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Fred Hammond: Worship is important part of How Sweet the Sound Concerts

BY RUTH FERGUSON,
NDG EDITOR

Legendary gospel artist Fred Hammond, now a DFW resident, recently spoke with the *North Dallas Gazette* by phone about his career and involvement with Verizon's How Sweet the Sound. The regional

concerts are kicking off tomorrow in Grand Prairie.

When asked about his career, which spans three decades Hammond chuckled, "It does not



Fred Hammond

really feel like 30 plus years. It is a fun career and I have enjoyed my job. I love staying current with the times." For example, Hammond pointed out the importance of not trying to drag what worked in 1980

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How to stop annoying telemarketing calls

BY JASON ALDERMAN

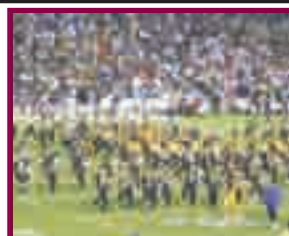
When the Do-Not-Call Implementation Act of 2003 was passed, it was supposed to herald a new era of silence – as in, no more annoying dinner-time telemarketing calls. Based on the number of unsolicited calls our

household still receives nearly a decade later, however, I'd say the law has been had only mixed success.

True, the sheer volume of calls did drop significantly after we registered our home and cell phone numbers with the Federal

Trade Commission's National Do Not Call Registry. But because so many types of organizations are exempt from the legislation and so many shady companies flout the rules, everyone I know still gets pestered relentlessly.

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Tweet and Greet details for free tickets to 2012 State Fair Classic
[Twitter.com/NDGEditor](https://twitter.com/NDGEditor)

Volunteers are needed for large free medical clinic for the uninsured in Dallas

The National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics (NAFC) is calling on physicians and other health care professionals, as well as non-medical volunteers, to participate in the upcoming large free clinic for uninsured persons at the



Dallas Convention Center, Hall A, 650 South Griffin St., on Sept. 29.

The NAFC will hold its latest C.A.R.E. (Communities Are Responding Everyday) Clinic in conjunction with the Lone Star

Association of Charitable Clinics (LSACC) and the North Texas Association of Charitable Clinics (NTACC).

"We are hopeful that many individuals in the community will volunteer at this one-day, life-altering

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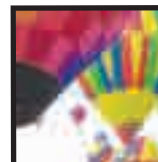
COVER STORY

Did Michelle Obama revive President Obama's re-election campaign?



First Lady Michelle Obama

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Plano Balloon Festival kicks off Sept. 21

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

COMMENTARY

The Truth Clinic: Mr. President - It Is Time

BY JAMES BREEDLOVE

It is time to rise above the political blame gaming tactics that have stagnated America and kept its citizens hostage to the debilitating economic paralysis and partisan bickering you inherited in January 2008.

It is time for the President of the United States of America to stand up before the American people as a bold leader dedicated to giving them back the confidence they

have lost in a government perceived to be incapable of serving the needs of the people.

It is time, Mr. President, to let 'we the people' know that the harsh lessons learned from dealing with the snowballing fiscal crisis that has confounded America will be used to provide effective new solutions instead of retreading old ones.

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People In The News...



Dr. Myiesha Taylor



Tracee Ellis Ross



Dr. Paul Hain

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Dr. Myiesha Taylor

Dr. Myiesha Taylor always knew she would become a physician one day. However, during her childhood in the 1980s, there were few women of color in her daily life or in the media to serve as role models.

Even in her career, whether it is when she's working as an emergency medicine specialist at Texas Regional Medical Center at Sunnyvale or at her second job as the physician supervisor at the Dr Pepper plant in Irving, Taylor, 38, rarely encounters women physicians of color. So, when she heard

about the new cartoon "Doc McStuffins," which airs on Disney Junior, Taylor welcomed the opportunity to share a bit of her profession with her own 4-year-old daughter, Hana Taylor Schlitz.

The television show, which stars a 6-year-old African-American girl whose favorite accessory is a pink stethoscope and who dreams of becoming a doctor like her mother, impressed Taylor so much she wrote about it on her own blog, <http://www.CoilyEmbrace.com>, and created an online collage of 131

African-American women physicians of color who are real-life Doc McStuffins; then Taylor sent the collage to Disney, and subsequent international media attention of her campaign drew more physicians' praises and a call for some organized way for more women minority medical professionals to share their common experiences.

So, Taylor, with help from other physicians nationwide, created Artemis Medical Society, a new nonprofit corporation. Named after the Greek



goddess, Artemis' mission is to create and promote an environment in medicine where women physicians of color from all medical specialties can come together to support and learn from each other. Taylor, who is Artemis' president, said women physicians of color share a common bond because they are unique in the medical community.

Artemis started with the Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/groups/342922302445521/> and a couple hundred members in June, but Artemis is transitioning to a new website <http://www.artemismedicalsociety.org> soon. Artemis boasts more than 2,000 members already.

About 90 percent of Artemis' members are African-American women physicians, but the group is open to all women physicians of all minority groups. Members represent a wide range of medical specialties and many graduated from top medical schools, including Harvard, Stanford and Yale.

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Tracee Ellis Ross

Actress Tracee Ellis Ross has teamed up with SoftSheen-Carson Laboratories®, the #1 ethnic haircare brand in the world, to expand the Optimum Salon Haircare® line and launch a NEW versatile product collection boasting a unique combination of botanical oils with multiple uses and benefits. The Optimum Salon Haircare Miracle Oil collection includes 6-IN-1 Miracle Oil, Miracle Oil Hair Moisturizer

and Miracle Oil Hair Creme.

As part of the Optimum Salon Haircare Miracle Oil launch, actress and tastemaker Tracee Ellis Ross and celebrity hairstylist Chuck Amos debuted a video titled "Tracee Ellis Ross Discovers a Hair Miracle." In the comedic performance, Ross packing for a trip, expresses her growing frustrations to having pack a plethora of products for both her hair

and skin. She becomes overwhelmed with the product choices, and with the assistance of Amos, she gets rid of all the products she doesn't need, and it is revealed that one product does it all -- the 6-IN-1 Miracle Oil -- saving her time and space. The video also demonstrates the different uses of the Optimum Salon Haircare 6-IN-1 Miracle Oil and its naturally-derived ingredients.

"We continue to make products that will enhance the beauty and health of the hair for a

wide variety of hairstyles and textures," stated Mezei Jefferson, Education Director for SoftSheen-Carson during the presentation. "With the surging use of hair oils, we are extremely proud to introduce our new Miracle Oil Collection to the Optimum Salon Haircare portfolio. Miracle Oil is so diverse and effective it can easily replace up to 6 of your cur-



rent staple beauty products."

The Optimum Salon Haircare 6-IN-1 Miracle Oil (SRP \$8.99) is infused with 6 natural oils (apricot, argan, avocado, coconut, sunflower and jojoba) to deliver softness, intense conditioning, miraculous smoothness and everlasting shine. Perfect for relaxed, natural and transitional hair, this

See ROSS, Page 13

Dr. Paul Hain

An experienced pediatrician will lead Children's Medical Center's efforts to

care under the changing medical provider system.

Dr. Paul Hain is Children's new vice president and medical director for Population Health and network development. Hain will provide physician leadership for a new payment system launching Sept. 1 and focus on strategies to successfully respond to the massive change in the way Medicaid and commercial insurers will pay hospitals to care for children. Health-care reform is



requiring hospitals across the nation to implement Accountable Care Organizations, which are organized provider entities that offer plans for hospitals and physicians to implement better care at reduced cost. Children's Population Health division, under Hain's leadership, will work on making children and families healthier.

"I am humbled to join such an elite institution as Children's Medical Center Dallas," Hain said. "The mission, which the folks here live every day, is to make life better for children. I really wanted to be a part of a group of people who believe so strongly in helping children."

"I've joined an outstanding team in Population Health. We hope to create networks that will increase the number of

children for whom we are able to care, while at the same time making kids in our communities healthier so that we are able to see fewer children admitted to the hospital."

Hain comes to Dallas from Nashville, Tenn., where he served for more than 11 years at Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt, most recently as associate chief of staff. He is originally from Albuquerque and is fluent in Spanish. He first embarked on an engineering career after earning his undergraduate degree in materials science and engineering from Rice University. He worked as a corrosion engineer in Alaska for three years before enrolling at Vanderbilt University Medical School. He graduated from Vanderbilt with his

medical degree in 1998.

Hain then completed

his pediatric residency training at Vanderbilt Chil-

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Obama needs to project more than 'Hope'

BY GEORGE E. CURRY

(NNPA) The primary goal of the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, N.C. this week is to highlight the sharp contrast between the policies of President Barack Obama and Mitt Romney, his Republican opponent.

In the past, political conventions were used to count delegates to determine each party's respective presidential nominee. That has changed in recent years, with the ballot outcome already determined by the time thousands of delegates roll into a city for the convention. Today, the speeches are directed at millions watching on television, the Internet or a mobile device,

not the people sitting in the convention hall.

Republicans concluded their national convention in Tampa and for the first time in 60 years, the GOP nominee didn't make the argument that his party will do a better job in foreign affairs. President Obama took that issue away from Republicans by ending U.S. involvement in the war in Iran, bringing troops back from Afghanistan and approving a mission that resulted in the death of Osama bin Laden.

With shifting U.S. demographics, the Tampa gathering may be the last national political convention that Republicans or any other party can make a race-based appeal to

White voters. Despite token appearances by former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Artur Davis, a former Democratic congressman from Alabama who couldn't carry his on precinct in his bid for governor, Team Romney made a major appeal to its base. And the selection of Paul Ryan as his running mate served to underscore that point.

The problem for Republicans is that the election will largely be decided by undecided independent voters. And Romney, a Massachusetts moderate-turned-conservative, can't afford to appeal directly to that group without alienating ardent conservatives already suspicious of him.

