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# The Gazette

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## People In The News



Long-time Garland resident Dr. Ronald E. Jones has recently announced his candidacy for Mayor in the 2007 City of Garland election. The election will be held May 12, 2007.

Dr. Ronald E. Jones has worked in the Council-Manager Form of Government for 29 years including over 15 years of Executive Management Experience and has also served as Assistant City Manager of Garland for more than 5 years. He currently serves as a Management Consultant to the City of Garland and as Parliamentarian to the Mayor and City Council. In addition, Dr. Jones has ten years of experience as an adjunct professor in the Dallas County Community College District teaching business management courses. He has owned and directed several successful entrepreneurial enterprises. He is a parliamentarian and is active in the National Association of Parliamentarians. Dr. Jones is a certified mediator and an experienced negotiator.

Dr. Jones has been happily married for over 40 years to Dr. Peggy Jones. They are the parents of Attorney Ronald E. Jones, II and Reverend Daryl L. Jones. Dr. Jones is also the grandfather of 6 wonderful children.

For more info visit [www.RonaldJonesForMayor.com](http://www.RonaldJonesForMayor.com)

Dallas-based and black-owned La Bella Belly Maternity, is proud to announce the opening of its contemporary maternity boutique and spa in the newly developed Village on the Green, an urban and mixed-style development located at the northeast corner of Alpha and Noel Road in North Dallas. The boutique and spa opened its doors to the public on Saturday, November 4, 2006.

"La Bella Belly Maternity's innovative concept combines a swanky maternity boutique with the exquisite spa experience, transforming a traditional shopping experience into a unique lavish indulgence," said Tamarra Billings, owner of La Bella Belly Maternity. "I am extremely excited to have the opportunity to transform the experience of expectant and new mothers."

In celebration of the holiday season, La Bella Belly Maternity is offering a "Winter Ahh Special" that will be the perfect holiday gift for new and expectant mothers. La Bella Belly Maternity at Village on the Green is located near the Galleria Mall at 5301 Alpha Road, Suite 16, Dallas, Texas 75240, [www.labellabellymaternity.com](http://www.labellabellymaternity.com). The boutique is open 6 days a week, Tuesday to Saturday, 10-6 p.m.; Sunday, noon-5 p.m., closed on Mondays.



Christopher Gardner, formerly homeless and now president and CEO of the Chicago-based brokerage firm Gardner Rich & Co., will keynote the 14th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Jan. 20 at the Riverbend Centre in Austin.

Gardner, who turned from being homeless and the sole guardian of his toddler son to a multi-millionaire, penned his autobiography, *The Pursuit of Happyness*, a book that has been made into a movie starring Will Smith as Gardner. The movie is scheduled to be released nationwide on Dec. 15.

"Chris Gardner's story of perseverance crosses all color lines, genders and belief systems, and encourages each of us to never give up on pursuing our goals," said Carol Wright, chairperson of the Austin Area Heritage Council. "We are honored that he has chosen to join us as we celebrate the legacy of Dr. King."

The keynote event will also include a performance by the Grammy award-winning Sounds of Blackness.

The MLK Community Celebration includes the Youth Legacy Awards - recognizing the accomplishments of Austin area high school students, a March and Cultural Festival. For more info visit [www.mlkcelebration.com](http://www.mlkcelebration.com).

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## Plano's Space Ambassador Dazzles And Inspires



She has a smile that lights up a room, the drive and talent to develop and head a multi-million dollar corporation, and a story that's right out of this world! Plano resident Anousheh Ansari is now a global name, recognized as the first private female astronaut in space, and the first person to receive the keys to the City of Plano.

At a reception following the annual Plano Christmas Parade December 2, Mayor Pat Evans lauded Mrs. Ansari for her contributions to the community through her business and volunteer initiatives and added the admiration of the City Council and community for her 10-day space flight, September 18-28, 2006.

"We've never actually presented the keys to the City to anyone before, and we weren't quite sure how to do it," said Mayor Evans in pre-

sending a beautiful glass key case to Mrs. Ansari. "We are all so proud of all you've achieved, and the recognition that you've brought to Plano."

Mrs. Ansari spoke fondly of living in Plano with the pro-business environment it offers while also being a family-friendly community. She and her husband (Hamid Ansari) have been Plano residents since the early 1990's, basing their global in-home technology business, Prodea Systems, in Plano.

She has served on the board of several non-profit organizations, such as Make-a-Wish Foundation of North Texas and Collin County Children's Advocacy Center, lending strong support to several global organizations, supporting social entrepreneurship around the world.

Mrs. Ansari is being touted as a role model for women the world over and states she has strived to be a positive example in her work and everything she has ever done. In a pre-flight interview with SPACE.com

Plano space Ambassador Page 5

## Plano Court Computer System Restored Saturday

On Saturday the Plano Municipal Court computer system was restored to normal operation after experiencing water damage on Tuesday, Dec. 5.

The Municipal Court computer system suffered severe water damage due to an accident involving a broken water pipe in the facility. The outage affected online citation payments and other computer-accessed materials but did not stall or hinder Court operations.

Due to the computer outage, Defendant's whose appearance date fell between Dec. 5 and Dec. 10 will have ten (10) days (until Dec. 21,



2006) to make an appearance without additional penalties. Defendants with appearance

Plano Computer Restored Page 9

## Carolyn Kilpatrick To Head Congressional Black Caucus

AP

The Congressional Black Caucus on Wednesday tapped Rep. Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick as its chairwoman for the next two years, when black lawmakers will wield more power in Congress than ever.

Kilpatrick, D-Mich., a former school teacher and the mother of Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, was chosen unanimously. She succeeds Rep. Mel Watt, D-N.C.

"Watch for us," Kilpatrick told reporters. "We will take this caucus to another level."

Because Democrats will be in control when Congress convenes a new session Jan. 4, the 43-member caucus will take up a historic slate of leadership positions, including the third-ranking member in the House, Majority Whip James Clyburn of South Carolina.

It also will count as members four likely committee heads, up to 20 subcommittee leaders, and the only black senator, Barack Obama of Illinois, a possible presidential candidate.

"That's more power than African-Americans



have ever had in the Congress of the United States," said Ronald Walters, a political scientist and director of the African American Leadership Institute at the University of Maryland.

Kilpatrick said she would continue the organization's focus on issues such as health care, housing and education. Watt said the caucus also would

Kilpatrick To Head CBC Page 5

## How Will African-American Voters Respond To A Barack-Hillary Showdown?

By: Daren Briscoe  
Handicapping the 2008 presidential race got a lot more complicated when Barack Obama indicated that he may

make history as America's first female president.

Newsweek's Daren Briscoe spoke with David Bositis a senior research associate at the Joint Center For Political and Economic Studies—which specializes in polling African-American voters—about how race might affect a Democratic primary showdown between Clinton and Obama.



enter the fray. The senator is young, poised, eloquent and telegenic—and could make history as the nation's first black president. But first Obama would have to win the Democratic Party's nomination by defeating a field that includes early favorite Hillary Clinton—who could herself

Excerpts:

Newsweek: Blacks tend to vote Democratic. Would you expect black support for the party to rise even further if Barack Obama is the party's candidate? Bositis: I would expect it to rise, but not by much, and the reason is that it

Barack-Hillary Showdown Page 8

## Illegal Immigration Laws In Farmer's Branch: Protectionist Or Racist?

By: Paul Hailey  
It may be the middle of December, but things are heating up in Farmer's Branch over anti-illegal immigration ordinances passed by the city council.

Upping the stakes in a debate that is now garnering national media attention, opponents of the passed ordinances turned in a petition on Wednesday with hopes of putting the matter to a vote of Farmer's Branch citizens.

The city charter requires that petitioners collect at least 726 signatures, or 5 percent of the 14,533 voters registered for the May election. While a final count was not available at press time, opponents of the measures were claiming victory in forcing a vote of the entire city,

instead of the six white males on the city council.

Volunteers said they emphasized putting decision making on the matter in the hands of the many instead of the hands of the few.

What we've been telling people is ... it doesn't matter if you are for or against the issue," said volunteer Elizabeth Villafranca. "All that matters is that the will of the people be done. Not the 50 or 70 people who scream the loudest."

Last month, in a series of 6-0 votes, the Farmer's Branch city council passed ordinances that would make English the official language in the city; impose fines on landlords that rent to illegal immigrants, and allow authorities to screen sus-

Protectionist Or Racist? Page 5

## South Africa Uproar Over Call For President Aids Test

South Africa's deputy health minister on Tuesday denied calling upon President Thabo Mbeki to take a public AIDS test, but repeated that she believed it was important for national leaders to be tested.



South African President Thabo Mbeki

Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge, who recently became one of the few senior South African officials to publicly undergo an AIDS test, said she had been misinterpreted -- but not by much -- in a recent interview with the London Sunday Telegraph.

"Although I encourage people to test so that they know their HIV status, I did not, as a matter of fact, call upon the

President to conduct a public test," she said in a statement. "The journalist asked me if I thought it helped if people in leadership positions tested - to which I responded in the affirmative."

Madlala-Routledge has emerged as a key figure in South Africa's fight against AIDS following the apparent

South Africa Uproar Page 8



# Kwanzaa Fest 2006 At Fair Park

Photos By: Ronald Coleman



Karen Gittens (left) of National Cowboy Color Museum with volunteer.



Continental Societies Inc. members Laurina Perry, Hortense Ransom and Judith Nix.



Clarence Banks of Blackball Classics displays authentic Negro League attire.



Gauthier Management Real Estate and Mortgage team members Alice Jackson, Jestina Earls, Portia Pearson, Chillon Edwards, Felecia Gauthier and Kendria Hampton.



Kwanzaafest attendees Shanandalin Reynolds and Aaron Washington.



Alioune Baraka and Jacqueline Baraka explain the healing principles of Raw Shea Butter.



Karen Manning, Kim Makenzia and friend representing the Millennium 2000 Gallery.



Children learned and demonstrated dance moves in the Kid Zone.

## City Of Garland Employees Donate To New Beginning Center

City of Garland employees recently donated over \$200 raised when they participated in Denim Days to End Domestic Violence. The employees paid \$5 each for the opportunity to wear denim to work. "We really appreciate the ongoing support the employees of the City of Garland give to the agency to help those fleeing dangerous relationships" said New Beginning Center Executive Director Jennifer Morrison. 100% of the proceeds from Denim Days benefit victims of domestic violence.

Since it's beginning, over 1,500 community members have participated in New Beginning Center's annual Denim Days To End Domestic Violence.

Participation by these members has raised over \$5,000 for victims of domestic violence...all by wearing denim to work. Traditionally the event is held during Domestic Violence Awareness month in October. However, companies interested in holding their own Denim Days to End Domestic Violence week prior to next October are invited to contact the agency for more information.

The mission of New Beginning Center is to foster an environment of safety, support and respect for families affected by domestic violence. We do so through crisis intervention, counseling, shelter, education, advocacy, and diverse community partnerships. The vision of New Beginning Center is to promote social change that will



Front Row: Dan Ofoegbu, Sharon Towle  
Back Row: Peggy Watkins, Carol Cooper (Director of Purchasing), Doug Townsend, Teresa Pollock, Rudy Vazquez, Nancy Jones

lead to the elimination of domestic violence. Toward fulfilling its mission and vision,

New Beginning Center fosters an environment of safety, support and respect for families

affected by domestic violence and serves Garland and other cities in the east Dallas metropolitan area. Their 24-hour emergency hotline number is 972 276 0057.

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## Around The Town

### Ongoing

#### Sankofa Unplugged!

Come experience the nation's best Open Mic Experience. Musicians, Poets, Actors, be ready to "Bring the heat" to the Sankofa stage Sankofa Arts Cafe & Bar 1906-1908 Martin L. King, Jr. Blvd Dallas. Every Saturday 9:00 p.m.

For info call 214-421-0013.  
www.myspace.com/sankofakrew

**The Collin County Chapter of the American Business Women's Association** meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at Eldorado Country Club, 2604 Country Club Drive in McKinney

**Free Tenant Legal Workshops** are at 6 p.m. Tuesdays at Douglass Community Center, 1111 Ave. H in Plano. Call 972-941-7174.

**Alpha Beta Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi** a social service cultural sorority meets the second Monday of each month in members home in Frisco, McKinney, and the Plano area. Call 972-473-9089.

**Assistance League of Greater Collin County** meets the third Wednesday of each month. Visit www.assistanceleague-gcc.org.

