santa's sleigh by phone beginning at 3:30 p.m. on Dec. 23 and continue through midnight on Dec. 24, when all good children should be fast asleep for Santa's arrival.

- Santa is scheduled to arrive on the west airfield on runway 18 left / 36 right, guided by the FAA, he will have easy access to the Airport's General Aviation facility for his quick refueling stop," says Capps. "Last year he only stopped long enough for a 'wink of his eye and a twist of his head.'"

Ongoing

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

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

DFW Financially Empowered Women meet monthly for lunch or dinner and a fun, informative seminar on various financial topics. For info: 469-942-0809 or visit www.meeetup.com/378.

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

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

The National Business Women Enterprise Network (NBWEN) 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 busi-

ness. 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).

November 15 – January 11

The Old Red Museum of Dallas County History & Culture will open the first annual **Deck the Halls at Old Red** exhibit, located in the West End of downtown Dallas at 100 South Houston Street. General admission is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors, and \$5 for children ages three to sixteen. Admission to Deck the Halls without general admission is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children, visit www.oldred.org.

November 22, 2008 – January 4, 2009

The Trains at NorthPark is the most elaborate toy train exhibit in Texas, with vintage locomotives whizzing by on a journey across America. Located on Level Two next to Neiman Marcus, the exhibit is open during regular shopping center hours, Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Sunday from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. Early closing dates are Thanksgiving Eve (Nov. 26th), Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. The exhibit is closed on Thanksgiving Day and on Christmas Day but is open on New Year's Day. Ticket prices are \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children aged 2-12 years and senior citizens (65 and older). Children under the age of 2 years are admitted free of charge. Discount tickets are available at Tom Thumb stores.

December 26 Gwaride (Parade) Participants lineup at Lincoln H.S at 11:30 am – Hatcher & Malcolm X Blvd. Gwaride starts promptly at 1:00 p.m. Co-sponsored by The Act of Change, Inc.& The Pan African Connection Bookstore, Call 214-372-3500 or 214-943-8262.

“Celebration of Umoja” The Act of Change, Inc. 3200 Lancaster, Ste. 320, 7pm An evening of cultural activities celebrating the principle of unity. Call, 214-372-3500.

December 27 -31

12:00 p.m - 2:00 p.m **Kwanzaa ya Watoto** (Kwanzaa for Children) Storytelling, drumming, theatre, crafts, with a live dressed performance by the participants on January 1st at the feast. The Act of Change, 3200 S Lancaster, Ste. 320 - Call 214-372-3500 or 214-374-1192.

6:30 p.m. **“Reparations: More Important Now Than Ever Before”** Africans/African-Americans for Reparations. Pan African Connection Bookstore, 612 E Jefferson (near Marsalis): Thomas Muhammad, 214-460-7672,

December 28

7:00 pm – **“Tribute to Paul Robeson”** Film & collective discussion. Pan African Connection Bookstore, 612 E Jefferson Blvd. Call Akwete 214-943-8262.

December 29

7:00 pm – **“Organizing & Mobilizing for Reparations”** N’COBRA sponsors event. Pan African Connection Bookstore, 612 E Jefferson Blvd. Contact: Akwete or Bandede, 214-943-8262.

December 30

7:00 pm – **“Organizing & Mobilizing Our**

Youth”, Dramatic presentation, and poetry, from local youth organizations. Pan African Connection Bookstore, 612 E Jefferson Blvd. “call Akwete today before 4pm for the rest of the program: Akwete or Bandede, 214-943-8262.

December 31

7:00 p.m. South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 S Fitzhugh – **“Cultural Celebration”** Contact: Vicki Meek 214-939-2787.

7:00 pm – **“Tribute to Amy Jacques Garvey”** Collective discussion. Pan African Connection Bookstore, 612 E Jefferson Blvd. Call: Akwete or Bandede Tyehimba, 214-943-8262.

“New Years Eve on the Mandalay” at the Dallas Marriott in Las Colinas on the Mandalay River. Hosted by the Cajun Family and the Alumni Brothers of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated. After five attire is required. Presale Tickets are currently on sale for \$55.00 through this Friday December 26, 2008. After December 26th ticket prices will slightly increase. Please log onto www.metroplexnupes.com for more information.

January 1

2:00pm – 6:00pm **Karamu Feast, Irie Connection,** 2642 Beckley Ave., Dallas, TX. Please bring a covered dish of beef, fish, chicken, vegetables. Call 214-374-1192, or 214-372-3500.

January 4

Dancing with the Stars Tour features an entirely new ensemble of the most popular and exciting competitors from the hit ABC show, including celebrities Lance Bass, Toni Braxton, and Maurice Greene from Season 7, as well as Marlee Matlin

from Season 6. Info at www.americanairlinescenter.com or www.dancing-withthestarsonline.com

January 6-29

25th Annual KidFilm® Festival, sponsored by the USA Film Festival, will be held in Dallas, January 6-25, 2008 at the Angelika Film Center, 5321 E. Mockingbird Lane, Dallas

January 9

MLK Candle - Lighting Ceremony - Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. (Alpha Sigma Lambda Chapter of Dallas, TX) in conjunction with the African American Museum (AAM) located in the historic Fair Park presents "Music Under the Dome" featuring "Groove University". Each event is from 7 PM to 11 PM and is held at the AAM. Admission is \$10.00. Reservations & Information 214-565-9026 ext 315 www.aam-dallas.org and www.DallasAlphas.com.