Except for a speech to the NAACP annual convention in Houston, Romney has done little to appeal to African-American voters. Not that it would do him much good. A recent NBC News/ Wall Street Journal poll showed Romney getting zero percent of the Black vote. Of course, that does not mean no Black person in America will vote for him. Instead, the zero was in a poll with a margin of error of 3.1 percent. That means that Romney probably will not match John McCain's unimpressive 4 percent in 2008. By comparison, George W. Bush captured 11 percent of the Black vote in 2004.

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TIME, continued from Page 1

It is time to reveal a new vision for America, Mr. President. It is time to differentiate the reality of your presidency from the smoke and mirror fluff of your challenger.

The voters do not want to hear more glowing speeches prepared by skilled speech writers using coined poll tested phrases designed to tell the people what they want to hear. Instead, what they are looking for are plain spoken simple words that tell the people what they need to hear, the pathway they must follow to reclaim their freedom, and the specific actions that will be taken.

A recent Pew Institute report says, "the middle class has shrunk in size, fallen backward in income and wealth, and shed some—but by no means all—of its characteristic faith in the future." The report provides statistics showing that middle class earnings and net worth have plummeted since the mid-2000s and that about 85% of the middle class say it is harder to maintain their standard of living than it was 10 years ago.

Mr. President, because the misery and concern detailed in the Pew Study is not uniquely democrat or republican you have the

opportunity to offer your vision of substance to both.

It is possible to do this in the short time remaining before the November 6 elections in a manner that will transform the campaign from a finger pointing, tear down the opponent, mud-slinging spectacle to a constructive template that future campaigners will emulate.

First, use your acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, N.C., to present a comprehensive roadmap for America's recovery and growth using the "no fluff-real stuff" differentiation guidelines previously mentioned.

Second, a few days prior to the October 3 debate in Denver announce a new jobs stimulus initiative and your intention to replace Federal Reserve Board Chairman Ben Bernanke and Secretary of the Treasury Timothy Geithner.

These are bold moves to accomplish a specific goal. They illustrate to the American people that you are serious about attacking the economic crisis based on lessons learned. The Federal Reserve Chairman and the Secretary of the Treasury are intimately connected with the highly controversial TARP, Qual-

itative Easing and other stimulus measures. New leadership of the economic team verifies and validates that new economic initiatives will be the bedrock of the economic recovery game plan.

The significant difference between this new stimulus and previous initiatives is the money goes directly to the consumer instead of to corporations. One of the reasons previous stimulus initiatives did not jump start the economy is the corporations sat on the stimulus money and refused to increase production because consumers did not have money to purchase their products.

Third, shortly before the October 16 debate in Hempstead, New York announce your support of initiatives to legalize and regulate marijuana. The war on drugs continues to waste billions of tax dollars each year while drug usage increases. A test program to legalize and regulate marijuana will determine if the taxes raised, jobs created and reduced strain on the overwhelmed justice system outweigh the negatives. We must be willing to try new solutions when old measures are proven ineffective.

Fourth, as a lead up to the October 22 debate in

Boca Raton, Florida announce the date for bringing the troops out of Afghanistan.

Mr. President with these initial steps you will have demonstrated several definitive and confidence building realisms to the American people:

You understand the role of the President and the power of the presidency.

You will not let greed and corruption continue to undermine the integrity of the government. Government greed and corruption has been the single most effective element destroying America's middle-class values of thrift, industriousness, and self-reliance.

You understand that the government should work to enhance the people instead of the people working to enhance the government.

As a politician you are a realist and not simply an intellectual theorist.

Mr. President, now is the time with these simple but powerful initiatives to prove to the American people that their government is in the best hands with you remaining at the helm.

Comments or opinions may be sent to the writer at: www.jaydubub@swbell.net.

African-American community mobilizes to save the Clean South Dallas Center with a benefit at the African-American Museum in Fair Park

Clean South Dallas: Making South Dallas More Beautiful is a campaign in place to restore a 25 year old South Dallas institution, dedicated to the beautification and preservation of the much loved South Dallas community. This campaign will gather resources, lift up the legacy of service and ac-



tivism, and create awareness of other programs.

Clean South Dallas: Making South Dallas More Beautiful will take place on Thursday, Sept. 6 at 6-8 p.m. It will be at the African-American Museum in Fair Park. Donations will be accepted at the door. For more information, contact 214-428-0418.

HAMMOND, continued from Page 1

to 2012. "You have to pay attention to what is going on in the music world," he added.

Hammond became involved in the How Sweet the Sound efforts when, "They called me a couple of years ago and asked would I be a judge. I loved it and so here I am again."

What advice does he offer to the choirs participating?

"First, be as excellent as you can, come prepared as possible, from the musicians to the person on the last row." Hammond also encouraged choirs to keep in mind it is not always about the dancing, that is great but if the music is not right it diminishes their chances of winning.

He cautioned contestants, "The judging will be harder this year, and not so nicey-nicey." While entertainment is a part of what the audience looks forward to, they are also looking forward to the moments of worship he indicated.

Hammond said the audience loves a great dance and step, "but they want to feel an anointed moment."

St. Mark Sanctuary is 75-member choir from Little Rock, which sings every Sunday at two services. Darius Nelson the director said the members range in age from 18 – 65 years old and come from all walks of life.

This is not his first time participating in a How Sweet the Sound competition; he also participated with a church from Memphis in 2010. Nelson said he was impressed two years ago with, "how well organized everything is, it is a first class production."

When asked to describe his choir Nelson said, they will come with a high level of energy and enthusiasm. They are singing *The Worship Medley* by Joe Pace and according to Nelson, "It represents who we are and what we do."

Each choir selected was asked to submit four songs from a list of 50 approved songs from which to choose. By August 1 they were given their assigned song, providing each choir ample time to prepare.

Selah is a choir from Denton's Latter House Glory Tabernacle where Pastor Elton Monday is the minister. Director Titus Glenn submitted his application for the contest after he decided to take "a step of faith and enter." The choir has 70 members and as a recording artist Glenn compared the preparation to working on an album.

"Singing to God is the focus, but you work on cleaning up and polishing your sound." They are singing *Awesome God* by Youthful Praise.

Glenn has served as the choir director for about 18 months, but minister of music for nearly 5 years. "Our choir is a very youthful, with the average age of the members being 25 years old with many still in college."

In closing, Glenn shared, "Selah is a unique choir, we are young age wise, but we do have a heart to live and sing for Jesus Christ. Just don't look at our outer appearance, but actually hear what we are singing."

Carnel Davis, Jr. is the director of Carnel Davis & Incorporated to Praise,

which is a community choir from Houston, Texas. This is the first year the competition has included community choirs. A community choir is one, which is not affiliated with a specific church and often includes members from different denominations and backgrounds. According to Davis, community choirs were real popular in the 1970s and 80s but faded for several years.

Carnel Davis & Incorporated to Praise features 35 members and while it is commonplace to require community choir members to audition, Davis indicated his choir does not host auditions. The choir is filled by, "word of mouth with members who come with a willingness to train and sing," he added. Sometimes they sing every week, sometimes multiple times in a week and sometimes it is merely once a month.

Davis is looking forward to the event and said, "We are just excited for the opportunity to come and share the word of God with those who would come and listen. We hope that God is pleased most of all and that the audience members are blessed."

The gospel artists participating include Donald Lawrence and Yolanda Adams are co-hosts, CeCe Winans and Bishop Hezekiah X. Walker are among the judges. For more information visit <http://www2.howsweetthesound.com>. Also keep your eye on our website and Facebook page for photos from the event.

Parkland reaches settlement with Department of State Health Services

Parkland Health & Hospital System announced last week that it has reached a settlement agreement with the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) that resolves and discharges all potential litigation and enforcement actions for compliance issues prior to May 31, 2012.

"Parkland has taken responsibility for its compliance issues and is several months into a Systems Improvement Agreement with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that will improve safety and quality of care," said Debbie Branson, Chair, Parkland Board of Managers. "This agreement with the state allows us to settle any issues that occurred prior to May 31st and to focus on completing the changes neces-

sary to secure Parkland's future as one of the most important health care assets in North Texas."

Under the agreement with DSHS, Parkland will be assessed \$1 million for violations that occurred prior to June 1, 2012. \$750,000 will be payable within 30 days of the execution of the agreement. \$250,000 will be held in abeyance subject to Parkland's compliance with the terms of the agreement.

Additionally, Parkland will provide DSHS monthly reports tracking our progress toward returning to compliance with Medicare/Medicaid conditions of participation. For a period of 24 months, Parkland will also provide DSHS with information about its Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement (QAPI) Program

and progress. And Parkland will inform DSHS of reportable adverse events within the health care system within two business days of becoming aware of the event. The health system will then have 45 days in order to deliver a root cause analysis of the event and an action plan with strategies to reduce the risk of similar events occurring in the future.

"We appreciate the DSHS's willingness to work with Parkland on a settlement that allows us to focus on fixing the compliance issues that have troubled our health care system," Branson said. "We will cooperate fully with this agreement as we continue to work toward completion of our corrective action plan."

Prescription medicine drop-off set for Sept. 29

Lewisville Police Department and Lewisville Independent School District are teaming up with the Drug Enforcement Administration to host a Drug

Take Back Event on Saturday, Sept. 29, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The local drop-off site will be the parking lot of the Lewisville High School, 1098 W. Main

Street. Residents are urged to bring any expired or unneeded prescription medications to the event and drop them off for safe disposal.

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3rd Annual Garland Outdoor Festival

As the Garland area becomes more urbanized, it's important to promote the health, social, and community benefits of the outdoors. Participating in outdoor recreation activities provide a place for children and adults to connect with nature and gain an appreciation for shrinking natural environments and habitats. That is why the Garland Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Department has partnered with Bass Pro Shops to host the Garland Outdoor Festival. The Festival provides easy access to a host of outdoor recreation agencies and activities with the goal of educating the public about the many outdoor recreation op-

portunities that exist in the Garland area.