**"EVOLVE,"** a social networking opportunity for women, meets from 7:30 to 9 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the northwest corner of Park Boulevard and Coit Road, Suite 202. Call 972-267-4452.

**A free legal clinic** is offered for residents who meet low income guidelines, 6:00 p.m., second Thursday of each month, First United Methodist Church, 601 S. Greenville Ave. Applicants must be Collin County residents and income eligible. Call 1-800-906-3045.

**Free HIV Testing** offered by the LaSima Foundation from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. every Thursday at two different locations. For locations and more information, call 214-928-9303.

**The Frisco Housing Authority** is offering tenant-based rental assistance to 22 eligible families and individuals for rental housing in Frisco. Call 972-377-3031 for information.

**Kumaasi African Ensemble Dance Classes** from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. West African dance classes held every Saturday at the South Dallas Cultural Center, 3400 S. Fitzhugh Ave. Contact S-Ankh Rasa at 214-298-5858 for more information.

**Strait Street** is the official home of "The Yundrae Show." Every Thursday evening at 7PM, it's the live television taping of "The Yundrae Show!" It's new, it's off the chain, and it's only at Strait Street. Artists, celebrities, who's who, sports icons, and many more. The doors open at 7pm and the show starts at 7:45pm. There are door prizes and giveaways each week. Tickets are \$15 at the door. Check it out at; www.theyundraeshow.com

**December 7-December 16**

**Black Nativity by Langston Hughes**

This foot-stomping, toe-tapping, soul-stirring musical is the joyous account of a historic event that hap-

pened over 2,000 years ago. The Black Nativity is a legendary Christmas event and theatrical wonderment all over the world. Beginning December 7-16, at 8pm. This event is held at the Hall of State in Fair Park. For more info please call 214-948-0716.

**December 14-December 23**

**Dallas Symphony Orchestra Presents Hope! A Christmas Celebration**

Meyerson Symphony Center, Dallas, 7:30 pm and 2:30 p.m.-matinee on Saturdays and Sundays. For more info call 214-692-0203 or visit www.DallasSymphony.com

**December 15**

**Dancing with the Stars**

The Pathfinders Singles Community is rolling out the red carpet and all single men and women are invited. This holiday celebration will include an exceptional comedy show, an awards ceremony, and Swing Out dance lessons. The attire is semi-formal and childcare will be provided. Admission for the evening event is free. This event will be held at Friendship West Baptist Church located at 2020 W. Wheatland Rd. Dallas, 75232. For more information please call 972-228-7233 or singlelife@friendshipwest.org.

**Merry Britmas**

Garland Symphony Orchestra's Christmas Concert with Kathy Troccoli Granville Performing Arts Center 300 North Fifth Street in Garland The Garland Symphony Orchestra 8pm \$20-\$40 info@garlandsymphony.org 972-926-0611

**Christmas and Kwanzaa: Black-Tie Volunteer Soiree**

TBAAL shows appreciation to its volunteers, members and sponsors

with an evening of friendship and entertainment in the spirit of Christmas and Kwanzaa. The will begin at 6:30 p.m. Held at The Black Academy of Arts and Letters located at 650 S. Griffin St. Dallas, 75202. Admission is \$15. For more information please contact tbaal@airmail.net or 214-743-2440.

**A Christmas Carol**

An award-winning musical adaptation of Charles Dickens' enduring and joyful classic is a jubilant holiday show for all ages. The musical will be held at Naomi Bruton Main Stage located at 650 S. Griffin St. Dallas, beginning at 10 p.m. The admission for the musical is \$10 and \$6.98 for 5 or more. For more information contact 214-743-2440.

**December 16**

**The Plano Symphony Orchestra**

Honorary host Mayor Mike will be presenting a musical version of "Scrooge" at the Centennial High School Theater. Located at 6901 Coit Road, Frisco beginning at 7 p.m. and the tickets are between \$8-\$35

**MASS-Mothers(Fathers) for the Advancement of Social Systems Christmas Gala**

Adams Mark Hotel, 7 p.m., featuring Rockmond Dunbar. For more info call 214-821-8810.

**14th Annual Christmas/Kwanzaa Concert**

The concert is a combined event with more than 200 voices from Lincoln, Carter and Madison high schools along with the Townview High School band. The concert will open up with a lobby performance by First Baptist Church Hamilton Park Hand Bell Choir. The concert will be held at 650 S. Griffin St. Dallas and the admission is \$10.

For more information please call 214-743-2440.

**Christmas Couple's Ball**

A classy party for mature couple's (25 and up) and it's a black tie affair with amenities such as a Couple's Contest, Comedy performance and a free lavish buffet from 8-10 p.m. This ball will be held at Holiday Inn Select Ball Room located at 2645 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, 75234. Tickets will be sold at the door or on the online at www.hickspromotion.com. For more information please call 214-281-1985. This mature event begins at 8 p.m.

**Dallas The Next Generation 2007 Community Parade**

8:30 am, Dallas City Hall, Theme: A New Vision, A New Community, Progress and a New Justice for All. For more info call 214-376-5155 or 214-428-7799.

**Raheem DeVaughn (Live in Concert)**

There will be a live concert from Raheem DeVaughn, doors opening at 8 pm and the show will begin at 9 pm. The concert will be held at Gypsy Tea Room/The Ballroom located at 251 Main St., Dallas Deep Ellum. The admission in advance is \$25 and at the door \$30. For more information please contact 682-551-2157 or www.gypsytearoom.com or www.frontgatetickets.com.

**December 17**

The Jones Family (Part II), A Spiritual Comedy-presented by the Greater Cornerstone Baptist Church. 7 pm, The Plaza Theatre, 521 W. State St, Garland, TX 75040. For more info call 214-349-7701.

**DFW Gospel RoundUp Concert**

Koinonia Baptist Church, 616 W. Kiest, Dallas. 7 pm FREE

For more info contact csiertainment@gmail.com 817-229-4323

**December 18**

**The African American Republican Club of Collin County**

The next meeting of the AA Republican Club there will be an election for the 2007 officers and please devote the remaining of the portion of the meeting to a Christmas Fellowship. 2007 Club meetings will be on the fourth Thursday of the month beginning January 25, 2007. For more information please contact Linda at 972-562-1215 or wynnlaw@sbcglobal.net

**December 20**

**Kwanzaa: A Harvest Celebration**

Melody Bell employs her art to impart the history, meaning, and significance of Kwanzaa's "Nguzo Saba" (7 principles) as it relates to school, family, and community. This will be held at the Park Forest Branch Library located 3421 Forest Ln. This will be from 10am-1pm. For more information please contact 214-670-6333.

**December 26**

**Kwanzaa: The Community Explosion**

The 3 night event celebrating our community and the principles of Kwanzaa. ant located at 416 E. Pleasant Run Road in Cedar Hill. For more information contact 972-291-9874.

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**Paul Hailey**

Mean People Suck.

Remember that bumper sticker which seemed to be everywhere for a while? I wish I could put it in more delicate language, but...wait a minute. No I don't. I need to say it just the way it sounds. Mean people do suck.

Over the past couple of months, (the holiday season), I've been observing my behavior and the behavior of numerous people I've come in contact with. After having my own feelings injured by a few acts of unkindness performed by both strangers and those close to me (yes, I'm sensitive), I came to a not-so-nice conclusion: too many of us spend too much time being mean.

I could say we spend too much time "not being kind" instead of mean, but that's actually the same thing isn't it? Rather than bore you with personal examples of my encounters with mean folks, let me share the flip side with you, even if it only exists within the confines of a television commercial.

Not too long ago, I saw an ad for Liberty Mutual Insurance. The ad was conceived by the Hill Holliday advertising agency, which I know because I've since read everything I could find about this particular commercial. The ad displays several simple acts of kindness performed by strangers for other strangers. The cool thing about the ad is that the camera focuses on a third person who catches the act of kindness, and then is inspired

## Tis The Season To Be... Nice

to "pass it on" to someone else in the next scene.

Talk about the effects of good karma.

The acts in the commercial go from retrieving a baby's toy, to helping a person who's fallen in traffic. The commercial ends when the circle of kindness is complete and a man repeats the same kind act that was shown in the first scene. It was like the entire movie of a few years ago "Pay It Forward" was boiled down to one minute and 50 seconds. Selflessly do something good for someone and someone will selflessly do something good for you.

I guess you can tell that I loved it.

I loved it because it exposed how most of us miss what is really important in this journey called life. It's not about what we do, or what we have or what power we wield. Real life has nothing to do with beating that other person to the parking space, or walking faster to get in line in front of somebody else at the bank.

The commercial touched me because it re-emphasized the code that I try to live by-my life is ultimately about my relationships with the people that have been placed around me. If you believe in a power in the uni-

verse bigger than yourself, then I bet you have an innate sense that living from your real purpose entails reaching out and helping someone else. I may be way off base here, but I don't think so.

Our problem is we are selfish. Being mean to another person is basically a selfish act of pride. We don't get what we want, we aren't made to feel as important as we feel we should be and...boom-we have to make someone else pay. We are not very likely to notice the needs of another person if we are self-absorbed and focused on getting what we want.

So, I'm challenging you. Yes, you skimming over these words and about to turn to the next page to look at the pictures. I'm challenging you today to be nice to another human being. It doesn't have to be anyone you know, or even anyone you like. It doesn't have to be some grand act; in fact, the simpler the better. But in the post office, the grocery store, on the phone, at your job, in your home, try to do something nice for someone else. I promise you will feel better about yourself and better about life.

Besides, mean people suck.

Paul Hailey can be reached at [pahailey@MonTheGazette.com](mailto:pahailey@MonTheGazette.com)



"UNDER THE ADMINISTRATION PLAN IT WAS CHEAPER TO GET RID OF THE ELVES AND HIRE GUEST WORKERS..."

## "Simple Sambo" And "Ignorant Mammy": That's How Democrats View Blacks

By: Frances Rice

Democrats, who claim that they care about diversity, use despicable racial stereotypes, just as Democrats did during the days of slavery and Jim Crow, to slur black professionals, such as Dr. Condoleezza Rice and Maryland Lt. Governor Michael Steele.

Oreo cookies were thrown by Democrats at Mr. Steele, and two members of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, Katie Barge and Lauren Weiner, committed identity theft, illegally obtaining Mr. Steele's Social Security number and credit report.

Brazenly, on the left-wing Internet website called "The News Blog," Democrats posted a doctored photograph of Mr. Steele, depicting him as a "Simple Sambo." This contemptible racist stereotype is the same one that Democrats used to demean blacks during the era of slavery and segregation.

In addition to other outrageous racist images produced by several Democrats, cartoonist Jeff Danziger depicted Dr. Rice as an ignorant, barefoot "mammy," reminiscent of the stereotyped black woman in the movie *Gone with the Wind* who remarked: "I don't know nothin' 'bout birthin' no babies."

Democrats feel free to display such blatant racism because they know that they can take the black vote for granted. Black Americans need to wake up, think for themselves and get off of the Democratic Party's plantation. The National Black Republican Association is dedicated to exposing the failed socialist policies and racist past of the Democratic Party that has hijacked the civil rights record of the Republican Party.

In his book, *A Short History of Reconstruction*, the well-respected liberal historian, Dr. Eric Foner, highlights the fact that it was Republicans, not Democrats, who championed civil rights for blacks. The Republican Party was

started as the anti-slavery party and fought to free blacks from slavery, while the Democrats fought to keep blacks in slavery. Republicans pushed to amend the constitution to grant blacks freedom (13th Amendment), citizenship (14th Amendment) and the right to vote (15th Amendment). Republicans pushed to pass civil rights legislation from the 1860's to the 1960's, while the Democrats fought against every piece of civil rights legislation from the 1860's to the 1960's.

Dr. Eric Foner reveals in his book the fact that the Ku Klux Klan was started by Democrats and served as the terrorist arm of the Democratic Party to lynch Republicans, black and white. The recent sham apology made by the Democrats behind the curtain of Congress made no acknowledgement of the fact that it was the Democrats, not Republicans, who fought anti-lynching legislation.