January 9-11

8th Annual Dallas Home Show Meet Contractors, Homebuilders, Decorators, Landscapers, & More! See Products in Action and Trends in Motion! Beautiful Landscaping & Garden Displays at The Gardens! www.texasHomeandGarden.com

January 10 & 17

“Business Basics for Entrepreneurs.” This class combines financial management and other key business concepts, such as Marketing, Forecasting, Cash Flow, Pricing, and Business Planning. Upon completion of the training class, prospective members will receive a PLAN Fund certification and become eligible for business loans. MEED Center 1327 N. Peak Street, Dallas, TX 75204. \$40 - www.planfund.org or call 214-942-6698.

January 11th

Sunday Brunch at Hotel Intercontinental January 11th 12:30pm-3pm Hotel Intercontinental in the Malachite Room of Monte Carlo Restaurant 15201 Dallas Parkway Addison, TX 75001.

CTYO Auditions for winter/spring session 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. Community Room, Municipal Court and Parks & Recreation Building 301 Century Parkway, Allen Call 972-658-4227 for more information

Plano Symphony Sundays Ensemble Concerts: Swingin’ Strings 3 p.m. Courtyard Theatre 1501 Ave. H, Plano Call 972-473-7262 for more information

January 15

Plano Chamber Business After Hours Hooters, 720 N. Central Expwy, Plano 75074 5:30 p.m. RSVP to info@planochamber.org starting 2 weeks prior to event

January 17

Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Parade The parade assembly begins at Dallas city hall plaza, located at 1500 Marilla, and marches past the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center and ends at Fair Park. Info at www.dallascityhall.com or (214) 670-8438.

January 23

Plano Chamber of Commerce’s 63rd Annual New Member EXPO at the Plano Centre Business Interchange at 7:30 a.m. Expo begins at 9:00 a.m. Call Gina Reno at (972) 424-7547.

January 30

“Simply Sinatra” starring Steve Lippia at The Eisemann Center - 972-744-4650 or visit www.eisemanncenter.com

Sponsored By:



at&t

Proud To Be An Active Partner In The Community

Positioned to Serve

By **Jacquinette D. Murphy**
North Dallas Gazette

Poised to effectively serve her community, Chante Barnes Prox, the founding attorney of the Barnes Prox law firm, is strongly committed to providing excellent and honest service to her clients. Located in the Dallas area at 1111 W. Ledbetter Drive, Suite 450, Prox offers her clients personal attention and strong advocacy in her core practice areas of Family Law, Juvenile Law, School Law and Special Education, Estate Planning and Probate, and Public Policy and Advocacy. At the Barnes Prox Law firm, you are certain to have someone that listens and works for you.

Prox is a new addition to the Dallas legal industry, but is no stranger to the law and the politics of her core business - families and children. She is a seasoned professional with experience in the Texas Legislature and in the Child Protective Services Agency and has transitioned to entrepreneurship by opening her private law practice.

Prox began her professional career in 1991 as a caseworker for the Child Protective Services Agency (CPS) after graduating from Texas Women's University (TWU) with a degree in Sociology and Social Work. She worked for CPS for about six years and soon became a CPS legal liaison to help with the agency processes as opposed to the field work.

While at CPS, she was selected to be among thirty employees to attend a program at the University of

Texas at Arlington to obtain a Master's degree in Social Work. A clinical session which focused on advocacy intrigued Prox, and led her to connect her social work experience with a strong interest in legislation. This opened the door for her to gain political experience in public service. Prox soon began an internship in Austin, Texas in the Texas 23rd Senatorial District of State Senator Royce West.

"While I was there, his Health and Human Services Aide quit and he offered me the job." This was another opportunity for Prox to gain experience in law and politics, two areas still near to her heart. Prox served with Senator West for three legislative sessions and worked on the Grandparents Care Bill and the Father's Rights Bills before acting on her passion to pursue a law degree. The Grandparents Care effort was designed to allow grandparents to receive funds for caring for their grandchildren and the program currently remains in effect.

"Working for CPS you see so much," expressed Prox, "You also see some injustices and I found myself saying, 'if I was a lawyer...!' Being in the legislature, drafting bills, meeting and talking with constituents, really helped me set things in motion."

Driven to succeed, Prox left her job as a Texas Health and Human Services Aide and became a full-time student at The University of Texas School of Law. She enrolled and completed her Juris Doctorate degree and returned to serve her hometown at a local family law firm prior to establish-

ing an independent practice.

To some, the practice of family law is known to be a very emotional and enduring area, but not for Prox. "It is natural for me. There is a lot of conflict and it does not intimidate me. I wanted to practice family law when I went to law school and I worked in the Children's Rights Clinic."

While studying law, Prox became the president of the Thurgood Marshall Legal Society, a member of the Journal of Women's Issues, the Minority Student Affairs Committee and the Dean Selection Committee. Recalling her career path, Prox noticed a common connection, family and children. "Family is an important factor in my life." Her strong attention to the family unit stems from her own close-knit family. I am the youngest of four girls, my mom and dad have been married for more than forty years. We grew up in a neighborhood," she stated. Prox also shared that her family remains close even to this day.

Prox is a native of the Dallas, Texas area and a 1985 graduate of the now defunct Wilmer Hutchins High School. Growing up, Prox had

a natural love for the legal industry. "I always had fairness in mind and was quick to say, 'I want justice, this is not fair.'" She watched TV courtroom dramas, such as Perry Mason and realized that law was in everything. "I was the peacemaker growing up. I tried to find the resolution. I felt like if you knew and respected the rules that you would have the upper hand." Prox remembers being the one to decipher legal jargon, "I was the one able to interpret contracts and figure them out."

Now she looks at her experiences as tools that helped her to become the public servant that she is

today. "It is those opportunities and the people that I am surrounded with that got me to where I am," explained Prox.

Prox's firm is also a results-oriented practice and she describes the components of a good day, "When I can say that I have effectively advocated for my client and achieved the results that they are looking for. This is my ultimate satisfaction," according to Prox.