The Garland Outdoor Festival is Saturday, September 8, from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Garland Bass Pro Shops, 5001 Bass Pro Drive on I-30 overlooking beautiful Lake Ray Hubbard. Many outdoor recreation and education agencies will have exhibit booths at the Festival that promote activities such as hunting, fishing, hiking, off-road biking, sailing, canoeing, local trails, nature preservation, camping, and archery. In addition to information, there will be many demonstrations to allow visitors to experience firsthand the fun of recreating outdoors.

Using Bass Pro Shops unique location on Lake Ray Hubbard, visitors can kayak, sail, catch a fish, cast a fly rod, shoot an arrow, and kids can practice casting and make some cool crafts. There may also be some yummy samples left from the outdoor cooking demonstrations going on throughout the event. The Garland Outdoor Festival is free and open to everyone with lots of parking available and the Bass Pro Shops to explore.

For more details about Garland Outdoor Festival activities, visit www.garland-parks.com

Garland NAACP hosting 22nd Annual Freedom Fund Brunch and Silent Auction

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Garland, Texas Branch will host its 22nd annual Freedom Fund brunch and silent auction on Saturday, September 15. The Silent Auction kicks off at 9 a.m. and the Brunch starts at 10 a.m. at the Doubletree Hotel, 1981 N. Central @ Campbell Rd., in Richardson.

The 2012 Theme is "The NAACP Garland Branch: Creating Legends and Leaders." The Keynote Speaker is NBC 5 reporter Tammy Mutasa with NAACP Garland

Executive Committee member Marquis Hankins serving as the Master of Ceremony.

Each year at the luncheon awards and scholarships are given. The 2012 Youth Scholarship Recipients from the Garland Independent School District (GISD) are:

•Elaine Bradley Scholarship – NAACP Garland Youth Council member to be announced

•GISD highest African American scholars will be recognized for each of the seven high schools

The Corporate Sponsor Award Recipient is Randall

Reed's Prestige Ford and the Adult Award recipients are:

•Educator of the Year – Willie Bogar

•Volunteer of the Year – Robert Lutz

•Bridge Builder's Award – Councilman BJ Williams

•Online Media Award – Kim Everett, Editor - *The Garland Texan*

For more information on this event, please contact the NAACP Garland Branch at 972.381.5044, voice box #5, or visit the NAACP Garland Branch's Web site at: www.garlandtxnaacp.org.

Being green means sharing green

Plano citizens invited to join a team of over 250 dedicated Live Green in Plano (LGIP) Volunteers who make Plano cleaner and greener. Beginning Thursday, Sept. 20, LGIP Volunteer Training classes are from 7 to 9 p.m. on six consecutive Thursday nights. The final class is Thursday, Oct. 25 and just in time to make volunteering a priority and resolution for 2013.

All training classes are held at the Environmental Education Center located at 4116 W. Plano Parkway at Commerce Drive. Space is limited, but classes are

FREE! Serve your community, impact the planet by registering at livegreeninplano.obsres.com.

"This six-week training offers practical, money-saving tips which are easy to apply in your daily routine said Charlotte DeMolay, LGIP volunteer coordinator. "You'll learn about water and soil conservation, preventing pollution and simple ways to reduce the amount of trash heading to the landfill."

LGIP Volunteers are teenagers and adults willing to spend 24 volunteer hours to maintain demonstration gardens, raise organic food

for area food pantries, speak to civic organizations and homeowner's associations on topics such as water pollution and energy efficiency, work with Scouts to earn badges, teach school children, lead tours, staff the Household Chemical Reuse Center, label storm drains, organize green teams at their office, and provide essential staffing at L2LG.

The LGIP Volunteers program taps into current skills and trains volunteers to share sustainable lifestyle information with the entire community. Register now at livegreeninplano.obsres.com.



Fact:

Seven types of commonly used herbicides and pesticides washed down our storm drains can be found in the Trinity River. Lawn chemicals and pesticides can pollute the storm drainage system, including area creeks, lakes, and the Trinity River, potentially harming plants and aquatic wildlife.

Tips:

- + **Don't apply yard chemicals when it is very windy or about to rain.**
- + **Try using natural and organic alternatives.**
- + **Follow the instructions for the chemicals including organic alternatives.**



www.wheredoesitgo.com

GISD superintendent retiring at end of the year

After leading Garland ISD through one of the most dynamic periods in its history, Curtis Culwell is retiring. Culwell, who has served as GISD superintendent since 1999, announced his retirement—effective in December—at Tuesday night's school board work session in the Harris Hill Administration Building.

Culwell, one of the most respected educational leaders in the state, is stepping down after 37 years in Texas public education and 23 years as a Texas public school superintendent. His educational career began in 1976 as an English teacher and coach at Garland's Lakeview Centennial High School.

"It has been one of the most significant privileges in

my life to serve this district," Culwell said. "My affection for this institution and the people who comprise the GISD family is deep and encompasses a significant portion of my personal, and professional, life."

Under Culwell's watch, GISD has experienced immense success across the board. Financial accom-

See GISD, Page 8

DCCCD Muse Scholarship recipients exhibit potential and determination

Thirteen area community college students who demonstrate leadership potential and the determination to succeed have been named 2012-2013 Muse scholarship recipients by the Dallas County Community College District Foundation. The recipients also are selected on the basis of their focused educational goals and work ethic, along with

proven leadership skills and academic achievement.

Initiated and funded by longtime DCCCD Foundation supporters Lyn and John Muse of Dallas, the Muse Scholars Program pays for each scholar's college costs at DCCCD – including tuition, books and additional fees – to meet the requirements of his or her certification program or de-

gree. Recipients may receive the Muse scholarship for up to six consecutive semesters.

"Determination and potential are key characteristics we look for in our Muse scholars," said Betheny Reid, associate vice chancellor of development and president of the DCCCD Foundation. "Lyn and John

See SCHOLARSHIP, Page 15

Get Up and Give! – help uplift the future leaders of tomorrow

On September 13 from 7 a.m. to midnight, Learners Are Leaders, Inc. (LL, Inc.) is participating in an online fundraiser, Get Up and Give! North TexasGiving Day. Every donation of \$25 and above given on September 13 will be matched if donated through www.DonorBridgeTX.org. This is North Texas' online resource, connecting donors with nonprofit organizations.



Donors are invited to visit the website anytime between 7 a.m. and midnight, search for Learners Are Leaders, Inc. and click "Donate Now." Donations given on September 13 will go

a long way in helping LL, Inc. fulfill its mission of uplifting future leaders through learning towards moral, social and cultural betterment. Plus, gifts given will receive a portion of matching funds from Donor Bridge—stretching the donation further and helping LL, Inc. reach its fundraising goal of \$5,000.

Community members are invited to visit www.LL-inc.org and sign up for the email list by September 12 and at 7:30 a.m.,

they will receive the direct link via email to donate to LL, Inc.'s page on the donation site, eliminating the need to search for them on Donor Bridge's home page.

LL, Inc.'s vision is to create holistic educational opportunities by cultivating in youth a love for life-long learning, producing future leaders through supplemental learning, social enrichment and community resources.

They are gearing up for the "March into Literacy Spring Break Day Camp" scheduled for March 2013. This camp will benefit 50-75 students between the ages of 8-14. This day camp will allow students to create and develop their own newspaper for print under the North Dallas Gazette umbrella. Students will also engage in other activities such as cooking classes by a chef, physical fitness sessions from a personal trainer, receive

free meals (breakfast, lunch and snacks), as well as receive awards and scholarships for camp participants and student teachers.

LL, Inc. encourages everyone to just remember to get up and give on September 13 – whether out of bed, from your desk, or off your couch, just give and help them reach their goal of \$5,000. Please visit www.LL-inc.org for more information.

TAYLOR, continued from Page 2

"For a large majority of us, we are the only people of color, and possibly the only women, practicing in our medical group or departments; this can create feelings of isolation," said Taylor, whose practice group is Innovative Emergency Associates of Sunnyvale. "We believe that Artemis Medical Society can answer this call for support by women physicians of color

and help each other reach our professional and personal aspirations."

American Medical Association's own statistics show there were 18,533 black female physicians in 2010, less than 2 percent of the 985,375 physicians in the United States. Taylor, who entered emergency medicine after her father, Dwight, was among one of the first bystanders shot

and killed in the 1992 Los Angeles riots, hopes to encourage more racial diversity in the physician workforce; her mother and grandmother were nurses, and encouraged her to become a doctor.

The nonprofit has hosted several online seminars for members already.

Artemis' own survey found more than half its members are between the ages of

31 and 40. More than one-third of the members are between ages 26 and 30.

The founders are funding all of the expenses at this point, Taylor said. However, Artemis will collect membership dues at some point in the future.

Stephen Garrison, president and CEO of TRMC-Sunnyvale, praised Taylor for her efforts to encourage other

women and promote diversity and growth among the physician ranks.

"She's a leader for the profession, as well as wonderful role model for all the young minority girls and women who will become physicians in the decades to come," Garrison said. "We are always pleased when one of TRMC-Sunnyvale's physicians goes above and beyond to make a

difference in the community, whether it's by volunteering in a local neighborhood or by taking the extra step to strengthen our medical community by affirming and encouraging what's possible for every child."

For more information about Artemis, go to <http://www.facebook.com/groups/342922302445521/>.

HOPE, continued from Page 3

Both Obama and Bill Clinton were elected president without receiving a majority of the White vote. And Obama can do it again this year.

Look at how this plays out in the battleground state of North Carolina, which Obama carried by only 4,177 votes – or 0.3 percent – in 2008.

Blacks make up 22 percent of North Carolina's population. Over the past decade, 1.5 million people migrated to North Carolina – 61.9 percent of them non-White. According to demographers quoted by the Charlotte Observer, Obama can carry the state by winning just 36 percent to 37 percent of the White vote.

Obama's larger problem is that after campaigning four years ago on a theme of hope and change, there is not much of either today. His severest critics note that after promising change – that's about all they have left in their pockets after nearly four years of his leadership.