Democrats, who are howling about the much-changed South today voting largely for Republicans, seemed perfectly happy when the then-segregated South voted solidly for the Democrats. Contrary to claims by Democrats, the "Dixiecrats" remained Democrats and declared that they would rather vote for a "yellow dog" than vote for a Republican because the Republican Party was known as the party for blacks. The over 30-year odyssey of the South switching to the Republican Party began in the late 1970's with President Richard Nixon's "Southern Strategy" designed to convince Christians to stop supporting the Democratic Party that was denying blacks their civil rights and start supporting the Republican Party that was fighting for the civil rights of blacks. A few Southern states, such as Louisiana, are still controlled by racist Democrats.

The Republican Party has never turned its back on blacks. Democrats use the biased media

to distort the news and create a false image of Republicans. A prime example is the Willie Horton story. It was former Vice President Al Gore who first dug up Willie Horton to use against his rival, Michael Dukakis, during the 1988 presidential primary. Al Gore is given a pass for using Willie Horton against Dukakis during the primary, but George H.W. Bush is bashed for using Willie Horton against Dukakis during the general election.

Today, the failed socialist policies of the Democrats (who have been running our inner-cities for the past 30-40 years) have turned our inner cities into economic and social wastelands. In an effort to keep blacks poor, angry and voting for Democrats, Democrats are fighting every effort of the Republicans to help blacks out of poverty.

Democrats opposed welfare reform in the 1990's, then blocked extension of federal welfare reform in April 2004. Democrats are opposed to school choice opportunity scholarships that would help black children get out of failing schools. Democrats are opposed to Social Security reform even though blacks on average lose \$10,000 in the system because blacks on average have a five-year shorter life expectancy than whites. Democrats are crying loudly for an increase in the minimum wage, yet the Democrats, using bogus excuses, blocked the minimum wage bill passed by House Republicans in 2006. Democrats are more interested in keeping the minimum issue alive as a political hammer than they are in making life better for poor black people.

It's time for blacks to get off of the Democrats' plantation and think for themselves.

Frances Rice is chairman of the National Black Republican Association and may be contacted at: [www.NBRA.info](http://www.NBRA.info).

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## Making Sense Of The Iraq Political Nonsense

By: James W. Breedlove

*Pride Goeth Before Destruction, And A Haughty Spirit Before A Fall (Pr 16:19)*  
*The House of The Self Exalted Ones Jehovah Will Tear Down (Pr 15:25)*

President Bush's poll ratings are in an unstoppable free fall as Americans have become convinced that there is no road that leads to victory in Iraq and the longer we stay involved the less chance there is for achieving a stable democratic government.

The latest AP-Ipsos poll shows that only 27 percent of Americans approve of the President's handling of the Iraq War, down 4 points from his previous low of 31 percent in November.

Still the President, having received yet another independent report damning his Iraq Policy, responds with arrogance and defiance in a pathetic attempt to convince Americans and the nations of the world that there is still a chance for success in Iraq.

Americans are a forgiving people and President Bush certainly has had more than his share of golden opportunities to come clean with the people and admit that serious mistakes were made in implementing his foreign and domestic initiatives.

Instead of stubbornly and arrogantly fixating on his misguided empire building schemes he could have come before the American people with a plan to stop the unconscionable death and destruction he initiated. Had he then immediately begun the process of remedying the horror and injustice perpetrated on hundreds of thousands of innocents the heart and soul of America would have reached out to him and responded with earnest compassion.

But the pride that goeth before destruction stands in the way of meaningful reconciliation.

As difficult as it may be to com-

prehend, it is instructive to review a sampling of the verified facts that the President obstinately chooses to ignore.

Based on false, exaggerated and manipulated intelligence he willfully declared war on the sovereign nation of Iraq that posed no imminent threat to our national security or that of its neighbors under the pretext that Iraq was directly connected to the 911 attacks.

His absurd rhetoric contends that America must stay in Iraq until "the mission is complete" and "victory is won." However, neither he nor the military commanders have been able to define what the mission is. Without a defined mission, when and how will anyone know that the mission is accomplished? Also, now that Sadaam is out, who or what group in Iraq can negotiate the terms of peace on behalf of the Iraqi people?

Iraq, because of America's unwarranted meddling, has been thrown into civil turmoil. The conflict now raging is a confusing mixture of Kurds, Shias and Sunnis killing each other to be the dominant faction. This civil war is compounded by an overlay of deadly skirmishes with insurgents and coalition forces.

Bogged down in this befuddling mélange there is no way for America's military to achieve victory. The field commanders cannot control events. They can only respond to events initiated by the insurgents or the civil agitators. The real options for stabilizing Iraq are minimal but even those have been rejected by the President. Therefore, the commander-in-chief cannot make decisions based on planned political or military objectives. Decisions are being made for him by catastrophic daily events that are completely out of his control.

How unrealistic it is to demand that the fledgling Iraqi govern-

ment take responsibility for the security, stability and economic revitalization of Iraq? The Iraqi government officials who represent three independent political/religious groups have hardly had time to meet each other let alone learn to trust one another. Yet President Bush is demanding that they instantly unite and work together.

Ironically, Mr. Bush stresses that one of reasons for staying in Iraq is to democratize the country. Simultaneously he is giving the Iraqis a practical civics lesson by subverting democracy at home. The misuse of the Patriot Act, illegal spying on American citizens, ignoring Geneva Convention rules at Abu Gharib all point to his disdain for democracy and the rule of law.

Where are the new prophets who dare to stand and speak the truth to America's king? The prophets of old such as Daniel, Ezekiel, Jeremiah and Isaiah served as a check on rulers when they boldly denounced their errant behavior and declared God's judgment against their wicked deeds. They spoke out even though they were mocked, scorned, rebuked and mistreated.

The new age prophets seem content to seek favor, popularity and personal enrichment from the wayward leaders instead of exposing governance that is out of harmony with God's word.

They sit idly by and permit false prophets (rulers) wrapped up in God's mantle to lull the people with soothing assurances that God is supporting their unrighteous cause and will direct them to victory.

It is time for the President to realize that his pride and arrogance is not only promoting his fall but is also laying the seeds for the destruction of a great nation.

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

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

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



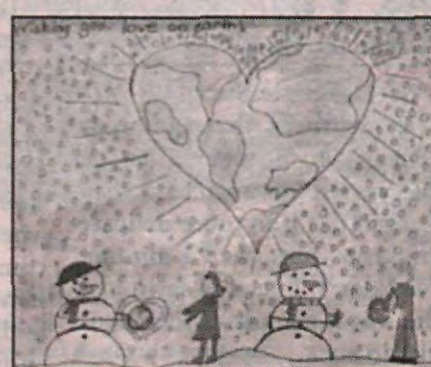
## Plano ISD And Sponsor 'Webb&Webb' Announce 2006 Holiday Art Contest Winner And Finalists

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Doug Otto and Duncan Webb of Webb & Webb, P.C. Attorneys and Counselors at Law are proud to announce the winner of the 2006 Plano ISD Holiday Greeting Card Art Contest.

Jing Li, Jasper High School sophomore, captured first place out of 1,000 entries with

the theme "Wishing You Happy Holidays."

Jing and three additional contest finalists will be recognized by the Plano ISD Board of Trustees on December 12. They will each receive certificates of achievement from the board and U.S. Savings Bonds from Duncan Webb, board president and contest sponsor.



## RISD Trustee Attends Program on Advocacy

Richardson ISD trustee David Tyson Jr. was among a group of school board members gathering in Austin November 10-11 to focus on the role of advocacy in achieving educational excellence. Trustees, who met for the second of five training sessions of Leadership TASB, began their activities by touring the state Capitol and participating in a mock legislative hearing.

Keynote speakers on Friday included Ross Ramsey, editor of Texas Weekly, a leading newsletter on politics and public affairs; David Brooks, an award-winning speaker and trainer who has taught more than 10,000 business professionals to speak and write clearly, concisely, and confidently; and Harvey Kronberg, editor of the Quorum Report, a non-partisan newsletter covering state politics and government since 1989.

Jackie Lain, TASB associate executive director of govern-

mental relations, addressed the group Saturday and outlined what school districts can expect when the Legislature returns in January. She was followed by



David Tyson Jr.

Cindy Reinhardt, a master certified coach who works with leaders in meeting the challenges of public service, and Arch Lustberg, recognized nationally as a leading trainer in effective

communications.

Selected by the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB), the group of 36 trustees is participating in a year-long education leadership study program. The Leadership TASB class of 2007 represents Texas school districts of all sizes, with student populations of 325 to 58,000, and reflects the range of property wealth. Participants who complete all required elements of the study will graduate next year with master trustee status, the highest designation recognized by TASB.

Each session has a unique theme that builds on the previous session and features nationally recognized experts in the fields of leadership development and education. Teams also work on extended learning assignments between meetings throughout the year. Created in 1993, Leadership TASB has almost 400 graduates to date. Program sponsors include AT&T, H.E.B., Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP, and WalMart.

## DCCCD Trustee Begins Term As Association Of Community Colleges National Chair

Kitty Boyle, a member of the Dallas County Community College District's board of trustees and a resident of Irving, marked the beginning of her service as chair of the Association of Community College Trustees during the national organization's recent annual meeting held in Orlando, Fla., in October.

Boyle, who has served as a DCCCD trustee for more than 10 years, now chairs the not-for-profit ACCT, which comprises more than 6,500 publicly-elected and appointed trustees who serve on more than 600 governing boards for community, junior and technical colleges in the United States, Canada and England.

Other new members of the ACCT board of directors' executive committee include: Lynda Stanley, chair-elect, Brunswick Community College (N.C.); Arthur Anthonisen, vice chair, Orange County Community College (N.Y.); Thomas Bennett, secretary-treasurer, Parkland College (Ill.); and Ken Burke, immediate past chair, St. Petersburg College (Fla.).

"I am honored to serve as chair of ACCT's board of directors," said Boyle. "I believe in the mission of community colleges and in the commitment of the nation's community college trustees to enrich the lives of the students and communities they serve. I look forward to working with my ACCT colleagues as we plan for the future of community colleges and share with others the impact that higher education has on the lives of students, communities, business and our country."

Dr. Wright Lassiter, DCCCD chancellor, said, "Trustee Boyle has served the Dallas County Community College District as a leader and an advocate for many years. Her enthusiasm and support at the national level for ACCT will serve students, trustees and community colleges well in this global, technical age. We are proud of Trustee Boyle's leadership and her association with the Dallas County Community College District."

Boyle, who joined the DCCCD board of trustees in 1996 as the elected representative for District 5, served as chair of

the board from May 2000 to June 2003. She currently is a member of the trustees' audit committee and also served chairman of the budget and planning committee. She is administrator for the law firm of Boyle & Lowry, LLP. Boyle earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin and a paralegal certificate from the Dallas/Fort Worth School of Law. Her term on the DCCCD board of trustees expires in 2008.

Boyle has been honored by several education and community organizations. She is the recipient of the Irving Independent School District's "Golden Apple" Award; the Irving "YWCA Where the 'W' Makes the Difference" Women in Government Award (1998); the American Cancer Society's Irving chapter "Community Service Award"; and the Soroptimist International Distinguished Women Award.

For more information about ACCT, visit [www.acct.org](http://www.acct.org); for details about DCCCD, go to [www.dcccd.edu](http://www.dcccd.edu).

## Collin, Texas A&M Sign Special 'Aggie Bound' Agreement

Officials from Collin County Community College District (Collin) and Texas A&M University (TAMU) signed a new admission agreement today. Nicknamed "Aggie Bound," the agreement abbreviates the admission process for Collin students who plan to complete specific bachelor's degrees in College Station.

That is particularly significant because Texas A&M is a top-five university for Collin student transfers. This new arrangement enables Collin students interested in certain majors to be considered for guaranteed admission. Also, TAMU staff, at their local Regional Prospective Student Center, will work with Collin students and staff on admission and financial aid.

According to Dr. Bob Collins, who chairs the Collin Board of Trustees, "Collin is proud to partner with Texas A&M University, and we look forward to sending our first group of transfer students (under the agreement) to College Station. As a proud Aggie, I am thrilled that Collin students now have this

tremendous opportunity," he said. Dr. Collins earned both a master's degree and a doctorate at A&M. "We want to simplify the process for our students to get both an associate's degree and a bachelor's degree. In this case, our students will have the benefit of attending two great institutions."

To qualify for Aggie Bound, Collin students must maintain a 3.0 GPA and complete at least 24 transferable credits as well as declare a major in one of the programs designated by Texas A&M. These programs include the TAMU colleges of Education and Human Development, Engineering, Science, Geosciences, and Agriculture and Life Sciences plus programs at the Galveston branch.