She is a member of the Dallas Bar Association, the

Texas Bar Association and the J. L. Turner Legal Society. Prox is licensed by the Texas Supreme Court to practice in all courts in the State of Texas including Collin, Dallas, and Tarrant counties.

The Barnes Prox Law firm has recently added criminal defense as a practice area. So, if you need a lawyer that listens and advocates for her clients, call Chante Prox of the Barnes Prox Law firm at (972) 522-1200 or visit the firm's website at www.barnesproxlaw.com.



Mary Mary Headlines Premiere Of The Gospel Of Music



From staff reports

Grammy Award-winning superstar duo Mary Mary headlines the sixth season premiere of *The Gospel of Music* with Jeff Majors, airing Sunday, Jan. 4 from 8-9 PM, in a special prime-time kickoff to the new season. Also joining host Jeff Majors, the talented classical harpist, producer and radio personality, for performances in the season six premiere are Jason Champion, the Crescent City gospel quartet Blessed, and newcomer Holy Boy with his summer anthem, "Church Tonight." The episode will also fea-

ture a Gospel Great Tribute to the legendary Drinkard Sisters.

The all-new season features compelling performances from some of America's top inspirational and contemporary artists, including Grammy-nominated R&B superstar Anthony Hamilton, Tony Award winner and R&B diva Heather Headley, the "Godfather of Go-Go" Chuck Brown, the great Dorothy Norwood, actress Sheryl Lee Ralph, and Grammy-nominated songwriter and singer Brenda Russell, among many more. And, of course, Majors himself brings

viewers sweet music from the sacred and stirring sounds of his classical harp, sometimes along with one of his guests and sometimes solo.

The series will settle into its new timeslot of Sundays at 9 AM on Jan. 11, with a repeat of the premiere episode. The new season six episodes will begin airing on Sunday, Jan. 18 at 9 AM, with an episode featuring soul music King Solomon Burke, young R&B rising star Chrisette Michele, gospel favorite Elaine Norwood, and the exciting Gregg Patrick & the Bridge Project. The

episode will also feature a Gospel Great Tribute to Tremaine Hawkins, and a special duet with Jeff Majors and King Solomon Burke.

The season six finale, slated to air in the spring, will be a "Best Of The Gospel of Music" episode, showcasing some of the series' most memorable performances over the previous five seasons, including performances by Tye Tribett, Mavis Staples, Nuttin But Stringz, Donnie McClurkin, Odetta, Kirk Franklin, Shirley Caesar, Nicole C. Mullen, Marvin Sapp, and the late Gerald Levert with Jeff Majors.



by Rick Elina

Trysts in Toledo: Hilarity Second to Nun!

lage. Only problem is the Good Sister died over 300 years ago, but not before establishing herself as a prolific writer, poet and feminist. (Yes, she was a nun!)

Of her many contributions to society, one in particular is on display for your theatrical viewing pleasure. Theatre Three's production of *Trysts* in Toledo, showcases the comedic writing skill of a cloistered nun from three centuries past. Translated from the original play by Jac Alder, the story centers on a night of romantic complications and mistaken

identities, along with all the other necessary ingredients for a night of convulsive laughter. In short, this show is hilarious.

The play opens as Dona Ana (Lydia Mackay) agrees to help her brother Don Pedro (Gregory Lush) with a far-fetched plan to win the heart of Dona Leonor (Ginneh J. Thomas). Yet Dona Leonor's heart belongs to Don Carlos (Thiago Martins). It just so happens that Dona Ana is also interested in Don Carlos and the love triangle quickly becomes a geometric oddity that defies description. Adding fuel to

the fires of passion, is Don Juan (Ashley Wood) another nobleman who's totally devoted to Dona Ana. Celia (Aleisha Force) the servant of Dona Ana has secretly hidden Don Juan somewhere in the household and, by the way, she happens to feel quite passionately about Castano (Jeff Swearingen) the servant of Don Carlos. Es muy complicado! But don't dwell on it or you'll miss the fun. There is simplicity in spite of many complications. Therein lies the true beauty of this piece.

Notably among the standout performers, and

there are many, Ms. Mackay seems to channel the great Lucille Ball (perhaps it's the red hair) in overly complicating these winsome matters of the heart. Mr. Lush plays well as the arrogant nobleman, with an ego so overinflated, that he's barely able to strut the stage. Bravo, Don Pedro! The sly subterfuge of those stealthy servants played by Ms. Force and Mr. Swearingen garner some of the biggest laughs in a show filled with many big laughs.

The multi-tiered set designed by the director, Jeffrey Schmidt, made

excellent use of the space and was superbly adapted to theatre in the round. It allowed the actors to move freely and quickly about the set, which kept the pace of the show in high gear throughout its two hour run time.

Trysts in Toledo runs December 11, 2008 through January 18, 2009 at Theatre Three. Contact the box office at (214) 871-3300, option 1 or visit Theatre3Dallas.com for more details.

Rick A. Elina is a playwright and the Theatre Critic for the North Dallas Gazette.

Black-Focused Series is Casualty of NPR Ax

By Arin Mikailian

Special to the NNPA from the Los Angeles WAVE

National Public Radio has announced plans to cancel two of its programs, including "News and Notes," its only news show geared toward African-American listeners.

Citing budget woes in a Dec. 10 statement, NPR President Dennis Haarsager

said that "News and Notes," along with "Day to Day," would end their runs on March 20.

"The difficult decision to cancel two programs and eliminate the jobs of valued NPR employees was made after an exhaustive review of our entire organization, and with the greatest reluctance," Haarsager wrote. "With all of NPR's revenue sources under pressure, these actions

were necessary to responsibly stabilize our finances and put NPR on a realistic path."