Of course, it's impossible to bring about change by yourself. And Obama was naïve to believe that he could single-handedly change the political bickering in Washington. The party out of power is always plotting to re-gain control. However, Republicans reached a new low when Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell announced before Obama was sworn in

that his top priority was to make sure Obama was a one-term president. And Republicans have sought to block Obama's major initiatives, including his signature Affordable Care Act.

They outmaneuvered him on extending the Bush tax cuts. On the campaign trail, Obama promised to extend the Bush tax cuts only for individuals earning less than \$200,000 and couples making less than \$250,000, a position favored by most Americans. However, Obama consented to a GOP plan extending all tax cuts supposedly in exchange for extending unemployment benefits. Obama should have stood his ground and forced Republicans to vote on whether to extend unem-

ployment benefits to people who had lost their jobs.

House Republicans learned early that they could simply pretend to be interested in adopting bipartisan legislation. In an effort to court them, Obama would propose legislation that he hoped would appeal to conservatives. They would play along right up to the end and withdraw from the process, leaving Obama with proposals that even his base couldn't support.

The test this week for Obama is to demonstrate that he isn't the same naïve former U.S. Senator he was four years ago in Denver. With Republicans hell-bent on not seeing Obama return to the White House, he

needs to show that he has more than just the audacity of hope.

George E. Curry, former editor-in-chief of *Emerge* magazine, is editor-in-chief of the *National Newspaper Publishers Association News Service* (NNPA) and editorial director

of *Heart & Soul* magazine. He is a keynote speaker, moderator, and media coach. Curry can be reached through his Web site, www.georgecurry.com. You can also follow him at www.twitter.com/currygeorge.

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Sis LeTava headlines 2012 "Black SOUL-utatory Weekend" in DFW

Sis. LeTava Mabilijengo, acclaimed author, lecturer and survival training camp administrator is headlining the *Black SOUL-utatory Weekend*, September 7 and 8 in Fort Worth and Dallas. The events, hosted by the Black Woman's Agenda, will focus on practical solutions to problems and challenges like police brutality, single parent households, economic poverty, unhealthy

Black male-female relationships, and mass incarceration. In the aftermath of the police killing of James Harper, the Dallas-Fort Worth community is demanding change and solutions now.

The *Black SOUL-utatory Weekend* begins with Freedom Starts at Home on Friday, Sept. 7 5:30 p.m. – 9 p.m. at the Dock Bookshop, 6637 Meadowbrook Dr., Fort Worth



Sis. LeTava Mabilijengo

76112. Then the featured main event on Saturday, Sept 8th 1 - 4 pm is Black Solutions for Black Problems at the Hampton-Illinois Branch Library, 2951 S. Hampton Rd. 75224 (Black Box Theatre). Finally, Break Bread w/Sis LeTava & Family is at the Pan African Connection, 828 4th

Ave Dallas 75226, 7 – 10 p.m.

"I'm very excited to be coming to the Dallas area for the first time," comments Sister LeTava. "Black women in DFW are not only concerned with chronic problems plaguing the community, but are also committed to tackling the issues head on."

The events will feature live international DJ, African drumming, diverse vendors, gour-

met cuisine and much more. Prominent elders, community organizers, church leaders, educators and concerned citizens eagerly await this unprecedented occasion. Everyone is calling for solutions, and the *Black SOUL-utatory Weekend* will deliver just that.

Register online and find more information: <http://blacksolutions.eventbrite.com>.

GISD, continued from Page 6

plishments are evidenced through the Texas State Comptroller FAST award and Texas Honor Circle Award — two marks which recognize districts for balancing academic progress and fiscal responsibility. GISD's five-star FAST rating was achieved by only 23 of the state's 1,237 districts. Garland is also one of only eight school districts in Texas with an AAA rating from Moody's.

His educational accomplishments aside, the personal ties Culwell has es-

tablished during his career in Garland also weighed heavily in his decision.

"My dearest friends in the world work, or have worked, in this district," he said. "To them, I say 'thank you' in more ways than can be enumerated. I started my professional career here, met my wife here, started my family here and now it is time to end it here."

Culwell stated he will serve the district to the best of his abilities during this transition.



Curtis Culwell

Natural hair fans turn out in force in Addison

More than 500 people showed up for the Texture Revolution a natural hair expo designed to educate women about trends and products created especially for non-chemically treated hair and designed for all types of curly hair. The expo was Saturday August 25 at the Addison Conference Centre.

The expo featured workshops by top industry leaders, demonstrations, vendors and much more. Speakers include, Dr. Nina Ellis Hervy, Karen Wilson Top Stylist, Certified Nutritionists Betty Murray, and CEO and Creator of Koil by Nature, Pamela



Left to right Pamela Jenkins, CEO and Creator of Koils By Nature, Betty Murray, President of Living Well Dallas, Audra Cooper, CEO of Naturally Divine Beauty Supply, Karen Wilson, Karen Wilson Natural Beauty; Not pictured Dr. Nina Ellis Hervy, Karen Wilson Top Stylist, Certified Nutritionists Betty Murray, and CEO and Creator of Koil by Nature, Pamela Jenkins.

See HAIR, Page 8

NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY

September 13th - 7 am - Midnight

Supporting Learners are Leaders, Inc.

Give to Learners are Leaders, Inc. through DonorBridgeTx.org on September 13 and your donation will be multiplied!

GET UP and GIVE!

Visit www.LL-inc.org or www.donorbridgetx.org for more information.

Powered by Community Foundation of Texas

Where Does
DJ Kayotik

Get His Funk?

Go to NorthDallasGazette.com and click DJ Kayotik's photo to find out!

2012 Urban League recap

BY KENDRIA BROWN,
NDG INTERN

It was a formal and exciting time at the Hilton Anatole on this past Saturday night! The 45th anniversary of the Urban League Gala presented awards to well-deserving people and provided an outstanding audience. There was music and dinner that brought everyone together in grace and honor.

There was a delightful local band, VINJAC who smoothed out the night for the audience and guests. The

Master of Ceremonies was WFAA Channel 8 meteorologist Greg Fields and CEO/President of Urban League, Dr. Beverly Mitchell-Brooks, presented awards.

The awards given included the Buddy J. Minyard Corporate Award for Coco Cola Refreshments, Community of Spirit Award for Edna Pemberton, Whitney M. Young Jr. Humanitarian Award for James Washington, and President's Award for Stan Levenson.



Dr. Beverly Mitchell-Brooks and NDG Intern Kendria Brown



Dallas producer Ken Topolsky and Urban League Director of Marketing/Development Deborah Cohen



Stan and Barbara Levenson



Guest Talisa Lavarry



Edna Pemberton

Gerontologist to speak at VNA luncheon September 27

Gerontologist Dee Wadsworth will be the featured speaker at the September 27 bereavement luncheon hosted by the Visiting Nurse Association. Ms. Wadsworth will speak on "Coping with 'The Blues,' Loss, and the Need to Adapt."

The luncheon is from noon to 1 p.m. at the Church of the Incarnation



Gerontologist Dee Wadsworth will be the featured speaker at the September 27 bereavement luncheon hosted by the Visiting Nurse Association.

on 3966 McKinney Avenue in Dallas. There is no cost to attend the luncheon, but reservations are requested and can be made through September 25 by calling 214-689-2633.

VNA's bereavement luncheons offer supportive company from friendly and understanding people to individuals who have suffered the loss of a loved one.

Texas NAACP responds to the Court's rejection of Texas's district maps

Gary Bledsoe of the Texas NAACP issued the following statement last week when a federal court rejected the GOP's drawn district maps.

"We are heartened by the decision of the 3 Judge Panel sitting in D.C. today. Notably they were a bipartisan panel and they looked at the evidence objectively with no bias in regards to the law and an obvious intention to make whatever decision was justified by the facts. They put individual and partisan interests aside in fashioning this opinion and that is notable. Without question this opinion makes it clear that there is a continuing



need for the Voting Rights Act and particularly Section 5. It is essential that Judges rise above individual or partisan interests like this because only such judicial statesmanship can save us from tyranny.

This is a notable opinion in that the Judges believed

that there was intentional discrimination in the manner that the State drew the Congressional districts for each of Texas African-American Representatives. The three Judge panel quoted each of the three African-American Congresspersons regarding how the economic engines were taken from their districts as well as how their Congressional offices were all taken out of the districts drawn for them by the Legislature. Of important note to the Judges was the fact that all white Congresspersons maintained their districts which was quite a contrast."

Carrollton now offers iPads to use at the library

The Carrollton Public Library, through a donation from the Friends of The Carrollton Public Library, have instituted a pilot program to have iPads available for in-house check-out for up to four hours. The program allows patrons to borrow an iPad in-house, use it with the free WiFi provided, become technologically savvy and experience an iPad.

This program will allow Library patrons to utilize the many digital offerings at the

Library, including the Library catalog, Library research apps and the ability to search for online information, all from a comfortable chair in the Library and without being bound to a Library desktop computer. iPads will be available at both Carrollton Public Library locations: Carrollton Public Library at Hebron and Josey (4220 N. Josey Lane) and the Carrollton Public Library at Josey Ranch Lake (1700 Keller Springs Road).

To utilize the in-house iPad checkout system, you must be an adult over the age of 18 that is living in Carrollton, have a valid Library card older than six months, and a valid Texas driver's license with current Carrollton address or government-issued identification.

For more information, stop by either Library location, call 972-466-4800 or visit http://innovative.cityof-carrollton.com/screens/library_ipads.html online.

HAIR, continued from Page 7

Naturally Divine Beauty is moving to a new location with a new name - Natural Beauty Supply on October 1. They will offer new services such as a Natural Hair & Curly Salon, hair analysis, with other

flexible product options. The North Dallas location is at 3556 Forest Lane in Dallas. They will remain at their Grapevine Mills location until September 24.

They are looking to hire licensed cosmetologists

and braiders dedicated to the care of natural/curly hair and the use of natural hair care products. Interested applicants should contact them at the Grapevine Mills location.

Did Michelle Obama revive President Obama's re-election campaign?