"We believe this initiative promises to be a tremendous avenue for helping students transfer to Texas A&M to complete their upper level coursework and degrees," said Mark Weichold, dean of undergraduate programs and associate provost for academic services.

"Having privileges at one of the nation's leading universities will be a major benefit for

our students," said Collin President Cary Israel. "Nationwide, it takes the average college student 5.2 years to finish a bachelor's degree. We must shorten the time to degree while maintaining the highest quality education at a cost that students can afford."

Collin signed its first agreement of this kind in 2000 with the University of North Texas. Collin now holds partnerships with The University of Texas at Dallas, Southern Methodist University, Texas Woman's University, Texas A&M University-Commerce and Texas Tech University as well as Texas A&M. To date, more than 400 students have participated in Collin's university partnership programs.

Collin County Community College District serves more than 41,000 credit and continuing education students annually and offers more than 100 degree and certificate programs. The only public college in the county, Collin is a partner to business, government and industry, providing customized training and workforce development.

For more information on the partnership, call 972.985.3734.

## Collin Presents Choral Great Works Concert

Collin County Community College District (Collin) will present the Choral Great Works Concert 8 p.m. Dec. 14-15 at the John Anthony Theatre at the college's Spring Creek campus, 2800 E. Spring Creek Parkway in Plano.

The college's Chamber Singers, Choral and Expressions groups will perform various selections including traditional choral, musical theater and jazz selections in addition to some unexpected surprises.

Seventy-five singers under the direction of Kathy Morgan will present pieces from "Les Miserables," "The Messiah" and Mendelssohn's "Elijah," among many others. The Collin Dance Ensemble will accompany the choir in Britten's "Ceremony of Carols" in a piece choreographed by Collin dance professor Tiffanee Arnold.

The concert is \$5 for general admission. Students with a school ID and children under six are free.

For more information, contact Kathy Morgan at [kmorgan@ccccd.edu](mailto:kmorgan@ccccd.edu) or 972.881.5653.

Collin County Community College District (Collin) serves

more than 41,000 credit and continuing education students annually and offers more than 100 degree and certificate programs. The only public college

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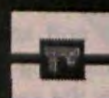
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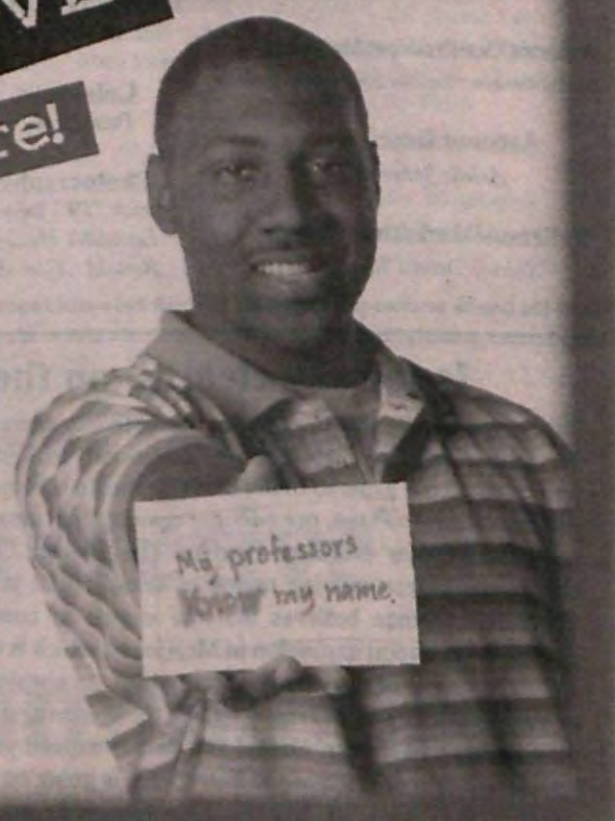
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## Russell And Kimora Simmons Announce 'Peaceful Diamonds' Business To Empower Africans

AP  
It's no ordinary holiday shopping season, with celebrity advocates of various causes - including Bono and Oprah - pitching shoppers to make a difference with their gift choices.

The latest to step forward are hip-hop impresario and fashion mogul Russell Simmons and his wife, Kimora Lee Simmons, who are selling diamonds to help raise money for the development and empowerment of Africans.

At a news conference in New York Tuesday, the 49-year-old entrepreneur announced his

"Green Initiative" jewelry, which is manufactured and designed by Simmons Jewelry Co.

Simmons said twenty-five percent of proceeds from sales will go toward the Diamond Empowerment Fund, which will support institutions, like schools and colleges, in South Africa and Botswana and help boost economic development.

Simmons' recent visit to South Africa and Botswana to tour diamond mines and factories coincides with efforts by human rights groups to raise awareness about so-called conflict diamonds, which have fueled and funded wars in Africa. Fighting

forces sell the gems to raise funds for weapons. Millions have been killed in Angola, Sierra Leone, Liberia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Simmons Jewelry Co. President Scott Rauch said the company's diamonds are conflict-free.

"Our purpose was to see how we could have an affect on the diamond industry," he told a packed news conference Tuesday.

"Africans need this industry," Simmons said, touting the eco-



nomie benefits to the region, like the funding of many HIV/AIDS clinics.

Hollywood has also taken up

the issue with "Blood Diamond," a new film starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Jennifer Connelly, which shows how conflict diamonds financed civil war in Sierra Leone in the 1990s. The film will be released nationwide on Friday.

"The U.S. government can play a pivotal role to be sure that the Kimberly Process works," said Amy O'Meara, a spokeswoman for Amnesty International.

O'Meara also said consumers can help by asking retailers ques-

tions and showing interest in where their diamonds come from.

"The Kimberly Process is very new, but it does work, and we're trying to make it better," Simmons said.

Simmons isn't new to the role of activist, having created the Hip-Hop Summit Action Network in 2001 to engage young people in community development issues. He's also widely known for his role in co-founding Def Jam Records, which gave birth to the hip-hop careers of well-known artists Run-DMC, LL Cool J and the Beastie Boys.

## Trammell Crow To Break Ground On Plano Office Tower



Trammell Crow Co. will break ground Thursday on a new office tower within Plano's Legacy Town Center project, the company said Tuesday.

One Legacy Circle is a 212,934-square-foot, eight-story office tower that will sit on the north phase of The Shops at Legacy on Dallas Parkway in

Plano.

The office tower will be bordered on the east by a planned 240-room boutique hotel and upscale fitness center/spa and on the south by the newest phase of The Shops at Legacy.

Dallas architectural firm HKS Inc. designed the tower.

The Shops at Legacy Town

Center is a mixed-use town center that is more than 60 percent developed. The Legacy Town Center will have more than 650,000 square feet of retail shops, restaurants and entertainment, hotel rooms, 1.2 million square feet of office space and more than 3,300 urban apartments, lofts and town homes.

## Southwest, YouTube Let Customers Make Commercials

Southwest Airlines has partnered with YouTube in a contest that allows fans of the airline to make their own commercials.

Beginning Tuesday, Southwest customers can create their own "Wanna Get Away" video and upload it on YouTube.

The winner of the contest will have their video turned into a 30-second commercial that will air as part of the Dallas-based airline's "Wanna Get Away" national ad campaign.

The grand prize winner also will win a vacation for four to

any Southwest Airlines vacation destination of choice. Runners up will win four tickets to one of the 63 cities Southwest flies to.

Web site: [www.southwestwannagetaway.com](http://www.southwestwannagetaway.com)



## Dallas/Fort Worth CFOs Report On First-Quarter Hiring Outlook

**Survey Finds Local Projection Above National Result**

A net 4 percent of chief financial officers (CFOs) in the Dallas/Fort Worth area expect to hire accounting and finance professionals in the first quarter of 2007, accord-

ing to the most recent Robert Half International Financial Hiring Index. Eight percent of executives surveyed plan to add staff during the quarter and 4 percent anticipate reductions in personnel. The net 4 percent increase is down three points from the fourth-quarter 2006

forecast but one point above the national average.

The local results reflect a two-quarter rolling average based on the responses of 200 CFOs from a stratified random sample of companies in the Dallas/Fort Worth area with 20 or more employees; 1,400

CFOs were queried for the national data. The surveys were conducted by an independent research firm and developed by Robert Half International, the world's largest staffing services firm specializing in accounting, finance and information technology.

**Protectionist Or Racist? Page 1**

pects in police custody to see if they are in this country illegally.

The ordinances passed made Farmer's Branch the first city in Texas to enact laws specifically intended to discourage illegal immigrants. City officials were not shy in declaring that the ordinances were designed to keep illegal immigrants away from their town.

Council member Bill Moses laid the blame at the feet of the federal government for not enforcing immigration laws.

"I'm just sorry that the federal government has put us in

this position," he said.

Rivals have been just as adamant in their opposition to what many have called blatantly racist and discriminatory.

Long-time activist Domingo Garcia pledged to fight back.

"It's a total unAmerican, unChristian, unTexan for the Farmers Branch City Council to do. We're not going to stand for it. We are going to take them to court," Garcia said.

"They're afraid that Farmers Branch is becoming Hispanic," said Christopher McGuire, a resident of the city and spokesman for a group called United Farmers Branch. "It's going to happen,

and that's not a bad thing."

Like so many other suburban communities, Farmer's Branch changed from a predominantly white community populated by families seeking to get away from forced integration to a diverse city of approximately 28,000. According to the most recent census, Farmer's Branch is now 37 percent Hispanic.

City officials have 15 days to review the signatures on the petition. Provided enough signatures are validated, the council will have 20 days to reconsider the ordinances. If they decide to stick with their original votes, the matter will then go to a ballot vote of the

citizens.

Farmer's Branch also faces several legal challenges to the ordinances. The Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund has guaranteed legal action, calling the ordinances "a slap in the face of all Hispanics". The Apartment Association of Greater Dallas is also considering legal action over the proposed fines to landlords for violating the ordinances. In addition, a local real estate broker has already filed a lawsuit alleging the Farmer's Branch City Council violated the state's open meeting laws while deliberating the ordinances.

**Kilpatrick To Head CBC Page 1**

seek to address racial inequities in the criminal justice system and the crisis in Sudan's Darfur province.

Walters cautioned against expectations that black leaders would win dramatic legislative victories. Instead, he said, they probably will join Democratic leaders in charting a moderate course.

"They're going to be circumspect in what they do in this

period because it's going to affect the politics of 2008," Walters said. "I would expect that they would be very cautious."

Nonetheless, the shift marks a dramatic turnabout from current Republican rule; there are no black Republicans in Congress much less committee chairmen or party leaders.

The black lawmakers will have direct oversight on issues such as tax policy, homeland security and the legal system. With their

committee gavels will come the ability to shape the public agenda through hearings and to regulate which bills get a public airing.

"The Congress is going to look like America. At least our side of the aisle will look like America," said Georgia Democrat John Lewis, a civil rights leader who marched alongside the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in the 1960s before winning his House seat in

1986. "This is a historic Congress. It's amazing what we're going to be able to do."

"Our problem is going to be more than anything else to find the resources," he added.

Kilpatrick, 61, has represented a Detroit-area district since 1997.

California Rep. Barbara Lee also sought the leadership post but stepped aside as it became clear Kilpatrick had more support.

**Plano space Ambassador Page 1**

she stated she hoped to inspire everyone, especially young people, women and young girls all over the world, and in Middle Eastern countries that do not provide women with the same opportunities as men, "to not give up their dreams and to pursue them."

Mrs. Ansari has advised there was no one defining moment when she decided to become an astronaut. From the time she can remember she was always fascinated by space, wanting to learn about it and experience it first hand through flight. She advised her husband sometimes jokes that she may have come from another planet and is simply trying to get back home.

She should never be confused as a space "tourist," buying a ticket to hop a flight to the space station and back.

Intensive physical and educational training and long separations from family while continuing to coordinate and develop business projects at home required intense ability, stamina and concentration. She dedicated herself to an intensive six-month training in Star City, Russia, and cross-training at Johnson Space Center-Houston.

She boarded the Soyuz TMA-9 capsule September 18, 2006 along with Russian cosmonaut Mikhail Tyurin and U. S. astronaut Miguel Lopez-Alegria, spending eight days in the International Space Station (ISS). During her stay she performed a series of experiments on behalf of the European Space Agency, including: Researching the mechanisms behind anemia; How changes in muscles influence

lower back pain; Consequences of space radiation on ISS crew members and different species



Mayor Pat Evans & Anousheh Ansari

of microbes that have made a home for themselves on the space station.