In addition to the termination of the "News and Notes" and "Day to Day" staff, Haarsager said a total of 64 cuts will be made to NPR's staff of 889 as well as the elimination of 21 positions.

NPR predicted a \$2 million budget deficit in July that was labeled "relatively

manageable" in the press release, but that figure has since grown to \$23 million for the upcoming fiscal year.

"News and Notes" made its debut in 2004 with its first host, Ed Gordon, the former anchor of "BET News." A year and a half later, Gordon left the program and was replaced by current host Farai Chideya.

Since its inception, "News and Notes" focused

on running news stories involving current affairs in African-American communities throughout the nation and all over the world.

Upon hearing the news, blogger and frequent "News and Notes" guest Jasmyne Cannick said she was very troubled by the program's fate. On her blog and in an interview, the onetime congressional aide criticized NPR for what she

sees as inordinately high turnover among its African-American personalities.

Two years before "News and Notes" went on the air, NPR made its first effort to draw in African-American listeners when it hired Tavis Smiley to host his own radio program. Smiley left NPR in 2004, saying that the radio network did not do a good enough job of promoting his program.

FRANKLIN, continued from page 1

announce this superb lineup of participants in the 2009 inaugural ceremonies," said Senator Feinstein. "The inauguration of President-elect Barack Obama will be an event of historic proportion. It is appropriate that the program will include some of the world's most gifted artists from a wide range of backgrounds and genres."

The program participants were invited by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies and chosen by the Chairman, the Presidential-elect and the Vice President-elect. In addition to Senator Feinstein, the members of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies include: Senator Bob Bennett, Ranking Member of the Senate Rules Committee; Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid; Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi; House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer; and House Republican Leader John Boehner.

The order of the program will be as follows:

Musical Selections

The United States Marine Band

The San Francisco Boys Chorus and the San Francisco Girls Chorus

Call to Order and Welcoming Remarks

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein

Invocation

Dr. Rick Warren, Saddleback Church, Lake Forest, CA

Musical Selection

Aretha Franklin

Oath of Office

Administered to Vice President-elect Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

By Associate Justice of the Supreme Court

The Honorable John Paul Stevens

Musical Selection

John Williams, composer
Itzhak Perlman, Violin
Yo-Yo Ma, Cello
Gabriela Montero, Piano
Anthony McGill, Clarinet

Oath of Office

Administered to President-elect Barack H. Obama

By the Chief Justice of the United States

The Honorable John G. Roberts, Jr.

Inaugural Address

The President of the United States, The Honorable Barack H. Obama

Poem

Elizabeth Alexander

Benediction

The Reverend Dr. Joseph E. Lowery

The National Anthem

The United States Navy Band "Sea Chanters"

Elizabeth Alexander is a poet, essayist, playwright, and teacher. She is the author of four books and was a finalist for the 2005 Pulitzer Prize.

Aretha Franklin is often described as "The Queen of Soul." In a career spanning more than 50 years, she has earned a reputation as one of the greatest singers of our time, with a repertoire that includes soul, jazz, rock, blues, pop, and gospel. Franklin has won 21 Grammy Awards, including the Living Legend Grammy and the Lifetime Achievement Grammy. In 1987 she became the first woman to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

The Reverend Dr. Joseph E. Lowery, considered the dean of the civil rights movement, co-founded along with Martin Luther King, Jr., the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and served as president and chief executive

officer from 1977 to January 15, 1998.

Anthony McGill is the principal clarinetist of the New York Metropolitan Orchestra, a member of the Peabody Conservatory faculty in clarinet, and a much sought after soloist and chamber musician.

Yo-Yo Ma is a world renowned cellist, educator, and ambassador for the arts. His recordings are among the most successful recordings in the classical field, and reflect his wide-ranging interest in many musical genres and traditions. He began studying the cello at age four. He studied at the Juilliard School, and is a graduate of Harvard University.

Gabriela Montero is a pianist known both for her impeccable classical playing and her improvisational gift. Montero gave her first public performance at the age of five. At age eight she made her concert debut with the Venezuelan Youth Orchestra, and was granted a scholarship to study in the United States. At twelve she won the Baldwin National Competition and AMSA Young Artist International Piano Competition. She won the Bronze Medal at the 13th International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw in 1995, and since then has played at recital halls and festivals around the world. Her recordings include both performances of well known classical compositions, as well as improvisations on themes by Bach and other classical composers.

Itzhak Perlman is one of the greatest violinists of our time. Following his training at the Academy of Music in Tel Aviv and the Juilliard School, Perlman won the prestigious Leventritt Competition in 1964. Since then, Perlman has performed with every major orchestra throughout the world. He has also conducted orchestras including

the Berlin Philharmonic, the London Philharmonic, the Concertgebouw Orchestra, the Israel Philharmonic, the Chicago Symphony, and the New York Philharmonic. He has won 15 Grammy Awards, four Emmy Awards, and numerous other awards including the Kennedy Center Honors, the National Medal of Arts, and the Medal of Liberty, presented by President Reagan in 1986 to honor the nation's most distinguished naturalized citizens during the centennial celebration of the Statue of Liberty. Perlman is also an educator, teaching at the Perlman Music Program and the Juilliard School, where he holds the Dorothy Richard Starling Foundation Chair.

Dr. Rick Warren founded Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, California, in 1980 with one family. Today, it is an evangelical congregation averaging 22,000 weekly attendees, and has more than 300 community ministries to groups such as prisoners, CEOs, addicts, single parents, and those with HIV/AIDS. He also leads the Purpose Driven Network of churches, a global coalition of congregations in 162 countries. TIME magazine named him one of "15 World Leaders Who Mattered Most in 2004," and in 2005 one of the "100 Most Influential People in the World."