BY RUTH FERGUSON,
NDG EDITOR

When President-Elect Barack Obama and the new First Family walked out together on stage at Grant Park in Chicago, many seem to forget that the improbable victory could easily be credited to Michelle Obama. At the beginning of his journey to the White House, heated discussions around the country focused on if the U.S. Senator was too much like a professor to be embraced by the African American community.

Today President Obama's likeability is one of his greatest assets. But in 2008 the speculation was if he was "black enough" to be embraced by the African American community. Campaign strategists took note of how well received Michelle Obama was received. Her easy grace, intelligence blended with her down to earth concerns about the safety of her husband and well being of her children.

As more African American women began to know her, they became more willing to give her husband further consideration in his campaign against former First Lady and then U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton. While many other factors contributed to his ultimate victory, observers admit that without the reception of Michelle in places like South Carolina early in the primary season, victory was unlikely.

Flash forward four years later, and despite his considerable accomplishments President Obama is in a statistical tie with GOP nominee Mitt Romney. Today you see more 2008 Obama bumper stickers than 2012 by 20 to 1, leading to speculation that the apathy of his political base could cost him a four-year

extension on his temp job.

Also, there are concerns that as the campaign strategists vigorously pursue the gay community and the Hispanic vote – that perhaps they are forgetting the Black vote. There is an enthusiasm gap across all voting groups, but it is very pronounced in the Black community.

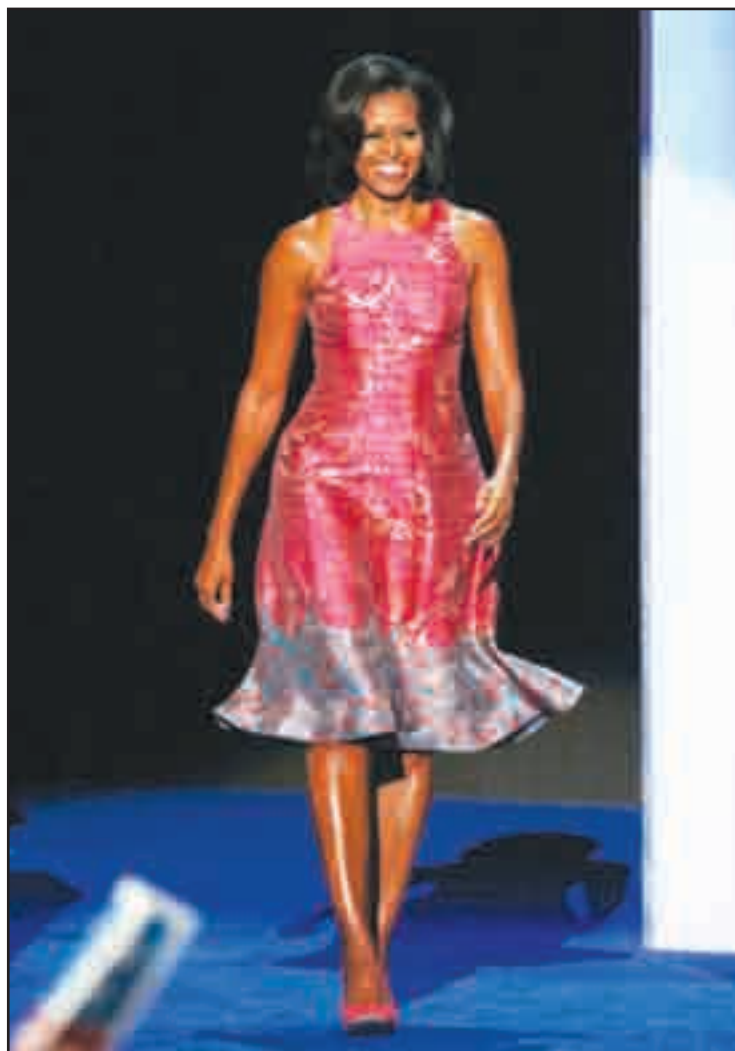
And then on the opening night of the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina First Lady Michelle Obama brought the house down and perhaps re-charged the president's re-election campaign. In a night focused on the crucial female voters the First Lady sought to remind voters why they liked her husband in the first place.

In a speech she reportedly personally spent month writing, the First Lady's performance received nearly universal compliments from the talking heads across news network pundits.

CNN's Wolf Blitzer proclaimed, "The First Lady did not hit a home run, she hit a grand slam."

MSNBC political analyst and former Republican National Committee Chairman Michael Steele said, "I thought the First Lady gave a hell of a speech. I know I'm supposed to be all partisan, but I'm an American. That was a very good speech given by the First Lady. You gotta give props were props were due."

Fox News Chris Wallace criticized the speech as being all about government, he did acknowledge it was heartfelt and declared it was masterful.



First Lady Michelle Obama

So, if President Obama wins re-election, perhaps a good amount of the credit will belong to the speech given by the First Lady.

Below are excerpts from the speech:

"You see, even though back then Barack was a Senator and a presidential candidate...to me, he was still the guy who'd picked me up for our dates in a car that was so rusted out, I could actually see the pavement going by through a hole in the passenger side door...he was the guy whose proudest possession was a coffee table he'd found in a dumpster, and whose only pair of decent shoes was half a size too small.

But when Barack started telling me about his family – that's when I knew I had found a kindred

spirit, someone whose values and upbringing were so much like mine.

You see, Barack and I were both raised by families who didn't have much in the way of money or material possessions but who had given us something far more valuable – their unconditional love, their unflinching sacrifice, and the chance to go places they had never imagined for themselves."

...

"Barack's grandmother started out as a secretary at a community bank...and she moved quickly up the ranks...but like so many women, she hit a glass ceiling.

And for years, men no more qualified than she was – men she had actually trained – were promoted up the ladder ahead of her,

earning more and more money while Barack's family continued to scrape by.

But day after day, she kept on waking up at dawn to catch the bus...arriving at work before anyone else...giving her best without complaint or regret.

And she would often tell Barack, "So long as you kids do well, Bar, that's all that really matters."

Like so many American families, our families weren't asking for much.

They didn't begrudge anyone else's success or care that others had much more than they did...in fact, they admired it.

They simply believed in that fundamental American promise that, even if you don't start out with much, if you work hard and do what you're supposed to do, then you should be able to build a decent life for yourself and an even better life for your kids and grandkids.

That's how they raised us...that's what we learned from their example.

We learned about dignity and decency – that how hard you work matters more than how much you make...that helping others means more than just getting ahead yourself.

We learned about honesty and integrity – that the truth matters...that you don't take shortcuts or play by your own set of rules...and success doesn't count unless you earn it fair and square.

We learned about gratitude and humility – that so many people had a hand in our success, from the teachers who inspired us to

the janitors who kept our school clean...and we were taught to value everyone's contribution and treat everyone with respect.

Those are the values Barack and I – and so many of you – are trying to pass on to our own children.

That's who we are."

...

"When it comes to the health of our families, Barack refused to listen to all those folks who told him to leave health reform for another day, another president.

He didn't care whether it was the easy thing to do politically – that's not how he was raised – he cared that it was the right thing to do.

He did it because he believes that here in America, our grandparents should be able to afford their medicine...our kids should be able to see a doctor when they're sick...and no one in this country should ever go broke because of an accident or illness.

And he believes that women are more than capable of making our own choices about our bodies and our health care...that's what my husband stands for.

When it comes to giving our kids the education they deserve, Barack knows that like me and like so many of you, he never could've attended college without financial aid.

And believe it or not, when we were first married, our combined monthly student loan bills were actually higher than our mortgage.

We were so young, so in love, and so in debt.

That's why Barack has fought so hard to increase student aid and keep interest rates down, because he wants every young person

See OBAMA, Page 11

Plano Balloon Festival kicks off Sept. 21

2012 will mark 33 years of ballooning in Plano at the InTouch Credit Union Plano Balloon Festival, a three-day event beginning at 4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 21 at Oak Point Park, 2801 E. Spring Creek Parkway.

The weekend offers something for everyone; entertainment on the FOX 4 Community Stage and KLUV Main Stage, Friday and Saturday evening glows, Saturday evening fireworks, special kids art activities in the Central Market Kids Fun Zone, and the kaleidoscope of colors provided by the 50 hot-air balloons.

The balloons will launch Friday at 6 p.m., Saturday at 7 a.m. and 6 p.m., and Sunday at 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. (weather permitting).



The major draw for the balloon festival is the 50 colorful, hot air balloons. Fun for all ages, are the special shapes that attend the festival. This year's shapes include: Annie the Lady Bug, Little Pirate, Little Bee, Pepi, High Jack, and Jim & Betty with a special appearance by Cosmos at the Saturday night glow.

Attendees will have an opportunity to purchase a balloon ride during the Event. Flights will be offered on a first come first



serve basis and will be flown weather permitting and at the pilots discretion. All rides are pre-sold prior to the Festival. Ride cost will be \$250.00 per person. Rides are available on the festival website www.planoballoonfest.org.

For the adventurous, the RE/MAX parachute team will perform Friday, Saturday, and Sunday afternoons at 5 p.m., jumping from their plane over the park and landing right in the middle of the launch

field. Friday and Saturday evening, some of the balloons will provide a breathtaking sight as they inflate and glow after it gets dark.

This year the Morning Maniacs will show case their classic cars on Saturday from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Runners will take off and seemingly float along

the Half Mara-thon, 5K or Family Fun Run Sunday Sept. 23 course after a one-of-a-kind start like no other. It kicks off at 7 a.m. with a balloon launch (weather permitting) will fill the skies overhead with the course leading them back to the Festival grounds where the race bib earns the runner a fabulous hot breakfast, complements of Central Market. Half marathoners can expect a great technical shirt, custom medal, and awesome winner's trophies. Two additional complimentary tickets (race bib admits the runner) and VIP parking will be an incentive to bring your own cheering section. Register at www.planoballoonfest.org.

Thanks to the participation by over 42 local non-profit agencies, independent vendors, and sponsors they offer everything you can imagine to eat and play. The non-profits provide everything from Plano West Rotary funnel cakes to glow sticks sold at dusk by the Knights of Columbus.