A true example of the American dream, Mrs. Ansari immigrated to the U. S. as a non-English speaking teenager. She earned a bachelor's degree in electronics and computer engineering from George

Mason University, followed by a master's degree in electrical engineering from George Washington University. She is currently working toward a master's degree in astronomy from Swinburne University.

Mrs. Ansari and her family have made a major impact on the future of commercial space travel by providing title sponsorship for the Ansari X Prize. The \$10 million cash award was earmarked for the first non-governmental organization to launch a reusable manned spacecraft into space twice within two weeks.

The first person to publish a weblog from space, read by millions, you can read her daily blogs about her training and life on the International Space Station, as well as gain more information about Mrs. Ansari.

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# Museum Examines Black Vietnam Experience

A pair of combat boots. A wristband woven from boot laces with several bullets dangling. A photo of black servicemen standing outside a makeshift African temple.

The items are part of "Soul Soldiers: African Americans and the Vietnam Era," a new exhibit at the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center that examines the black experience in Vietnam in the context of the era's domestic social fabric.

Samuel W. Black, curator of the center's African American Collections, conceived the exhibit, in part because his older brother, Jimmy McNeil, served two years in Vietnam.

Black was 4 years old when his brother was sent to Vietnam. He died in 1971, unrelated to the conflict, and Black said he really

never knew what his brother's experience was.

Black found much had been written about the role of blacks in other wars, particularly the Civil War and World War II, but he found little about blacks in Vietnam.

As he began researching, he found the black experience in Vietnam was also linked to social changes on U.S. soil. The civil rights movement was in full swing. The Black Power movement was growing.

"Two things kind of stood out for me," he said. "One was the level of activism, political and social activism, on the part of African Americans in Vietnam. That was surprising to me. And the other was the presence of African American women in Vietnam" performing administrative, nursing and other duties.

Black Power organizations were active in Vietnam, he

said. They weren't sanctioned, but they were not underground, either.



Movements in Africa. "What you begin to see through this movement in Vietnam is a connection, not only an extension of the civil

rights movement, but also an embracement of the independence movement in Africa," he said.

One display in the exhibit shows a wooden carving of two fists with broken shackles, with red, black and green stripes at the base — colors associated with African nationhood.

Donald Harris was a young Army artilleryman fighting for Nui Ba Den, a strategic mountain, in 1969. Close to the end of the fighting, he said, a Vietnamese boy approached him with the carving.

"It really caught my eye. I traded him a case of C-rations," said Harris, 61, who lives in the Pittsburgh suburb of Wilkinsburg.

The carving spoke to Harris about black struggles, but he also saw it as a good-luck charm, he said. "When every-

body went out that door, we rubbed it, even the white soldiers," he said.

Harris said he was naive when he went to Vietnam. He hadn't been out of Pittsburgh before and had never encountered racism until basic training. Once in Vietnam, however, he said he did not experience racism.

"All we cared about was coming back home or taking care of ourselves," he said. "We were soldiers. That was it in a nutshell."

Going beyond recitations of war, the exhibit has nearly 200 artifacts, including photographs, military uniforms, recruitment posters and letters and diaries from servicemen.

Black said he wasn't interested in doing an exhibit about war.

"I wanted to keep the focus more or less on the social

aspects of life and the impact of the war," he said. "The war is sort of the background which all of this plays out."

The exhibit, for example, features songs such as James Brown's "Say it Loud (I'm Black & I'm Proud)" and Marvin Gaye's 1971 hit, "What's Going On."

The history center is also publishing an accompanying book, "Soul Soldiers," which will include narratives, essays, poetry, art and photographs.

The Smithsonian Institution, with which the history center is affiliated, is considering having the exhibit travel after its debut in Pittsburgh. The National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum in Chicago, which lent several pieces for the exhibit, and the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, are also interested in hosting it.

## After 53 Shuttle Launches, It's Time To Fly



Joan Higginbotham was an engineer at Kennedy Space Center before joining the astronaut corps.

Higginbotham will operate space station's robotic arm.

Joan Higginbotham  
Age: 42  
Hometown: Chicago.  
Family: Unmarried, no

children.

Higginbotham had worked as an engineer at the Kennedy Space Center for several years when her boss urged her to apply to be an astronaut. She laughed about it and didn't.

When he asked her about it months later, she was sheepish. Worried about the next time he would ask, she gave up and finally applied. She was selected on her second try.

Higginbotham was part of the 1996 astronaut class that included current crewmates Polansky and Christer Fuglesang. It also included three Columbia astronauts.

During nine years at the Kennedy Space Center, she participated in 53 shuttle

launches and worked her way up to lead project engineer on the shuttle Columbia.

"After I left the Cape ... I had separation anxiety in that every day I had stepped foot on the shuttle, and worked on it and checked out the wiring, and all that kind of stuff," she said.

She earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and later earned master's degrees in management and space systems from Florida Institute of Technology.

On her first mission in space, Higginbotham will be the primary operator of the space station's robotic arm.

## Study: Top College Sports Jobs Lack Diversity

White men dominate the leadership positions in college sports, a new study says, with women and minorities making only slow progress moving into the top jobs.

Athletic directors, conference commissioners and university presidents overwhelmingly are white, the study released Wednesday by the University of Central Florida's Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport found.

All 11 NCAA Division I-A conference commissioners — who Lapchick called the most powerful people in college sports — were white men, according to the study, which looked at employment data from the 2004-05 academic year for all 1,025 NCAA member institutions, conferences and NCAA headquarters.

"In all of Division I, excluding the historically black conferences, all 36 of Division I conference commissioners were white," the study said. Six were women, four of them leading sport-specific con-

ferences such as the Northern Pacific Field Hockey Conference and the American Lacrosse Conference.

Head coaching positions also reflected a big disparity between whites and blacks.



New University of Miami head football coach Randy Shannon.

Basketball was a bright spot of sorts, but even in that sport 25.2 percent of all Division I head coaches were black (an all-time high), and yet blacks made up 57.8 percent of Division I basketball

players.

With Randy Shannon's recent hiring to head the University of Miami football team, six of 119 Division I-A head football coaches are black. In all of Division I, blacks held 6.1 percent of head coaching positions. On Division I football fields, black players made up 45.4 percent of the athletes, the study said.

No Latino heads an NCAA Division I-A football team.

Blacks make up 43.7 percent of women's Division I basketball teams, but only 9.3 percent of those teams are coached by black women — even though that number increased 1.6 percentage points in 2004-05.

In Division I-A, 94.1 percent of university presidents whose colleges are part of the NCAA were white, 3.4 percent were black and 2.5 percent were Latino, the study said. Fifteen women held their university's top job, or 12.6 percent, an increase of 1.1 percentage points.

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## Actress Gives \$1 Million To Arts School

Jada Pinkett Smith has donated \$1 million to her high school alma mater, the Baltimore School for the Arts, asking that its new theater be dedicated to classmate Tupac Shakur, who was shot and killed in 1996.

"It means a lot when you're a teacher and your most famous alumnus comes back to give a donation," said Donald Hicken, head of the school's theater department since its founding in 1980 and Pinkett Smith's former theater teacher. "It really says a lot to the community that the school matters in people's lives."

The donation from the Will and Jada Smith Family Foundation, which is based in Baltimore, will be used for renovation and expansion. The school, which announced the

donation Monday, said it will name its new theater for Pinkett Smith.

Pinkett Smith, 35, is married to



Will Smith, who stars in the new movie "The Pursuit of Happyness" with their 8-year-old son, Jaden.

The couple had previously given \$112,500 to the school.

When a \$30 million expansion program is finished in the fall of 2007, the school will increase its

enrollment from 316 to 375 students.

Karen Banfield Evans, executive director of the Smith Family Foundation, and Pinkett Smith's aunt, said the actress was moved by the school's advances since she graduated.

Pinkett Smith wanted the theater named for Shakur because of the friendship they developed at the school. The rapper died after a drive-by shooting in Las Vegas.

The actress has appeared in movies such as "Ali," which starred her husband, and "Collateral," and she was the voice of the hippo Gloria in the 2005 animated film "Madagascar."

"The Pursuit of Happyness," a Sony Pictures release, opens in theaters Friday.

## Prince To Play Super Bowl Halftime Show

Pop star Prince will headline the halftime show at Super Bowl XLII in Miami, the NFL has announced.



The six-time Grammy Award winner is the third Rock and

Roll Hall of Fame member in a row to get the Super Bowl halftime show gig -- following Paul McCartney in 2005 and Mick Jagger earlier this year.

The Super Bowl is set for Feb. 4 at Dolphin Stadium. It will be televised by CBS.

An estimated 141 million viewers tuned in to last year's game between the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Seattle Seahawks, NFL.com said.

The NFL has taken a more cautious approach to programming the halftime festivities,

ever since Janet Jackson's "wardrobe malfunction" at the 2004 game caused a backlash among some viewers that resulted in FCC action against CBS and stations that telecast the show.

Last year, Jagger's microphone was turned down when he sang raunchy lyrics.

Prince's early work had its share of sexually explicit lyrics and erotic stage shows, but the performer has "toned down" his act in recent years, NFL.com said.

## Syler Let Go As She Prepared To Undergo Surgery

"Rene Syler, lame-duck coanchor of CBS's The Early Show, will undergo a bilateral prophylactic mastectomy next month," Gail Shister reports in Thursday's Philadelphia Inquirer.

"Syler's mother and father both had breast cancer, and she has endured several breast cancer scares and painful biopsies. She was working on a first-person piece about her forthcoming surgery when she was told that Early Show 'was going in a different direction. It wasn't like there was any room for debate,' she says," Shister wrote. "Her bosses knew about her medical condition, Syler says, but she doesn't believe it was a factor in their decision."

On Tuesday, media critic Eric Deggans wrote on his St. Petersburg Times blog, "There's a mighty shallow bench among non-white journalists at CBS News."

"When we last saw each other, Early Show co-host

Rene Syler and I talked about her upcoming book and void left by the death of 60 Minutes legend Ed Bradley, minutes



before she would regale a capacity crowd at the Tampa Bay Association of Black Journalists Griot Drum Awards dinner in St. Petersburg.

"Who knew, three weeks later, that she would be leaving a void of her own, out of a job after four years on the network's morning show?"

"Syler says she was told the

show is moving in a new direction; her last day is Dec. 22. But her departure and Bradley's painful Nov. 9 death have eliminated two of the highest-profile black journalists at CBS News.

"And there aren't many people poised to take their place."

Kelli E. Edwards, a CBS spokeswoman, said "We want to have the best team possible at CBS News, and obviously, we want that team to reflect the diversity in the country. We recently hired two people to recruit for us." One of them, Crystal Johns, is to focus on diversity, recruitment and retention, she said. The second, Barbara Fedida Brill, is focusing on talent recruitment, for management as well as for entry-level jobs, Edwards said.

"We're definitely not where we want to be, but we're moving in the right direction with the recent hires."

## 'Idol' Threats

R&B vocalist Fantasia will return this week with her self-titled sophomore album, due via



J/19. The disc boasts collaborations with producers Missy Elliott, Swizz Beatz and Babyface, as well as songwriters Diane Warren and Sean Garrett, among others. Lead single "Hood Boy" featuring Big Boi of OutKast was produced by Tone Mason and written by singer/songwriter Jhnta Austin.

"I've let go of things from the past and I'm having a good time," says Fantasia of the new offering. "Now I'm on a whole different level ... and I let everyone know that I've moved on from where I was."

Elliott co-wrote and produced "Turn This Party Up!" "Two Weeks Notice" and "No

Stoppin'," while Swizz Beatz helmed "Surround U" and producers Dre & Vidal crafted "I Nominat U" and "Baby Makin Hips." Other album cuts include "Not The Way It Is," penned by Garrett, and "I Feel Beautiful," written by Warren and produced by Babyface.

After winning "American Idol" in 2004, the High Point, N.C., native and single mother released her debut "Free Yourself," which bowed at No. 8 on The Billboard 200 and spawned the single "I Believe." That song topped the Billboard Hot 100 -- the first time in the chart's history that an artist debuted at No. 1 with his/her first solo record.

## Amdre 3000 To Appear With Will Ferrell In Semi-Pro

Rapper Andre "3000" Benjamin continues his foray into the world of film with a new basketball comedy titled Semi-Pro.