The San Francisco Boys Chorus (SFBC) was founded in 1948 and has become an internationally acclaimed Grammy-award winning organization. The chorus has over 240 singers from 50 Bay Area cities and more than 120 schools at three Bay Area campuses. SFBC has toured in four continents where they performed for dignitaries such as: Pope John Paul II, HRH Queen Elizabeth II of England, King Carl XVI Gustav of Sweden, HM Prince of Wales, the President of the former Soviet Union, and U.S.

presidents. SFBC celebrated their 60 year anniversary this year.

The San Francisco Girls Chorus (SFGC) is comprised of more than 300 singers, ages 7-18, from 160 schools in 44 Bay Area cities. SFGC was founded in 1978 and has become a regional center for choral music education and performance. The Chorus can also be heard on several San Francisco Symphony recordings, including three Grammy Award-winners. In 2001, SFGC became the first youth chorus to win the prestigious Margaret Hillis Award given annually by Chorus America to a chorus that demonstrates artistic excellence, a strong organizational structure, and a commitment to education.

The United States Marine Band, founded in 1798 by an Act of Congress, is America's oldest professional musical organization. Also called "The President's Own," the Marine Band is celebrated

for its role at the White House and its dynamic public performances. The Marine Band performs a varied repertoire including new works for wind ensemble, traditional concert band literature, challenging orchestral transcriptions, and the patriotic marches that made it famous. The band frequently features its members in solo performances that highlight their virtuosity and artistry.

The United States Navy Band "Sea Chanters" is the official chorus of the United States Navy. In 1956, Lt. Harold Fultz, then the Band's assistant leader, organized an all male group of singers from the Navy School of Music in Anacostia for the State of the Nation dinner. The group was an instant success, so Admiral Arleigh Burke, Chief of Naval Operations, transferred them to the Navy Band, named them the "Sea Chanters," and gave them the mission of carrying on the songs of the sea.

ATTENTION!!!

Collin County Black Chamber of Commerce

Meeting: **Thursday, January 8, 2009**

Location: **McKinney Housing Authority
1200 N Tennessee St
McKinney, TX**

Time: **6:30 p.m.**

If Interested In Joining
Contact: ccbccsecretary@yahoo.com
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About that Car: Toyota Prius

In a few short years, the Toyota Prius has gone from low-volume oddity to being one of the 10 best-selling cars in America.

Nobody comes close to beating the Prius' mix of fuel economy, interior versatility and for 2008, a base price under \$21,000. Plus, for better or worse, nothing else can make a better environmental statement. The 2008 Toyota Prius is a midsize hatchback sedan available in three body styles: standard, base and Touring.

The standard model comes with 15-inch alloy wheels, keyless entry, full power accessories, tilt steering wheel, touch-screen controls, a hybrid

system display and a six-speaker stereo with CD player. The base model adds cruise control and heated sideview mirrors.

The Touring model adds a sportier suspension, 16-inch wheels and xenon headlights. Like most hybrids, the 2008 Toyota Prius is best suited to drivers whose travels rarely take them farther than the city limits.

While driving around town and in stop-and-go traffic, the Prius' electric motors and regenerative braking are optimized to provide superior fuel economy (48 mpg city and 45 mpg highway) and optimal power delivery. The revolutionary Prius is powered

by what Toyota calls Hybrid Synergy Drive. This drivetrain consists of a 1.5-liter gasoline engine and two electric motors, one of which helps drive the front wheels and the other of which functions solely as a generator, recharging the car's battery pack.

Thanks to its Hybrid Synergy Drive, the Prius can accelerate up to about 25 mph using only electric power. The Prius features minimal cabin noise and a suspension that provides an acceptably smooth ride despite the car's weight-saving chassis components.

The Prius may look small, but the well-pack-



aged and airy interior is spacious. The backseat offers ample room for adults and rear-facing infant seats, while the 14.4-cubic-foot rear hatchback trunk can accommodate several roller suitcases or a double stroller.

Every 2008 Toyota Prius comes standard with antilock brakes with brake assist, traction control, front-seat side airbags and full-length side curtain airbags. In Insurance Institute for Highway Safety testing, the Prius earned the top rating of

"Good" for its protection in frontal-offset and side-impact crashes.

Despite being the poster child for environmental awareness, the Prius should be closely considered for all the real, tangible ways it provides daily transportation.

BAILOUT, continued from Page 1

hands of the consumer and then therefore the consumer can go to the corner grocery store, the drug store, the supermarket, the various department stores and where the rubber meets the road is the consumer spending has to go up so therefore that stimulates the economy in the neighborhood sort of speak."

The U. S. Congress has approved a \$700 billion bailout for the financial industry; a \$17.4 billion loan or troubled U. S. automakers. But, how can the nation help the average citizen who is out of work or living from pay-check to pay-check, one missed rent from homelessness? Smyre and state legislators have a remedy.

"The only way to do that is to create a stimulus program whereas the American consumer is involved. Those other bailouts are rightfully so. But, they don't help create jobs. They help save jobs. So, unemployment is a key factor."

Facing a gamut of dire needs on the state level, Smyre and his 125 fellow representatives from 42

states met in Washington earlier this month for the Caucus' 32nd Annual Legislative Conference. They met with members of the Obama transition team with hopes of bringing home federal dollars to offset serious shortages that are often used to deal with social programs and other crucial needs that are now exacerbated by the failing economy.

Obama has set a goal to create at least three million jobs in the first two years of his administration, which starts Jan. 20. Meanwhile, states are suffering, he says.