For the past 32 years, this event has been organized and designed to provide entertainment for the entire family. The Central Market Kid's Fun Zone is filled with a 'free Kids Ko-



runner', huge inflatables, and more.

NDG Gossip: Kanye West's use of the B word

BY KENDRIA BROWN,
NDG INTERN

B is for brave, B is for better, no B is for b****, let Kanye West tell it. As controversial as the word is, Mr. West has managed to put a nice spin on it in one of his latest songs, "Perfect B***h"- speaking of the love in his life Ms. Kim K. West has noted Kim Kardashian as being the inspiration behind this song and its lyrics. For Kim, this is good to know.

Kanye has decided to give that B word a closer look and how it is used. In one of his tweets from the past weekend, West says "is the word B**** acceptable? To be more specific, is it acceptable for a man to call a woman a b**** even if it's endearing? Even typing it in question form [it] still feels harsh?... Is it ok to use b**** as we put BAD in front of it? Like you a BAD B**** [?]"



Kanye West

When West was asked of using the B word in his music, he is surprised that anyone would question his authority and the lyrical usage in his songs. "I like to use profanity as a tool and not a crutch", says West.

Suggestedly, hip hop has authorized acceptance of such words and b**** and n**** are equivocal terms that have more negative connotation than positive- generally speaking and depending on who you ask.

There are people using b**** and n**** as if there are no other labels to put on men and women of any race, particularly blacks. Give the game a bad name and call it a day- players gonna play!

"Perhaps the words B***H and N***A are now neither positive or negative. They are just potent and it depends on how they are used and by whom?" West adds. If you don't have nothing nice to say it, don't say it all! Maybe "Perfect B****" is a call to order.



Tweet and Greet for Free State Fair Classic Tickets

Fall in Dallas means State Fair time. There are two things visitors love about the Texas State Fair – fried foods and football.

The Southwest Airlines State Fair Classic is the annual game between Grambling State University of Louisiana and Prairie View A&M University of Texas. The two teams have been facing off at Fair Park since the 1980s, with fans looking forward to

halftime showdown between the marching bands as much as they do the football game.

Would you like to see the game in person? Keep your eye on our Facebook and Twitter pages for more details about our Tweet and Greets scheduled for more details on where you can pick up your FREE tickets at the Williams Fried Chicken locations:

- Tuesday Sept. 11 6 p.m. in Garland at 1570 First St

- Thursday Sept. 13 6 p.m. in Dallas at 9359 Forest Lane

- Saturday Sept. 22 1 p.m. in Dallas at 238 W Illinois

Don't worry Tarrant County fans – more locations to be announced. Important that you watch www.Facebook.com/NorthDallasGazette and www.Twitter.com/NDGEditor for more details.

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Black chambers convene in Austin for 12th annual conference

The Texas Association of African American Chambers of Commerce (TAAACC) will host its 12th Annual Conference Sept. 13-15 at Austin's Crowne Plaza Hotel & Convention Center in Austin.

"Our theme this year – *Putting Your Business in the Black by Design* – highlights the qualities our members

will have to demonstrate in the current economic climate," said TAAACC Chairman Jim Wyatt. "Even though Texas has escaped the brunt of the economic downturn, African American businesses and the chambers that support them will have to sharpen our skills and stiffen our resolve to be



competitive in this environment."

Representing the interests of nearly thirty Black chambers across the state, TAAACC will convene a line-up of workshops and seminars designed to address small business issues, contracting opportunities and professional devel-

opment for chamber officials.

- Close a "Deal" with state agencies and or other prime contractors

- Annual report from TAAACC Professional Services Committee

- TAAACC Convention Vendor Fair

- State Rep. Sylvester Turner will provide confer-

ence kick-off remarks

- "Reginald Gates Best of the Best" business awards

- A conversation on "Legislative Issues" as reported by Senator Ellis, Senator West & State Rep. James White

For additional information visit the TAAACC website – www.taaacc.org.

CALLS, continued from Page 1

There are steps you can take to curtail annoying calls; and just as important, ways to avoid falling for telemarketing scams:

First, if you haven't already done so, register your phone numbers with the registry, either online at www.donotcall.gov or by calling 888-382-1222 from each phone you wish to enroll. Although it's illegal for telemarketers to call wireless phones, you may want to register them just in case.

Be aware that certain organizations are exempt from

the Do Not Call regulations barring contact. Charities, political organizations, telephone surveyors and companies with which you've done business in the last 18 months (and their affiliates and business partners) are still allowed to contact you unless you specifically request to be removed from their lists.

Telemarketers have up to 31 days to update their lists, so if you're not currently registered it could take that long for calls to cease. After that, you can file complaints

about unwanted calls at the Do Not Call website or phone number. Remember, though: Debt collectors may continue to call you, whether or not your number is registered.

Here are a few additional tips for reducing call volume:

Use Caller ID to screen incoming calls. By law, telemarketers must use some iteration of their business name in their onscreen ID, but many unscrupulous organizations will attempt to "spoof" you by providing

misleading identifying information.

If you don't recognize the name or number you can either take the call or let it go to voicemail. If the line goes dead, that usually means it was a robo-call and there was no live operator available. Either way, you'll likely continue to receive calls unless you take action.

If a message is left and you think the organization is legitimate, call them back to request being taken off their own internal Do Not Call list, which they're required to

maintain by law or face steep fines. If you suspect the call is a scam, go straight to filing a complaint.

You can also use your phone carrier's call-blocking function to prevent future calls from that number. However, this step won't do much good if someone is harvesting and selling your phone number to multiple telemarketers; plus, many carriers limit the number of callers you can block.

And finally: You can notify specific sellers in writing that you wish to continue re-

ceiving their calls. Just be aware that some marketers may attempt to obtain such consent surreptitiously via innocent-seeming solicitations or emails. This is one more reason why it's important to read every document and email carefully before signing or checking "I agree" to the fine print.

Jason Alderman is a financial expert who directs Practical Money Skills for Life (www.practicalmoneyskills.com), a free, award-winning financial education program.

OBAMA, continued from Page 9

to fulfill their promise and be able to attend college without a mountain of debt.

So in the end, for Barack, these issues aren't political – they're personal.

Because Barack knows what it means when a family struggles.

He knows what it means to want something more for your kids and grandkids.

Barack knows the American Dream because he's lived it...and he wants everyone in this country to have that same opportunity, no matter who we are, or where we're from, or what we look like, or who we love.

And he believes that when you've worked hard, and done well, and walked through that doorway of opportunity...you do not slam it shut behind you...you reach back, and you give other folks the same chances that helped you succeed."

...
"I see the concern in his eyes...and I hear the determination in his voice as he tells me, 'You won't believe what these folks are going through, Michelle... it's not right. We've got to keep working to fix this. We've got so much more to do.'"

I see how those stories – our collection of struggles and hopes and dreams – I see how that's what drives Barack Obama every single day.

And I didn't think it was possible, but today, I love my husband even more than I did four years ago...even more than I did 23 years ago, when we first met.

I love that he's never forgotten how he started.

I love that we can trust Barack to do what he says he's going to do, even when it's hard – especially when it's hard.

I love that for Barack, there is no such thing as

"us" and "them" – he doesn't care whether you're a Democrat, a Republican, or none of the above...he knows that we all love our country...and he's always ready to listen to good ideas...he's always looking for the very best in everyone he meets.

And I love that even in the toughest moments, when we're all sweating it – when we're worried that the bill won't pass, and it seems like all is lost – Barack never lets himself get distracted by the chatter and the noise.

Just like his grandmother, he just keeps getting up and moving forward...with patience and wisdom, and courage and grace.

And he reminds me that we are playing a long game here...and that change is hard, and change is slow, and it never happens all at once.

But eventually we get there, we always do."



Community Calendar

Visit www.NorthDallasGazette.com and click on *Community Calendar* for more events!

Weeknights

Award-winning journalist **Cheryl Smith: Cheryl's World** provides informative talk, commentary and interesting guests Tune in weeknights at 6 p.m., Sundays 8 a.m. & Saturdays at Noon on Blog Talk Radio or call 646-200-0459 to listen.

Through September 16 Sharky Sundays- Planet Shark: Predator or Prey exhibiton at Musuem of Nature & Science, 3535 Grand Ave; Cost \$7-\$10; Info: 214.428.5555

Avenue Q at Theatre Too, 2800 Routh Street, Ste #168; Cost: \$10-\$40; Info: 214-871-3300

Through September 23 Sandy Lake Amusement Park in Carrollton. Admission is \$2 and children under 3 years old is free (see family coupon for free admission online) and coupons for rides are \$.50. Info: sandylake.com

Through November 27

Family Movie Time at Irving Public Library, 801 W Irving Blvd at 4:30 p.m.; free; Info: 972.721.2628

Through December 6

Books N' Bugs at Texas Discovery Gardens, 3601 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd- Fair Park at 10:30 a.m.; Cost: \$8-\$10; Info: http://texasdiscoverygardens.org/events_and_classes.php

Through December 8

New Life Skills Certificate program for African Women each Saturday morning from 9:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Audelia Branch Library located 10045 Audelia Rd. (at Church St.) in Dallas. Info: hellen.fissihaie5@gmail.com

Through December 18

TeenScene Movie at Irving Public Library, 801 W Irving Blvd; Free; Info: 972.721.2628

September 6

Verizon's How Sweet the Sound featuring CeCe Winans, Mary Mary, Fred

Hammond & more at Verizon Theatre at Grand Prairie at 7:30 p.m.; 972-854-5050

September 9

Tyga, Kirko Bangz & more at The Palladium Ballroom at 8 p.m.; Info: 972.343.2444

September 15

B.L.A.S.T. I Workshop; Info: www.lifelong.tcu.edu 817-257-7132

September 16

COMMUNITY ARTS DAY at City of Richardson and the Eisemann Center from 1-5 p.m.; Free to attend; Info: 972-744-4650

Shark Sunday: Award-winning shark conservationist David McGuire at the Museum of Nature & Science in Fair Park; Info: 214.428. 5555

IMAX: Whales at the Museum of Nature & Science in Fair Park; Info: 214.428. 5555

IMAX: Flying Monsters at the Museum of Nature & Science in Fair Park; Info: 214.428.5555

September 20

Beer & Bones: Science in the City at the Museum of Nature & Science in Fair Park at 7-10 p.m.; 18+; Info: 214.428.5555

Irving International Women's Consortium Event from 6 – 8:30 p.m. at North Lake College – Student Life Center – Room H200, 5001 N. MacArthur Blvd. This is a free event, but you will need a ticket to attend. Please register at http://dcccdoir.us.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_aYtj2S6NBf06fX. Tickets can be picked up on at 5:30 p.m. outside the Student Life Center. For more information: visit www.iwc.net

September 19

The Family Place Trailblazer Awards Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. at the Omni Hotel, 555 S. Lamar, Dallas. Tickets are \$125. Sponsorships available, info @ www.familyplace.org

September 22

B.L.A.S.T. II Workshop; Info: www.lifelong.tcu.edu 817-257-7132

September 24

The next meeting of the **Lake Highlands AARP – Chapter 3881** will be held at 9:30 a.m. at the Lake Highlands United Methodist Church located at 9015 Plano Road, Dallas. Potluck lunch follows the program on the Chihuly Exhibit at the Arboretum. Bring along a friend.