Benjamin joins an all-star cast that includes Will Ferrell and Woody Harrelson. Semi-Pro, which is being produced by New Line Cinema, centers around a fictional 1970's American Basketball League Association (ABA) team, the Flint Michigan Tropics.

As the owner/coach/player, Ferrell's character Jackie Moon attempts to lead The Tropics to the big time.

Semi-Pro is being directed by newcomer Kent Alterman and was written by Scot Armstrong, who is credited with crafting some of Ferrell's biggest hit movies, including Old School, Starsky & Hutch and the upcoming sequel to Old School, Old School Dos.

Last month, Benjamin debuted his new animated series Class of 3000 on The Cartoon Network. The lighthearted cartoon focuses on a superstar music teacher's relationship with his students at a performing performing arts school in Atlanta.

Semi-Pro is slated for a the-

atrical release in 2008.

Andre 3000 remains active in the rap world as well, as a guest artist on a remix to Unk's hit single "Walk It Out," which also features Jim Jones.



## Dreamgirls' Earns Seven Nods From BFCA

Dreamgirls," joined films "The Departed," "Babel" and



"Little Miss Sunshine" in earning seven nominations each from the Broadcast Film Critics Assn (BFCA), which

will hand out its awards during the 12th annual Critics Choice Awards on Jan. 12.

Also picking up BFCA nods were "The Last King of Scotland's" Forrest Whitaker and "The Pursuit of Happyness" lead Will Smith, both for best actor. They'll face Leonardo DiCaprio twice in the category -- as the actor has been nominated for his roles in "The Departed" and "Blood Diamond."

DiCaprio's co-star of the latter film, Djimon Hounsou, was nominated for best supporting actor in a group that also includes Eddie Murphy for "Dreamgirls."

Additionally, "Dreamgirls" earned nominations for best picture, best director (Bill Condon), best supporting actress (Jennifer Hudson) and best acting ensemble.

The awards will be handed out during a ceremony at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium. E! Entertainment Television will broadcast highlights on Jan. 20.

## Young Jeezy's Inspiration

It would be easy for Def Jam rapper Young Jeezy to be upstaged amid high-profile releases by labelmates Jay-Z and Nas. But Jeezy has a formidable cast in his corner for his sophomore album, "The Inspiration," due this week. The project will boast guest appearances from Ludacris, T.I., Keyshia Cole, Three 6 Mafia, Young Buck and Timbaland, among others. First single "I Luv It" is No. 10 this week on Billboard's Hot Rap Tracks chart.

Jeezy says he recorded 114 songs for the album, ultimately selecting the best 14. Are the other 100 gone forever? "Maybe, maybe not," he says. "I did this in case anything ever happens to me, so I've got a couple of albums left. You never know these days."

"The Inspiration" follows Jeezy's 2005 debut, "Let's Get It: Thug Motivation 101," which reached No. 2 on The Billboard 200 and has sold 1.7 million copies in the

United States, according to Nielsen SoundScan. Jeezy



also won best new R&B/hip-hop artist at the recent Billboard R&B/Hip-Hop Awards in Atlanta.

## Quincy Jones Named 'Mentor of the Year'



Quincy Jones' stockpile of awards is about to grow higher -- he's been named "Mentor of the Year," by Harvard University's School of Public Health.

The music mogul, 73, is the inaugural recipient of the honor, which will be presented during National Mentoring Month in January 2007.

"Quincy Jones' entire life is a testament to the power of mentoring," Jay Winsten, associate dean of the Harvard

School of Public Health, said in a statement Monday. "He has served as a role model for using the power of celebrity to improve the lot of humankind."

National Mentoring Month, now in its sixth year, aims to recruit volunteer mentors to work with young people. The theme of the month is "Pass it on. Mentor a child." The monthlong effort also includes "Thank Your Mentor Day" on Jan. 25.

## Evel Knievel Files Trademark Lawsuit Against Kanye West Over 'Touch The Sky' Video

For 68-year-old Evel Knievel's next stunt, he will attempt to win a lawsuit against rapper Kanye West for biting his per-



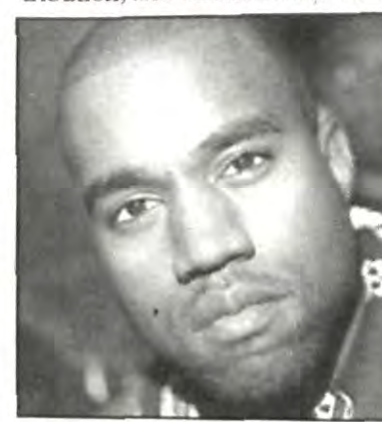
sona in his extravagant video for "Touch the Sky."

Filed Monday in a Tampa, Fla. federal court, the lawsuit from Robert Craig Knievel claims that West's Evel Knievel character in the video is an "infringement on his trademark name and likeness," reports the Associated Press.

He also claims the "vulgar and offensive" images depicted in the video -- including a kiss with Pamela Anderson and an attempt to jump a rocket-powered motorcycle over a canyon that results in a fiery crash -- has damaged his reputation.

The lawsuit, which seeks dam-

ages and a halt to the video's distribution, also names Roc-A-Fella



Records, video director Chris Milk and AOL for distributing it.





# Middle Class Blacks Are Their 'Brother's Keeper' - Literally

By: Lorinda M. Bullock  
NNPA National Correspondent  
The Biblical quote, "Am I my brother's keeper?" was made famous by Cain after murdering his brother Abel. If you're Black and middle class, a recent study says, the answer to that question is probably yes.

Mary Pattillo, co-author of the study, "Poverty in the Family: Race, Siblings and Socioeconomic Heterogeneity," says most Black people in today's middle class end up their sibling's "keeper," especially financially.

"Middle-class African Americans are two-and-a-half times as likely to have a poorer sibling as middle class Whites," Pattillo said.

Pattillo, chair and professor of sociology at the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences at Northwestern University, and her co-author, Colleen M. Heflin of the Martin School of Public Policy at the University of Kentucky, relied on the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth to reach their conclusion.

The survey tracked 14-18 year olds nationwide in 1979 up to the present day and tracked the income of their parents. The sample group of the teens' incomes as adults was also tracked into their early 30s and 40s.

It revealed that 34 percent of those Black teens who grew up to be middle class were poor as teenagers compared to 8 percent of White, poor teens who grew

up to be middle class.

"So basically the middle class Blacks were four-and-a-half times more likely to be poor when they were teenagers as the middle class Whites," Pattillo said. "That's a statement about the recency of the black middle class."

In Pattillo's study, middle class was defined as a family with an annual income of \$30,700-\$99,600. The government's poverty line is \$16,000 for a family of three.

Pattillo said middle-class Blacks often have to help their poorer siblings, but unlike their White counterparts, most middle-class Blacks are at a greater risk of losing the financial footing they've worked so hard to gain.

"These middle-class Black folks are less likely to be able to go to their parents for help to buy a house. Their parents are less able to help their children (grandchildren). They don't have siblings to go to if they have a particular financial crisis, if they have a health emergency or their car breaks down," she said.

Past president of the Association of Black Psychologists James Savage said it's no surprise that middle-class Blacks feel pressure to help their poorer siblings and other close friends.

"If you look at the Black family, there's always been this poor layer versus one that has been a little better off who has always tried to make a way for his lesser brother and sister. That's how we ended

up getting this middle class that we do have—by helping each other," he explained.

Savage said more stress and strain happens when well-mean-



ing middle class siblings help out but then feel they've been taken advantage of.

"I think when you see the frustration coming, (is) when that person who they're helping is not carrying their weight in terms of accepting the help and using the help," he said.

Pattillo said for most Blacks, their main source of wealth and often only source of wealth is in their homes.

"Another kind of fragility that middle-class Blacks experience is they have much less wealth than middle class Whites. We already know there's an income differential but middle-class Whites have 10 times the wealth holdings as middle-class Blacks. We know wealth is important for things like funding a college education, buying a home and passing it down to children and starting a business and weathering health crises and

other things. These are all race-based disadvantages that middle-class Blacks continue to face."

According to the National Urban League's 2006 "State of Black America," between 1994 and 2004, the Black homeownership rate rose from 42.3 percent to 49.1 percent, the highest rate in history. In addition, Black homeownership rates even grew faster than the White homeownership rate.

Still, the report found: "Despite these impressive gains, however, the Black homeownership rate in the first decade of the 21st century was only beginning to approach the White homeownership rate of 1900."

Additionally, Blacks had far more of their wealth tied up in homes than Whites, meaning they remain more vulnerable to the ups and downs of the housing market.

Savage said even beyond siblings, the Black middle class often help their brothers and sisters through their churches and social organizations.

"We're forever helping each other," he said. "I think you saw a lot of poor Black folks that were picked up by their better off relatives in terms of (Hurricane) Katrina. There were a lot of Black folks who took in people from Katrina, some relatives, some non-relatives."

She told the Telegraph she intended to continue speaking her mind despite political pressure.

"I've been sanctioned because I've spoken in parliament, and was told I may lose my job," she said. "I must only say what she (the health minister) says, and this is official. For me that is gagging. But I've not observed the gag."

John McCain came out on top. There are a lot of Democrats who have reservations about Hillary Clinton, not because they are necessarily hostile to her, but they're not sure she can be elected and they don't want to nominate someone who will go on to lose. Obama clearly has brought some excitement to the party, because, face it, it's been a while since Democrats had one of their own who was really exciting.

## South Africa Uproar Page 1

sideling of Health Minister Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, seen by activists as embodying government reluctance to take on a disease which kills about 1,000 South Africans every day.

Madlala-Routledge has sought to build bridges with activist groups and to distance the government from Tshabalala-Msimang's contro-

versial policies such as encouraging "natural" treatments such as olive oil and beetroot for HIV infection.

But political analysts say she may have gone too far in the Telegraph interview, in which she openly criticized the health minister and Mbeki himself -- who in the past has questioned the basic science of HIV/AIDS.

"What has happened in South Africa, which is tragic, is that

people are confused about treatment," she said, adding that some leaders had sent out mixed messages about how to treat AIDS.

Madlala-Routledge's statement did not deny any of the main points she has raised on South Africa's battle against AIDS, which have included admitting "denial at the very highest level" of government over the country's AIDS crisis.

## Barack-Hillary Showdown Page 1

couldn't get too much higher. Democrats typically get about 90 percent of the black vote, and I think he'd do a little bit better than that. The more interesting question is if he'd do better among white Democrats.

Given a choice between Obama and Hillary Clinton, who are black Democrats likely to vote for? Hillary Clinton is viewed very favorably, she and her husband were very popular with black voters by the end of his second term, so she would probably get some level of black support. But I'd be pretty sure that Obama would get more. I did some polling in 2004 where I asked about people's favorable and unfavorable opinions of them both. Sixty-three percent of blacks and 71 percent of the general population didn't even know who [Obama] was back then. Among black voters his favorable-to-unfavorable numbers were 30 to 7, and among the general population they were 22 [percent favorable] to 7 [unfavorable]. Hillary Clinton's numbers were 80 to 15 among blacks, but among other voters they were 53 to 42. Both Clinton and Obama have a track record in terms of winning the support of voters of the other race. I don't know whether she could sustain it against a candidate like Obama, because the black vote is really a crucial part of a lot of the Democratic primaries, especially in the South. If the black vote went decisively for Obama, that would make things tough for Hillary, especially since she's unlikely to do well with white Southerners.

Assuming they both run, would the fact that Clinton and Obama are both popular with black voters heighten or diminish the importance of the black vote? Before there was talk of Obama getting in the

race, I'm sure Hillary was totally counting on black support. But Quinnipiac University did a poll of favorable/unfavorable views on a bunch of political figures in November, right after the mid-term elections, and Obama and

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Savage said middle-class Blacks realize that they, too, might lose their middle-class status.

"It's nothing to go into a Black church and hear the preacher say to a whole bunch of middle-class Blacks that we're only about two or three paychecks away from poverty ourselves. And that has been America for Black folks. It's not like a whole lot of us who are middle class are not very, very close. That if we lost a job, we'd be back with our brothers and sisters and we recognized that so we should not sever the ties as quickly as

White folks who feel that they've got a greater opportunity."

There was one group of middle-class Blacks (17.6 percent)

that appeared to be statistically more "disconnected" from their poorer siblings—college educated Blacks. She said the reason for this is because most high-income earning college educated Blacks tend to have siblings who also attended college and earn good incomes.