"There are 43 out of 50 states with some sort of budget shortfall. With Georgia alone, we've got a \$2 billion shortfall. So, with that in mind, we just want to be partners with our federal government to be able to assist us in the downturn in our economy," Smyre says.

Smyre was on his way to a policy meeting dealing with the Second Chance Act to help lower the prison recidivism rate. There would also be discussions on the high school drop out rates.

"In Georgia alone there were 60,000 drop outs in '07," he said, connected the statistic to the economy. "If we could cut back on our drop out rate, if those 60,000 kids had stayed in school over their lifetime, it would have been \$16 billion to the Georgia economy over their lifetime. So there is a direct co-relation to those kinds of issues. So, naturally, we as state legislators, we're going to still be vigilant as it relates to gang violence, as it relates to the recidivism rate in our prison system and making sure that folks get a second chance."

Still, he says legislators are well aware that the blame for the economy can't be laid at the feet of the new administration. But, the socio-economic impact is worsening, therefore, there must be some pressure.

For example: The states of Michigan Rhode Island and California have the worst jobless rates in the nation at 9.6 percent, 9.3 percent and 8.4 percent respectively.

The states with the worst annual murder rate in the

nation are California, where Compton has 67.1 murders per 100,000 people; Indiana, where Gary has 58 per 100,000 and Alabama, where Birmingham has 44.3 per 100,000.

Social statistics across the board, including drop out rates, infant mortality rates and incarceration rates – all often associated with economic injustice – are skyrocketing in cities and states across the nation.

The Caucus released a 47-page document outlining proposed resolutions to some of the problems faced by states, including requiring states to report impacts on racial minorities when changing criminal laws and laws pertaining to state procurement. The Ratified Resolutions also calls on Congress to "take all action necessary to ensure that states are able to meet needs of our citizens during these difficult financial times; and ... that NBCSL calls on Congress to provide an excess of capital to the states so they are not only able to fill their budget shortfalls, but able to provide additional stabilization to their economies."

Smyre says these are the

resolutions that will be passed on to President Obama and to the members of the House and Senate.

He doesn't anticipate a fight, but knows that none of the resolutions will be easy.

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Comptroller Urges Action on Work Force Training Gap

From staff reports

There is a widening gap between the demand for skilled workers in Texas and the state's ability to supply them, Texas Comptroller Susan Combs said today.

"Texas' secondary and postsecondary education system is not meeting the demands of the current workplace," Combs said. "Employers tell us that good paying jobs are going unfilled because they cannot find qualified workers. And we're hearing from students about the value to them of programs at community and technical colleges. For Texas to remain an economic powerhouse, our education system needs added focus on career and technical training to fill available jobs."

Today, Combs issued a new report, Texas Works, which examines the changing Texas job market and the growing shortage of workers with the technical skills required for many of the fastest growing jobs. The report recommends establishing a fund to help with startup costs for new technical training programs and eliminating obstacles that discourage students from pursuing career-technical education (CTE).

Texas has many community and technical colleges offering state-of-the-art training facilities and employment opportunities after just one or two years. But state funding of community and technical colleges has declined, not keeping pace with inflation and hampering schools' ability to train the next generation of Texas workers. CTE courses can be expensive for a college, often requiring state-of-the-art technology and equipment, but the state does not provide funding for startup costs. To address this concern, Combs' report makes two recommendations:

- Establish a \$25 million Jobs and Education for Texas (JET) fund to provide support for postsecondary CTE courses, including

startup funding for new programs.

- Link any incentive funding to measurable results to ensure the state receives a positive return on its investments.

Increasing state funding for community and technical colleges will not help the state achieve its goals if students don't take advantage of these educational resources. Combs' report says far too many Texas high school students fail to pursue postsecondary education. Texas Works has some recommendations to meet this challenge:

- As part of this effort, use

data on education and employment to measure the benefits of CTE and publicize the results to make more people aware of its value.

- Ensure state graduation requirements and grade point average (GPA) calculation standards do not prevent or discourage high school students from enrolling in career and technology courses.

Combs' report recommends greater flexibility in the state's new "four-by-four" graduation requirements, which require all high school students take four years each of math, sci-

ence, social studies and language arts. Many CTE courses do not count toward the "four-by-four" requirements, and grades in many CTE courses will not count toward students' GPAs under a proposed uniform statewide grade point calculation system.

"Texas should ensure high school students have multiple pathways to graduation, preparing them for a variety of education and training options after high school," Combs said. "While the state has done a good job of encouraging more students to pursue college degrees, it is critical

that we do not discourage students who will not go to a four year college from attaining valuable training that will raise their standard of living and will have substantial economic benefits to Texas."



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Church Happenings

Please Remember: 1-Minute Each Night

Nightly @ 8 pm Central (our time); 9 pm Eastern; 7 pm Mountain; and 6 pm Pacific Time, spend 1-Minute praying for the safety of the USA, our troops, citizens, world peace, wisdom and courage for our newly elected leaders, that the Holy Bible will remain the basis for laws governing our land. Don't put this off! Start your 1-Minute Prayer tonight! God Bless you, Sister Tarpley

Many local churches will have "Night Watch Service" on New Years Eve, December 31, 2008, starting about 9 or 10 pm, call one and find out the details, then make plans to join the pastor and congregation for an evening of worship and praise to God.

DAYSTAR DELIVERANCE MINISTRIES

January 10, 2009,
1:30 - 3 pm

There will be a give-away of food and household items

to all those who could use a little touch @ Helen's House (formerly known as The Touch Ministry) 635 W. Campbell Road, #210, Richardson, TX 75080, 972-480-0200.

DayStar Deliverance Ministries
Apostle Minnie Hawthorne-Ewing, Senior Pastor
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Monday-Friday

Prayer Lines for those in need are 972-649-0566 and 972-649-0567.