September 25

The King's Men at Verizon Theatre in Grand Prairie at 7 p.m.; Tickets range \$30-\$100; Info: 972-854-5050

September 29

The Fundamentals of Etiquette & Social Protocol for Grades 5-8 at TCU; Info: www.lifelong.tcu.edu

The Irving Black Arts Council invites the public to free event featuring griot Tony Brown as he guides you through an amazing array of storytellers covering topics from the "Motherland to the

Homeland." African Desserts will be served by William Batson, Second Chance Sweets. Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd., – Atrium / Suite 200, Irving, Info: 214-993-8444 or www.irvingblackarts.com

October 2-21

Dallas Summer Musicals bring THE ADDAMS FAMILY to the Music Hall at Fair Park; Tickets \$15-\$75; Info: 214.413. 3940

October 5-7

Warner Bros. presents **Bugs Bunny** at the Symphony Single tickets start at \$28, 214-692-0203 or www.DallasSymphony.com.

October 6 & 7

Cottonwood Art Festival at Cottonwood Park in Richardson, 1321 W. Belt Line Rd at 10 a.m.; Free to attend; Info: 972-744-4581

October 19

Cool Tennis Marathon and Cocktail Kick-off at the Four Seasons Resort and Club Dallas at Las Colinas, 4150 North MacArthur Blvd in Irving; Info: 972-717-2441

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VOLUNTEERS, continued from Page 1

event,” NAFC Executive Director Nicole Lamoureux said. “This C.A.R.E. Clinic is funded and made possible through the generosity of private citizens and sponsors. Not one taxpayer dollar is being used to pay for this clinic. For us to provide much-needed free health care for as many uninsured patients as possible, we will need 100 doctors, 300 to 400 nurses and 500 or more non-medical volunteers.”

Texas has the highest rate of uninsured people in the country with about 26 percent of residents in general and 22 percent of children lacking health insurance. The overall uninsured rate is about the same in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, but the situation for children is even worse with 26.4 percent lacking health insurance. Further, among people living in poverty, the rate of being uninsured soars to 46 percent.

“This free clinic is not just for the sick but also for anyone who is uninsured and has not seen a doctor recently,” LSACC Executive Director Jody Hopkins said. “Some patients have not seen a doctor in several years, others need follow-ups because they have chronic diseases, and some simply need checkups or physicals. The one characteristic they all share is limited access to get such care. All participants will receive preventive, primary medical care and be connected to the area’s safety-net providers and available resources.”

Both medical and non-medical volunteers are

ROSS,

continued from Page 2

lightweight fast-absorbing hair oil improves hair's elasticity and manageability, locking out humidity for continuous frizz control. In addition to moisturizing and strengthening hair to help prevent breakage, it's fast-absorbing and delivers no build-up and residue leaving hair, scalp and skin incredibly soft and smooth

needed from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. on the day of the clinic, Sept. 29, as well as for setup on Thursday afternoon, Sept. 27, and all day Friday, Sept. 28. Medical volunteers needed for the Dallas clinic include doctors of medicine, doctors of osteopathy, nurse practitioners, physician's assistants, registered nurses, licensed vocational nurses, emergency medical technicians, medical administrators, licensed clinical social workers and more. Non-medical volunteers are needed to help with documentation, logistical support, patient intake and translation, as well as to be patient greeters and escorts.

Information on the event and how to register is available online at: www.nafcclinics.org/. Information on how to donate to support this and future clinics is also available at that website address by clicking on the “Donate Now” button. Patients can register for an appointment by calling 800-340-1301.

**Store Management Opportunities**

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www.hobbylobby.com
EOE

HAIN, continued from Page 2

dren's Hospital in 2001 and joined the staff there in the Division of General Pediatrics. He rose through the ranks to eventually become associate chief of staff there. He also founded the institution's pediatric hospitalist program.

“We're pleased to have recruited someone of Paul's experience and background, coupled with his enthusiasm, high-energy level and most importantly, a real passion for making life better for children,” said Peter Roberts, Children's executive vice president of Population Health and network development.

“The greatest challenges facing all health-care providers today, including Children's, are improvement of medical care outcomes, the efficiency of care delivered and the underlying health of the population,” Roberts said.

“Achieving these three goals simultaneously will require significant redesign and integration of current clinical care delivery processes and systems. A key ingredient of success is effective physician leadership.”

In Nashville, Hain frequently appeared on TV newscasts discussing topics such as H1N1, vaccinations, summer trauma, heat exhaustion, tick-borne diseases, drowning and patient identification errors. He is also a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and a member of the Society of Hospital Medicine. He has been board-certified in pediatrics since 2001.

Hain also is an associate professor of pediatrics at UT Southwestern Medical Center. He and his wife, who is a general pediatrician, have one child.

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**REQUEST FOR
PROPOSALS**

The North Central Texas Council of Governments seeks consultant services to develop an accessible database that is easily maintained and updated, in which public safety agencies' operable and interoperable communications needs are identified. This needs identification system will provide funding councils, committees, and local governments accurate and timely information on communications needs. RFP is found: <http://www.nctcog.org/aa/rfp.asp>. Once accessed, send contact person's and Firm's name to: keithley@nctcog.org. Deadline for submitting proposals is October 11, 2012, 3:00 P.M. CDT. .

AVENUE F CHURCH OF CHRIST IN PLANO

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Call 972-423-8833 for AFFECT, Inc. or email: AFFECT-TxInc@aol.com for counseling services, resources and assistance for job readiness and training programs for individuals. For couples we offer services for marital relationships and for ex-offenders we offer programs for getting back into the work force.

September 9

Join us for Wednesday Morning Bible Study at 10:30 a.m. and come back at 7 p.m. for Prayer, Praise and Songs as we worship and praise God.

September 30, 10:45 a.m.

It's time to get and stay healthy in your natural and spiritual life; come for our Worship Services and stay for our FREE Blood Pressure Clinic.

Brother Ramon Hodridge,
Minister

1026 Avenue F
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BIBLE WAY COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

September 9, 9:35 a.m.

You're invited to our Sunday School at 9:35 a.m. and to stay for Morning Worship at 11 a.m. as we worship and praise God.

September 12, 7 p.m.

Come to our Wednesday's Bible Study to learn more

about God's Word and help us to praise and worship His holy name.

Also bring your children to our Wednesday Night Children Program, two things are incorporated when they come, children learn and they play.

Dr. Timothy Wilbert, Sr.
Senior Pastor
4215 N. Greenview Drive
Irving, TX 75062
972-257-3766
www.biblewayirving.org

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH IN RICHARDSON

September 8, 11 a.m.

Ladies you are invited to our Women of Wisdom meeting as we study and discuss God's Word. Call the church for details.

September 9

Join us in worship at 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. as we praise and worship God's to the utmost.

September 12, 7:30 p.m.

Come to Bible Study as we go further in and deeper down into God's Word and we give Him all of the glory and praise.

Dr. Terrence Autry,
Senior Pastor
701 E. Centennial Blvd.
Richardson, TX 75081
972-991-0200
www.followpeace.org

DAYSTAR DELIVERANCE MINISTRIES

September, 2012
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Visit Helen's House Tuesdays and Fridays (exceptions are bad weather and holidays) to receive, to give, to comfort and to fellowship. The give-away of food, love and household items is given freely to all those who could use a little touch.

Pastor Minnie
Hawthorne-Ewing
635 W. Campbell Road
Suite 210
Richardson, TX 75080
972-480-0200

FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH IN ALLEN "The Ship"

Monday – Friday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

TheShip3C's Prayer Lines for those that are in need are 972-649-0566 and 972-649-0567 or they may be submitted via email to: prayerline@theship3c.org

September 9, 9:30 a.m.

You're invited to experience the joy of praising and worshipping God to the fullest at Story Elementary School, 1550 Edelweiss Drive, Allen, TX. We will have Baby Dedication and praise God for His blessings.

September 12, 7 p.m.

Join us at our Wednesday Night Live in the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall on Belmont Drive, with old school prayer and testimony. Also, come to our Corporate Prayer and our Kidz Zone (an environment to equip children to grow and to show God's love.)

September 23, 1:30-5:30 p.m.

The public is invited to our Founder's Day Celebration at Celebration Park, 701 Angel Parkway in Allen, Texas. We will have fun, food, games and prizes. Bring your lawn chairs, tents, etc. There will be a contest for the best BBQ and best dessert. Call the church for details.

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed.D.
Senior Pastor
1550 Edelweiss Drive
In Allen for Sunday
Morning Worship.
Admin. Building Address
Is 200 W. Belmont Drive
Allen, TX 75013
972-359-9956
www.theship3c.org

NORTH DALLAS ROCKBRIDGE CHURCH

September 9

Join us in Prayer with Pastor at 8:30 a.m. and stay for Worship Celebration at 10 a.m. as we worship and praise God.