Pattillo said the purpose of the study was to show that even middle-class Blacks still haven't arrived yet, despite arguments about them benefiting most from affirmative action.

"When we hear the term 'middle class', we assume, 'okay that group of African Americans is okay. We don't need to really worry about them.' But being middle-class and Black is very different than being middle-class and White."

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**Bombero Certificado/Paramedico:** Sueldo Anual \$46,334 Se cierra el: 01/26/07. **MQ:** Bombero Certificado/Paramedico o Bombero Certificado actualmente atendiendo a la escuela de Paramedicos. Tiene que tener 18 años de edad para la fecha del examen escrito. Ser graduado de secundaria (High School) o haber obtenido un G.E.D. Será sujeto a una investigación de expedientes para divulgar antecedentes penales. No tener ninguna convicción de crimen, o convicción de delito menor de tal número que indicaría ser un violador habitual de la ley. Poseer una licencia de conductor válida con buen expediente de conductor según definido por la póliza de la Ciudad. Tener una visión buena que se necesita para distinguir señales de tráfico y números de casa de aproximadamente 50 pies. Distinguir entre los colores rojo, amarillo, y verde. **Requisitos Especiales: Debe pasar la prueba escrita. La prueba es el: 02/02/2007 and 02/03/2007, a las: 9:00 A.M. El sitio: Iglesia de Cristo de Lewisville at 901 College Parkway.**

**APLIQUE: En el internet: www.cityoflewisville.com o en el  
Departamento de los Recursos Humanos  
151 W. Church/P.O. Box 299002  
Lewisville, TX 75029-9002; (972) 219-3450  
Job Line: (972) 219-5000 code 1346; Fax: (972) 219-5005**

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**



## Church News



**Sister Tarpley**

We are still in a crisis in our world, our Federal Government, our states, cities, communities, and the stressful lives of people, especially around this time of the year. Pray is the only thing that will help us with these problems. Prayer can change, not only conditions around us, but change us as well. Prayer is a way to talk to GOD about things that no one can help us with.

Remember, GOD sits on the throne; and the devil is a liar. Perhaps you are going through a tough time right now, but now is the time to think positively, GOD is getting ready to bless you in away that you cannot imagine.

I believe that God gives four answers to prayer: "Yes!" "No." "Not yet." or "I have something better in mind."

The "Five Finger Prayer" is beautiful! It is also worth making it a part of

our lives. Your thumb is nearest you. Begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. It has been said, "To pray for our loved ones is a sweet duty."

The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, Pastors and

## The Power Of Prayer

ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers, continually.

The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for all elected officials, leaders in the business world and in industry; and don't forget administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need GOD'S divine guidance.



**Picture of The Week**  
Pastor Rickie Rush, IBOC Church; Pastor Renee Hornbuckle, Agape Christian Fellowship Church; and Sister Tarpley at an "Inspiring" service.

The fourth finger is our ring finger. What is surprising to many is that this is our weakest finger, as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need our prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.

And last is our little finger (the pinkie) it is the smallest finger of all, which is where we should place ourselves in relation to GOD and others. The Bible says, "The least shall be the greatest among you." Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other groups,

your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively. A prayer is one of the best gifts we receive. There is no cost but a lot of rewards. Continue to pray for one another. Anonymous

**Things to Ponder: GOD Listens to Us.** Thank GOD for listening to us and answering prayers. GOD is also willing to forgive; HIS love is there for those who pray to HIM; HE can be trusted. We pray knowing HE listens to us. Psalm 86:1-7.

**GOD Loves US.** HIS love is faithful; HIS decisions are always fair. They are firm like mountains, deep like the sea. HIS love is a treasure; we can find shelter in the shadow of HIS Wings. Psalm 36:5-10.

**GOD Protects US.** We can look to the hills, where we can find our help; which comes from GOD who created the Heavens and the

earth. HE is our protector; HE doesn't sleep or let us stumble. GOD is at our side; we will not be harmed during the day or at night. HE will protect and keep us safe from all dangers, now and always where we go. Psalm 121. **Thanks Be To GOD!**

Email: religion@monthegazette.com  
Office: 972-516-4191  
Voice Mail: 972-606-3878  
Fax: 972-516-4197

Let MON-The Gazette help your church accomplish the Prayer of Jabez, "Enlarge our territory to expand opportunities that may impact in such a way that we touch more lives for God's glory. Let us do more for Him."

citation payment method is operational again. Web payments posted during the outage were successfully transacted.

The Municipal Court office will be closed for the holiday beginning Friday, Dec. 22, reopening Tuesday, Dec. 26.

Regular hours of operation for the court are:

**Monday, Wednesday, Friday**  
7:30 am-4:30 pm

**Tuesday** - 7:30 am-5:30 pm

**Thursday** - 8:30 am-4:30 pm  
The Plano Municipal Court, Ray Robinson Justice Center, 900 E. 15th Street.

For additional questions, contact the Municipal Court at (972) 941-2199.

## Church Happenings

### COALITION OF CHURCHES IN PRISON MINISTRY

**On-Going Mentor Program**  
True Lee Baptist Church, 3907 Bertrand Avenue, Dallas, TX 75210, 214-421-9435, Pastor Rev. Donald Parish, is conducting a mentor program for children of parents that are incarcerated.

**December 16, 2006**  
We will provide Christmas gift bags and Worship Services to Michael's, Boyd's, and Beto One Units of the Texas Criminal Justice Department. 30,000 gift bags will be distributed to each resident.

For more info call Carolyn Johnson @ 972-235-6432.

Coalition of Churches  
In Prison Ministry  
Rev. Isaac Johnson, Coordinator  
P.O. Box 225863  
Dallas, TX 75222-5863  
972-235-6432 or 214-632-6519

### CSI ENTERTAINMENT GROUP

**December 17, 7 pm**  
Koinonia Baptist Church, Pastor Patrick Rucker & Connecting Spirits Internationally will present a FREE "DFW Gospel Round-Up" Concert.

Pastor Darrell and Lady LaTonia Blair of Ft. Worth's New Breed Christian Center are Co-hosts. We will accept monetary gifts, food, gift cards, mall certificates, new and slightly used, children and adult clothing (all sizes) at any time and especially the night of the program.

For more information contact Cynthia Diggs @ 817-229-4323.

CSI Entertainment Group  
Cynthia Diggs, Partner  
P.O. Box 531957  
Grand Prairie, TX 75053  
817-229-4323 or 214-417-6095

### FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALLEN

**December 13 - 15, 7 pm**  
Annual Winter Revival with guest speaker: Prophet Charles Buchanan, Pastor of Showers of Blessings COGIC in Mobile, AL.

**December 16, 6 pm**  
Conclusion of our Annual Winter Revival and "A Christmas to Remember" by our Youth Department.

Fellowship Baptist Church of Allen  
Rev. W. L. Stafford, Sr., M. Div.  
Senior Pastor  
200 Belmont Drive  
Allen, TX 75013  
972-359-9956

### FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS MINISTRIES (FOBCC)

**December 16, 6:30 pm**  
4th Annual Holiday Musical. Our theme is "Indescribable Praise." It will be @ Community Outreach Church, 526 Compton Road, Irving, TX 75061. We are asking that each of you bring can goods, non-perishable food items, new or slightly used clothing for adults and children, and new toys for children.

For more information call Pastor Debra Jackson @ 214-476-8188.  
Fellowship of Believers Ministries  
Bishop Gregory Crawford  
Founder and Senior Pastor  
501 Wynnewood Village, #423  
Dallas, TX 75224  
214-372-3624

### FRIENDSHIP-WEST BAPTIST CHURCH

**December 15, 7 pm to 11 pm**  
FREE Singles Unplugged Friday Night. Theme: "Dancing with the Stars." Every second Friday of the month opportunities are for singles to make a connection to be edified and encouraged, away from clubs, bars, and non-Christian environments. Local rappers, singers, bands, musicians, comedians, and poets will showcase their talents.

For more information, call 972-228-7233.

Friendship-West Baptist Church  
Dr. Frederick Haynes, III  
Senior Pastor  
2020 West Wheatland Road  
Dallas, TX 75232  
972-228-5200

### GREATER ST. JOHN REVELATION CHURCH

**December 11 - 16, 7:30 pm**  
Performance of "Black Nativity" play by Langston Hughes, directed by Willie Minor, and produced by Gospel Truths with special permission by Dramatics Publishing.

For more information and tickets, call Deacon Taylor @ 214-253-8759.

Greater St. John  
Revelation Church  
Rev. F. E. Livingston,  
Senior Pastor  
3633 Atlanta @  
Metropolitan Avenue  
Dallas, TX 75215  
214-428-0129

### MT. OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO

**December 31, 8 pm**  
Culmination of a Blessed 2006 Journey, a live CD/DVD recording of the "Spence and My Family" and "The Secret to Overcoming The B.L.U.E.S." This is a wonderful way to end 2006

and to usher in 2007!  
For more info, call 214-207-6505 or 214-284-8202  
Mt. Olive Church of Plano  
Rev. Sam Fencero, Jr.  
Senior Pastor  
740 Avenue F, Suite 303  
Plano, TX 75074  
972-633-5511

### SIXTH AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

**December 17, 4 pm**  
Annual Christmas Program with us, you will be blessed!  
Sixth Avenue Baptist Church  
Bishop K. D. Davis,  
Overseer & Pastor  
Rev. H. P. Williams,  
Associate Pastor  
125 South 5th Street  
Corsicana, TX 75110  
903-874-4873

### ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Every Tuesday, Thru December 19, 7 pm**  
"Tuesday Night Jazz is Back;" FREE, Advent of Jazz Concert Series, featuring local jazz artists for your Holiday Entertainment. Artists scheduled to appear: Tom Braxton, Ephesians 5, Erick Willis, Arlington Jones, etc.

For information call the church @ 214-922-0000.

St. Paul UMC  
Rev. Elzie Odom, Jr., Pastor  
1816 Routh Street  
Dallas, TX 75201  
214-922-0000

### WOMEN PRAYING FOR CHRIST MINISTRIES, INC.

**This Saturday, December 16, From 10 am to 1 pm**

It's that time of the year... The Season of GIVING! With your help we will sponsor a clothes, toys, and food give-away. Please donate any food (non-perishables) and frozen turkeys; new or slightly worn clothing and toys for this cause. The give-away will be held at John Phelps Recreation Center, 3030 Tips Blvd., Dallas, TX 75216, 214-670-7525. Help us to be a blessing to many children and adults who need our love and support.

For more information please call 214-450-7634.

Women Praying for Christ Ministries, Inc.  
Dr. Angela S. King,  
Founder/President  
P.O. Box 863766  
Plano, TX 75086  
214-450-7634

## Church Directory

**Temple of Faith Christian Chapel C.M.E. Church**  
"Where Jesus is the Main Attraction"  
Sunday Worship Experience - 8:00 am & 10:45 am  
Wednesday Bible Study - 12:00 Noon & 7:00 pm  
14120 Noel Road • Dallas, TX 75254  
972-239-1120 (Office) • 972-239-5925 (Fax)  
templeoffaith\_cme@sbcglobal.net (Email)  
Healthy Beginnings Child Development Center - 972-404-1412

**FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALLEN**  
Pastor W.L. Stafford Sr., M.Div.  
"A Ministry that is on the Move for Christ"  
Sunday School ..... 9:30 am  
Sunday Morning Worship ..... 11:00 am  
Children's Church ..... 11:30 am  
Wednesday Prayer/Bible Study ..... 7:00 pm  
2nd & 4th Monday "Youth for Christ" ..... 7:00 pm  
Come experience the Worship Atmosphere at Fellowship, you will never be the same.  
200 Belmont Drive • Allen, Texas • 75013  
Phone 972-359-9956 • www.fbcfallen.org  
\*If you need a ride to worship with us, please call the church.