Wednesdays, 7 pm

Get your praise on, Wednesday Night Live (WNL) @ our main campus, 200 Belmont Drive in Allen. Call the church for details.

December 31, 9 pm
Club FBCA presents

"Unveiling the Spirit of Excellence" Annual New Year's Eve Celebration @ the Plano Centre Ballroom. Ring in the New Year with food, music, a talent show and the "Spirit" of God with us.

January 23-25, 2009

Mark your calendar, 1st Lady Tasha Stafford and Women Justified By Faith presents their 2009 Women Conference, "More Than Conquerors." Speakers include Pastor W.L. Stafford, Sr. and 1st Lady Tasha; Dr. Rita Twigg from the Potter's House in Dallas; Pastor Cheryl Coleman from Dover, DE; and Minister Monicah Johnson from Epitome Magazine. This one event you don't want to miss!

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M. Div., Senior Pastor
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200 Belmont Drive
(Church Address)
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972-359-9956

WALK OF FAITH MINISTRIES

February 13-14, 2009

Join us for our Travailing for Soul Summit 2009 @ the Hampton Inn and Suites, 1311 E. Centre Park Blvd., Desoto, TX. Service on Friday, 02-13-2009 is @ 7:30 pm. On Saturday, February 14, Seminar Classes from 9:30 am to 12 Noon; Worship & Prayer Service is from 3:30 pm to 5 pm; and Lunch and Fashion show from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm with the Cedar Hills High School Modeling Club, a Special Soloist and Praise Dance Teams. Even Worship Service starts @ 6 pm.

Summit speakers include Apostle Delonor Lawrence from God Explosive Ministries and Prophetess Syneth Hassell from Cathedral of Christ Holy Temple. For information, directions, summit topics and registration call 469-364-2445.

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Wednesday Night-
Community Bible Class: 7:30 P.M.





Sister Tarpley

A Christmas Poem

Jesus is the Reason for the Season. However, it seems that at this time of the year that many people become stressed with the hustle and bustle of giving and receiving the right gifts that the true meaning of Christmas is lost in the midst of other stuff.

The poem below and some stress-release things at the end of this column should help put things in order of importance.

It was the weeks before Christmas and all through the town; not many signs of Jesus were anywhere to be found. The people were all busy with Christmas-time chores; like decorating, baking, and shopping in stores.

Not many sang, "Away in a manger, no crib for a bed . . ." Instead they sang of Santa dressed-up in bright red. Plenty watched T.V. and drank eggnog from a tap; as hour upon hour the gifts they did wrap. When what from the T.V. did they suddenly hear? A loud commercial, which

told of a BIG SALE that's near.

So away to the mall they all flew like a flash; buying things on credit and others with cash! And as they came home from their trip to the mall, did they think about Jesus? Oh, no, not at all! Their lives were so busy with Christmas-time things, no time to remember Christ Jesus, the King.

There were more presents to wrap and cookies to bake, how could they stop and remember who died for their sake? To pray to the Savior, they had no time to stop, they needed more time to, "Shop till they dropped." From the big stores downtown to the stores at the mall, they would dash away, dash away and visit them all!

And up on the rooftop there arose such a clatter, as grandpa hung lights up on his brand new ladder, he hung lights that would flash; he hung lights that would twirl; yet, he never once prayed to Jesus—the Light of the World. Christ's eyes—how they twinkle! Christ's Spirit, how merry. Christ's love, how

enormous. All our burdens -- He'll gladly carry.

So instead of being busy, overworked and uptight, let's put Christ back in Christmas and enjoy some good days and nights. --Author Unknown

This I Believe: Worry is the most destructive habit. But giving is the greatest Joy. Loss of self-respect is the greatest loss. While helping others is the most satisfying work. Selfishness is the worst personality trait. On the Contrary dedicated Christians are the most endangered species.

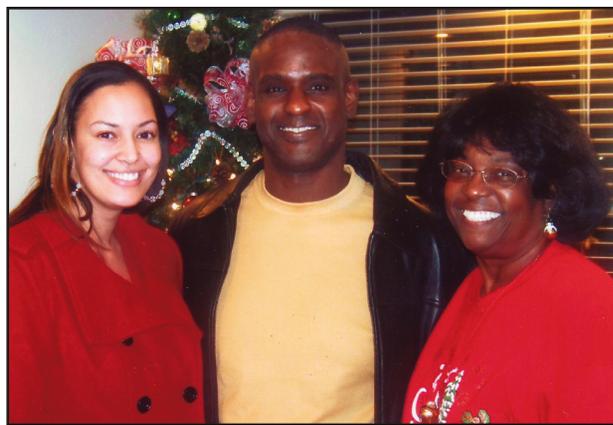
Youth is our greatest natural resource. And encouragement is the greatest "shot in the arm." Fear is the greatest problem to overcome. But peace of mind is the most effective sleeping pill. Excuses are the most crippling failure disease. However, love is the most powerful force in life. A gossip is the most dangerous pariah. Then again, the brain is the world's most incredible computer. Hope is the worst thing to be without. And the tongue is the deadliest

weapon.

"I can," is the two most power-filled words. Faith is the greatest asset. Self-pity is the most worthless emotion. SMILE! It's the most beautiful attire. Integrity is the most prized possession. Furthermore, enthusiasm is the most contagious spirit. But remember that prayer is the most powerful channel of communication with God.

Natural Highs for Stressful Times: Falling in love, especially with Jesus. A good shower or bath. Laughing a lot, mainly at yourself. Listening to a good song. Praying continually. People having a wonderful conversation. Making new friends and spending quality time with long-time friends. A friendly smile for everyone you see.