Timothy Jones,
Lead Pastor
21 Prestige Circle
Allen, TX 75002
214-383-9993
www.rockbridgechurch.com

SAINT MARK MBC IN MCKINNEY

September 9, 9:30 a.m.

Join us in our Education Ministries, stay for our Worship Celebration at 10:45 a.m.; and you're invited to join us for our Friends and Family Day as we fellowship, worship and praise God.

September 13, 7 p.m.

You're invited to our Wellness Ministry with Tamara Haskins, Director and Fitness Instructor. Call for details.

Dr. Charles Wattley
Senior Pastor
1308 Wilcox Street
McKinney TX 75069
972-542-6178
www.saintmarkbc.com

SHILOH MBC IN PLANO

September 9, 8 a.m. And 11 a.m.

Join us in our Morning Worship times and stay for our Sunday School at 10 a.m.

September 12, 7 p.m.

You're invited to our Mid-week Service as we worship and praise God.

Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr.
Senior Pastor
920 E. 14th Street
Plano, TX 75074
972-423-6695
www.smbcplano.org

THE INSPIRING BODY OF CHRIST CHURCH

September 9, 7:30 a.m.

Join us as we worship, honor and magnify God's Holy name.

September 10, 7 p.m.

Come to Monday School as we study the Word of God, worship Him and praise His Holy name.

Pastor Rickie Rush
7701 S. Westmoreland
Road

Dallas, TX 75237
972-372-4262
www.ibocjoy.org

VICTORY BIBLE CHURCH INTERNATIONAL, (VBCI DALLAS)

September 9

You are invited to a Life Transforming Service that will change your life as we praise and worship God for His blessings.

1100 Business Parkway,
Suite 1007
Richardson, TX 75081

WORD OF LIFE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

Early Prayer

Join us in prayer early in the morning at 5 a.m. on Monday – Thursday at 1-661-673-8600, Code # 142219 and please put your phone on mute. Prayer will change people, things and situations.

Three Day Revival September 9-11

Join us in Sherman, Texas on September 9th at 5 p.m.; September 10th at 6:30 p.m. and September 11 at 2 p.m.

October 2-5, 7 p.m.

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"I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them." **St. John 17:23-26 (NKJV)**

A good relationship with anyone today is hard to find, because good relationships are something you have to work at. There are not many people that will say, "I will stick it out through thick and thin."

There are plenty of people that prepare for a relationship but few people prepare for building a relationship.

Remember, every relation is not going to be like

you expect it; it will not be as you think it will, but if you will work at the relationship, you can make it.

Ways to Value a Relationship: Know the value of the relationship that you are going into, count up the cost. If you don't know the value, you will not treat it with the importance it deserves.

You can easily tell how people value something by the way they take care of it, if you value something, you will cherish and take care of it.

Do you value time spent with God and His word? Do you take time to read His word daily? Do you put effort into the relationship with God? Do you have faith in Him? When you read and study the Word of God on a daily basis your faith will build in the relationship with Him.

It's the little things that add up in a relationship. With the little things, you will either build up the relationship or tear it down.

Put some time and energy in what you value. Some folks like what is brought into a relationship, but they don't like taking care of what is brought into it. Do things to build the relationship. "Therefore by



Elder Gregory & Sister Vicki Mason at his ordination in the Gospel Ministry on Sunday September 2, 2012



Brothers celebrating the ordination of Elder Gregory Mason as a Gospel Minister. Standing L to R: Deacon Andrell Ruffin; Pastor A.J. Wilson; Elder Mason; Elder Donald Rowe and Dr. Gregory Voss, the happiest pastor of Word of Life COGIC in Carrollton, Texas; and in front, Brother Thaddeus Jessie.

Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased." **Hebrews 13:15-16 (NKJV)**. If you value the relationship with God you will spend time and energy doing for others because doing for others pleases Him.

Sacrifice for the relationship. Don't call sacrificing for a relationship a burden, because sacrificing is not building a wall.

By love and faith you serve one another. Don't make it a habit of using other people. Whatever you do in word or deed, do it all to the glory of God.

Many times it's hard to face reality—but you have to face reality in a relationship with God. In times like these, it's difficult to have faith in God.

You need to learn how to communicate with God. In prayer tell God that you appreciate the things He does for you.

There are a lot of little things you can do to build a relationship with God, it's not the big things. Think about it.

Jesus prayed that we learn to build a relationship with God. We build on that relationship by reading His Word daily. The Word of God will always stand.

Walk in God's presence and you won't have trouble building a good relationship with Him, your spouse, your family and your friends.

Remember, all of the little things add up to trusting God and trusting Him is how you go about Building a Relationship with God.

Security requested for Rev. Anthony Evans in light of the shooting at the Family Research Council

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI), a coalition of 34,000 African American churches spanning 15 denominations and representing 15.7 million African Americans and its board of directors have ordered security for NBCI

President Rev. Anthony Evans because of the NBCI stance against same-sex marriage. The shooting underscores the violence that has plagued the same-sex marriage debate. The security measures are necessary to protect Rev. Evans and

the NBCI stance for Christ and against same-sex marriage.

Ms. Debra Coley-Bagley, chair of NBCI's Board of Directors says, "Rev. Evans is a brave Christian clergy who stands on the Word of God, and we

would hate for him to be harmed by the forces of evil that support same-sex marriage. We do, however, commend leaders of the gay community who have denounced the shooting of the staff member at the Family Research Council."

SCHOLARSHIP, continued from Page 6

Muse believe in those traits, as well as a strong work ethic and clear educational goals. Each recipient exhibits those characteristics, and we are excited to have them as students at DCCCD. They are future leaders, and we hope to help them reach their educational and professional goals."

This year's new Muse scholars, their home towns, colleges and intended majors, are:

- Mussie Abraha Abed

of Richardson, El Centro College, nursing;

- Everardo Amaya of Dallas, Eastfield College, renewable and sustainable energy;

- Ernesto Banuelos of Irving, North Lake College, business administration and engineering;

- Martha N. Barajas of Garland, El Centro College, nursing;

- Courtney Belcher of Mesquite, El Centro and Eastfield colleges, nursing;

- Domitila Lico Guevara of Rockwall, Richland College, international business and trade;

- Rachel Slagel of Little Elm, Brookhaven and El Centro colleges; echocardiology technology; and

- Chukwuka John Umeojiako of Addison, Brookhaven College, psychology.

Returning Muse scholars include:

- Ahmed Rashad Elhelw of Addison, Brookhaven

College, petroleum engineering;

- Sharon Ji of Dallas, North Lake College, biology;

- Michael W. Packer of Richardson, Richland College, accounting;

- Erika Quinn of Garland, Richland College, architecture; and

- Stephan B. Sawin of Glenn Heights, Mountain View College, business management.

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NDG Bookshelf



BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER
NDG CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Some days, you get a little bit of exercise.

You hear a good story, and you pounce on it. You spin it to make it funny, bend the facts for more entertainment, and jump to conclusions to make it interesting. The truth might get stretched but when you're running a good tale, who cares?

Someone does – especially if it's about to ruin their life. In the new book *"The Courage to*

Hope" by Shirley Sherrod (with Catherine Whitney), you'll read about one such event.

Shirley Sherrod was born facing racism.

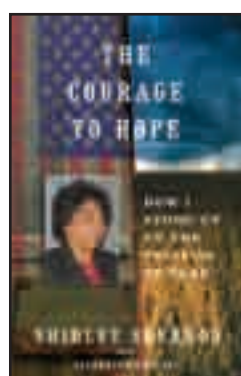
Her father owned their family farm, but the county in which it sat was ruled by whites who relished their positions. Jim Crow laws were enforced for longer than elsewhere and Federal laws and mandates were basically ignored. Sherrod's own father was killed by a white man who was never punished for it.

At this same time, though she didn't know him then, Sherrod's future husband was working hard within the Civil Rights movement.

When they first met, she thought Charles Sherrod was

too skinny. She admits she wasn't very impressed with him – until she heard him speak. Weeks later, they were inseparable, later married, and Sherrod joined her husband in the movement.

Because she'd come from farmers, Sherrod knew she wanted to work on behalf of farm families. The Sherrods purchased good Georgia land and established a communal farm, modeled on a kibbutz that Charles had visited. "Creativity" led to a farm-fresh market operated



from the farm's grounds.

But when the farm was lost, the activist in Sherrod reappeared. She fought discrimination that occurred during the loss, and started officially working for farmers. That ultimately led to an appointment to the position of Georgia Director of Rural Development.

Though it seemed, at first, that the office was meant to help black farmers, Sherrod saw that farming wasn't a racial issue. All farmers needed help and she

was happy to get involved.

So happy, in fact, that she said so at an NAACP meeting.

It was a speech that was dissected, and started a firestorm.

Filled with grace, dignity, and indignity, "The Courage to Hope" seemed to me like a double book, one part then and one part now. Fortunately, both are impressive.

With a voice that still seems a bit baffled by what occurred, author Shirley Sherrod (with Catherine Whitney) writes about confusion and outrage following the manipulation of a bit of her speech that led to her very public job-loss in 2010. Sherrod very squarely lays blame in this book, and though

she doesn't accuse President Obama or his staffers, she's not complimentary.

I liked Sherrod's life story, which is the other part of this book. It shows readers the foundation that gave Sherrod strength, and it's a very good (although cringe-worthy) peek back in time.

This is one of those books that makes you want to yell, cry, and stand up and cheer. It's outrageous and triumphant and if you can handle that, then "The Courage to Hope" is a book to leap at.

"The Courage to Hope" by Shirley Sherrod with Catherine Whitney (Atria, \$24.99, 240 pages, includes notes)

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Wednesday Bible Class 7:00 pm

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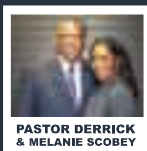
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