Angels exist, but they don't all have wings; many times we call them Christians. The love of God is like the ocean, you can see its beginning but not its end. Thank God when you wake up in the morning. Also, know that you're doing things right in God's eyes.



Sister Tarpley with niece Marian Fielding and Son Jarrell Tarpley enjoying the annual family Christmas dinner @ Carrollton Health & Rehab Center

Black Wall Street debuts in North Texas

The 400 members of the "BI Network" declared 2009 as the start of "Black Wall Street in North Texas". The group is seeking to encourage members of the black community to

trade more with black business people in their community, city and state. The solution to assist in this economic empowerment in the black community is the Business Initiator. The web

address is www.businessinitiator.ning.com and members can design their web page with photos, videos, RSS feeds, text and links to their business websites. The "Business

Initiator" website is free to join with no hosting fees. Currently over 400 business members are trading and networking with each other on the Business Initiator today.

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 Richardson, TX 75081
 972.991.0200
www.followpeace.org

Two Sunday Worship Times
 8:00am & 10:30am
 Wednesday Night Bible 7:30pm

Friendship Baptist Church
 4396 Main Street The Colony, Texas 75056
 (972) 625-8186
 website: www.fbc-online.net

Schedule of Services:

Sunday
 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.

Dr. C. Paul McBride, Pastor

"The Church with a Vision"

Tips that Result in Photo Keepers

From staff reports

A digital camera is sure to be a popular gift found under the tree this week and recipients will have fun trying out their new "toy" and seeing if they are the next Anne Geddes or Ansel Adams.

Here are Trask's 6 Tips for Digital Photography that results in usable and sharable memories:

1. Time is money – and visa versa. If you can plan far enough ahead, choose your equipment wisely. One of the most valuable features of high-end camera equipment is the faster

photo capturing technology. We're all familiar with the perfect shot, lost only to the blur of your subject moving from the frame too quickly at the last second. Well worth the investment... if your budget can take the hit.

2. Flash Gordon – or not so much so. For the rest of us (the mere non-professional, household archivers), the perfect shot can still be captured with some creative habit forming. If you know that your camera is going to delay the shot, try buffering your warning a bit. As simple as this sounds, friends and

family alike have pulled this trick on me a few times, resulting in a perfect, albeit surprisingly sneaky, shot. Try it this way: begin the countdown for the subjects of the picture with "3"...snap the photo, then say, "2, 1..." (adjusting for your camera's time as needed).

3. It's in the shot – and you're in it, too. To get the best photos, become aware of your surroundings. Before you hold your camera up, take notice of the couple about to walk behind your subject. Simple, right? Stay clear of doorways where others might rightfully ask you to move.

4. It's clutter's last

stand. If your computer hard drive looks like your childhood closet, then now would be the time for a little cleanup. Try not to organize your photos by the date they were taken. Instead, organize them by events, such as weddings, vacations, gatherings, etc.

5. Back it up. What? You haven't backed up your photos yet? It's time to get

to it! Take an afternoon and save all of those photos you received through email to the newly-themed folders you've created.

6. Nice picture – can I see it? All of these tips are well and good, but an unused photo is about as valuable as an untaken photo. Find fun ways to share your photos, and get to it.

"Teaching the Word with Compassion, not Compromise!"



Pastor Dave Jenkins, Jr.

Join us for our sermon series: **New Year-New Ways**

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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

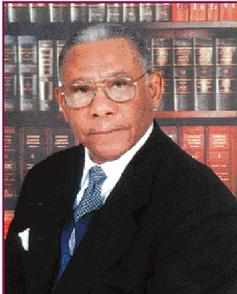
Dr. Leslie W Smith, Senior Pastor
1010-1020 South Sherman Street • Richardson, TX 75081
www.ndcbf.org

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)

Avenue F Church of Christ
1026 Avenue F • Plano, TX 75074 • 972-423-8833
"Striving Towards the Pearly Gates in 2008"
(Revelation 22:14)

Early Sunday Morning8:00 am
Sunday Bible Class9:45 am
Sunday Morning Worship10:45 am
Men Bible Class5:00 pm
Women Bible Class5:00 pm
Evening Worship6:00 pm
Wednesday Bible Class7:00 pm
Radio Program @ 7:30 am on KHVN 970 AM Sunday Mornings



Ramon Hodridge, Minister

www.avefchurchofchrist.org

The Inspiring **Body of Christ Church**

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Phone: 972-572-4262 Fax: 972-709-3888

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



Pastor Rickie G. Rush

Website: www.ibocjoy.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

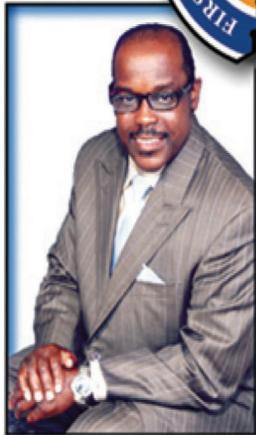
Sunday	9:45AM Sunday School
Monday	7PM Youth, Brotherhood, Mission & Young Adult Ministries
Tuesday	7PM Bible Study & Men's Choir
Wednesday	7PM Mid-Week Service
Thursday	7PM Mass Choir

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

Worship Services
7:30 am & 10:30 am

Sunday School
9:30 am

Wednesday Night Service
8:00 pm


Dr. Gregory Foster Senior Pastor
Rev. Anthony Foster Pastor

Our Mission
To fulfill The Great Commission until Christ comes.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAMILTON PARK
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Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church

1308 Wilcox Street, McKinney TX
Pastor Charles S. Wattley



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

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

Friendly Fellowship with A Family Focus
For More Information Call 972.542.6178
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