**NORTH DALLAS COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP**  
"A Spiritual Oasis for a Thirsty World" Isaiah 55:1  
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES:  
8:00 AM • 9:30 AM • 11:30 AM  
972-437-3493  
1010-1020 South Sherman Street • Richardson, TX 75081  
www.ndcbf.org

**New Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Dallas**  
Sunday Service  
Morning Worship  
7:30 am & 10:30 am  
9:00 am Sunday School  
Wednesday Service  
Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm  
Brotherhood 7:00 pm  
Missions 7:00 pm  
Singles Group 7:00 pm  
Bible Study 7:45 pm  
Dr. Robert E. Price,  
Senior Pastor  
A Praying Church Family  
"Watchmen on the Walls"  
214-341-6459 (Phone) • 214-342-8403 (Fax)  
9550 Shepard Road  
Dallas, TX 75243  
www.nmzb.org (Website) • newmzbc@aol.com (Email)

**Faithway Fellowship Baptist Church**  
Of Hamilton Park  
8219 Bunche Dr. Dallas, TX 75243  
Church Office: (972) 792-0239  
Pastor's Office: (972) 792-0240  
Service Times  
Sunday School.....9:45AM  
Morning Worship .....11:00AM  
Wednesday Bible Study .....7:00PM  
PEOPLE OF FAITH WITH A MIND TO WORK

**St. Luke A.M.E. Church (aka - SLAME)**  
"Where we slam dunk the devil and serve up Jesus"  
521 W. Avenue E Garland, TX 75040 972.487.9703  
Email: slamechurch@aol.com  
Sunday  
8:45 a.m. Church School  
9:45 a.m. Praise & Worship  
10:15 a.m. Worship Experience  
Tuesday  
7:15 p.m. Bible Study  
Wednesday  
6:30 p.m. Prayer Service  
7:00 p.m. Church School  
Reverend Charles E. Franklin, Pastor

**Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church**  
920 E. 14th Street Plano, TX  
Pastor Isiah Joshua, Jr.  
FANNING THE FLAMES OF OUR FAITH  
Sunday Worship Services 8AM & 11AM  
Sunday 9:45AM Sunday School  
Monday 7PM Youth, Brotherhood, Mission & Young Adult Ministries  
Tuesday 7PM Bible Study & Men's Choir  
Wednesday 7PM Mid-Week Service  
Thursday 7PM Mass Choir  
For more information call (972) 423-6695  
www.shilohbaptistchurch.org

**MOCOP Mt. Olive Church of Plano**  
740 Avenue F Plano, TX 75074 972-633-5511  
WWW.MOCOP.ORG  
Serving the Plano Community for 13 Years  
Sunday Worship  
10:00 am  
Wednesday Night  
7:15 pm  
Pastors Sam & Gloria Fencero  
Call Pastor Sam on:  
"Vision & Truth Live"  
Radio Broadcast: KWRD 100.7 FM Sundays 9pm - 10pm  
HEAR PASTOR SAM DAILY ON: "TRUTH MADE SIMPLE"  
KGGH 1040 AM MONDAY - FRIDAY @ 5:25pm - 5:30pm

**Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church**  
1308 Wilcox Street, McKinney TX  
Pastor Charles S. Wattley  
Sunday  
Education Ministries... 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Celebration... 11:00 a.m.  
- Nursery Facilities Available -  
Wednesday  
Family Ministries... 7:00 p.m.  
Friendly Fellowship with A Family Focus  
For More Information Call 972.542.6178  
www.saintmarkbc.com • stmarkmissionary@aol.com



## Angels Of Destiny: Helping Others In Times Of Need

By: Toni Calvin

Angels of Destiny is a non-profit organization that delivers hand-painted angels to victims of serious illness. The organization is located in Beaumont, TX and was founded by Linda Richard. Ms. Richard is commonly known as the The Angel Lady. Since the organization's inception in 2001, they have delivered thousands of angels, locally, in southeast TX as well as across the United States as a symbol of hope and encouragement.

As a collector of angels, Ms. Richard thought of the idea to share the sentiment of angels with those who were in desperate need of encouragement due to their illness. Among the requests for angels, children are

always given priority. Richard states, "When a child receives an



Angels of Destiny founder Linda Richard

angel that looks like them, the expression is priceless". The response to the angels is usually

accompanied with smiles and gratitude by not only the patients, but the loved ones as well.

Jana Ocampo, a volunteer for the organization, says that she simply has a heart for terminally ill patients. She has lost many family members to cancer, including her father 11 years ago. "The kids are just so happy to get them and even the families in the waiting rooms are so surprised that someone was thinking of them", Ocampo said. The mission for Angels of Destiny is to let people know that someone cares and that they are loved by God, especially during their battle with a serious illness.

Currently, Angels of Destiny is in search of a new home as they have now outgrown their present

facility. The organization is operated by a volunteer staff and actively seeks to increase their team. According to Richard, this



Angels of Destiny members during visit to Beaumont Children's Hospital

is the busiest time of the year for the angels. Angels of Destiny will be delivering angels to all 20 of the Shriners Hospitals throughout the United States as well as

cancer centers, children's hospitals and hospices.

Ms. Richard offers words of encouragement for everyone chasing their dream.

"I believe that anyone can make a difference because 'Little is much when God is in it'. When the Lord gave me a vision for this ministry, I didn't look at my circumstances, I looked at my God, the author and finisher of my faith," she said.

"I would like to say to everyone hoping to make a difference in this world to hold on to your dreams. It's very important to have someone who believes in you! Someone who will be there, someone who will

speak the word into your life. One friend who believed and contributed to my vision for AOD was the late Pastor Max 'Brother Max' Crawford. I can see him rejoicing in Heaven today."

To help the volunteers stay encouraged, the team has fellowship once a month at Church on the Rock - North at 8060 E Tex Freeway in Beaumont and hosts several events throughout the year to raise funds and to show appreciation for each other. Angels of Destiny appreciates your donations and relies on them, solely, for its operation. You may make tax-deductible contributions and inquire about volunteer opportunities at [www.angelsodestiny.net](http://www.angelsodestiny.net).

## Kirk Franklin: At The Movies & On A Mission

By: Karu F. Daniels

Kirk Franklin is ready for his close-up - on the big screen this go round.

The gospel music sensation has partnered with Lionsgate to develop 'Church Boy,' a movie project described as a 'screen version of his inspirational life story.'

Fresh off the platinum-selling success of his latest opus 'Hero' and on the heels of winning his first American Music Award (for "Favorite Contemporary Inspirational Artist"), Franklin is continuing his wave of Hollywood-bound holy rolling victory.

The three time Grammy Award winner will produce 'Church Boy' along with Emmy Award winning casting director Robi Reed.

"We are very excited to welcome Kirk Franklin to the Lionsgate family," offered Lionsgate President of Production Mike Paseornek. "Kirk is an incredible talent who has touched countless lives through his music and his spiritual message. To hear his story is to realize how faith and dedication can help a person overcome the most daunting obstacles. With Kirk playing himself and bringing in brand-new songs - audiences are sure to be feeling the spirit with 'Church Boy.'"

"A lot of people who say that they are Christians don't always represent," Franklin said while accepting his American Music

Award. "I wanna make sure that when you see my life, that it's a life that you can really be proud of."

The film is Franklin's rags-to-riches story, which will detail him being abandoned by his teenage mother and raised by a great



aunt in Ft. Worth, Texas. As a precocious musical talent, he directed a church choir by age 11, but soon lost his way with the exposure to drugs, street violence, and easy sex. As his life spiraled out of control, he underwent a dramatic spiritual conversion ... and began a remarkable journey towards superstardom.

According to a spokesperson, he will also compose the film's soundtrack - which will include old favorites in addition to several brand-new songs. The script is still being worked on, with plans to start filming next spring.

On the musical front,

Franklin has been tapped to host the 'Imagine Me' All-Star Celebrity Concert on Jan. 11, 2007 at Nashville's Opryland Hotel. The event, which kicks off the 22nd Annual Stellar Awards, will benefit the Children's Defense Fund.

Artists confirmed to participating in concert, to be nationally broadcast on the Gospel Music Television Channel in April 2007, are Mary Mary, Donnie McClurkin, Kelly Price, Chante Moore, Kenny Lattimore, teen film actress KeKe Palmer (star of 'Akeelah and The Bee'), TV actor Tyler James Williams.

He has served as the private, nonprofit organization's "Faith Ambassador" since last year.

"I'm honored as the Children Defense Fund's 'Faith Ambassador' to host a benefit honoring an organization whose mission it is to raise awareness and bring much needed help to the millions of poor and disadvantaged children in America today," he commented. "I'm so thankful to my peers who are joining me in this endeavor."

## TeCo Theatrical Productions Presents Black Nativity

TeCo Theatrical Productions, Inc. will open its season with Black Nativity by Langston Hughes at the Hall of State in Fair Park on Thursday, December 7, 2006 and run through Saturday, December 16, 2006. The production will be directed by Leon Rabin Award Winner, David Jones Butler and will feature several accomplished artists based in Dallas.

Sherel Riley has recorded with Columbia Records and was featured as a background vocalist for George Howard and Robert Brookins. Riley has traveled extensively throughout the state performing to standing-room audiences. She holds a bachelor's degree in Speech and Drama from North Texas State University. Rickey L. Colbert, Jr. is a Dallas native who enjoys playwriting. On the silver screen, he has worked alongside Whoopi Goldberg, Vivica Fox, Lorenz Smith and Will Smith to name a few.

David Jones Butler has performed in a number of successful stage productions in Dallas & in Los Angeles.

TeCo Theatrical Productions is

a multi-cultural theater company that offers a full season of shows at the Hall of State in Fair Park.

Throughout the season more than 500 tickets will be donated to families who live in blighted areas of town. Upcoming productions include our annual New Play Competition in March 2007 and Five Men On A Stool, a unique poetry and jazz session in celebration of Mother's Day. TeCo is currently renovating a 10,000 square ft. building near the Bishop Arts District that includes administrative offices, workshop areas, dressing rooms and a 208-seat theatre. The final phase is scheduled for completion

in November 2007.

Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door, general



admission seating. Showtime starts at 8:00 p.m. nightly. For ticket information, call (214) 948-0716 or to purchase tickets online, visit [www.tecotheater.org](http://www.tecotheater.org)

## EBENEZER WORSHIP CENTER

"We are Living Stones in God's Temple"

**SUNDAY**  
10:00 am: Sunday School  
11:00 am: Morning Worship  
**MONDAY**  
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm: Men of Power and Women of Power  
**TUESDAY**  
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm: Bible Study & Worship Service

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

**Hill Chapel**  
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church  
1113 Ave. I, Plano, TX 75074 (972) 423-4090  
Rev. Clarence J. Ford, Jr., Pastor

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

**New Life Fellowship Church of Rowlett**  
Bishop Miller E. Johnson, Senior Pastor  
**New Worship Home**  
7401 Miller Road • Rowlett, TX 75088  
972-463-4964

**A Place of New Beginnings... II Corinthians 5:17**

Sunday Life Bible School ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Life Celebration Worship Service ..... 10:45 a.m.  
First Sunday: Ingredients for Life ..... 4:00 p.m.  
Wednesdays: Life In The Word Prayer and Bible Study ..... 7:00 p.m.

**The Inspiring Body of Christ Church**  
7710 S. Westmoreland Rd.  
Dallas Texas 75237  
Phone: 972-572-4262 Fax: 972-709-3888  
Sunday Services: 7:30 am, 10:00 am, 12:30pm.  
Monday School: 7pm  
Men's Fellowship: Friday 7:00pm  
Website: [www.ibocjoy.org](http://www.ibocjoy.org)

Pastor Rickie G. Rush

**Ben Washington Baptist Church, Inc.**  
3901 Frisco Avenue  
Irving, TX 75061  
Church 972-790-8421 Fax 972-986-6590  
Email: [church@bwbccirving.org](mailto:church@bwbccirving.org)  
Web: [bwbccirving.org](http://bwbccirving.org)

**"THE CHURCH WITH AN OPEN BIBLE"**

**Sunday Worship Services**  
8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
6:00 p.m. Baptist Training Union

**Wednesday**  
12:00 p.m. Bible Study  
7:00 p.m. Prayer Hour  
7:30 p.m. Bible Study

**Friendship Baptist Church**  
Dr. C. Paul McBride, Pastor

**Schedule of Services:**  
**Sunday**  
Early Morning Worship 8:00 a.m.  
Sunday School Classes 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.  
Evening Worship (1st Sunday) 6:00 p.m.

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

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

**4396 Main Street**  
**The Colony, Texas 75056**  
(972) 625-8186  
website: [www.fbc-online.net](http://www.fbc-online.net)  
**"The Church with a Vision"**

**If You Do Only One Thing for Your Family This Month . . .**  
**. . . Make Sure They are Protected in case of an Emergency.**

**Restland**

To help you take care of this important responsibility, we are offering a **FREE Simplicity Planner** preplanning guide.  
**Call 972-238-7111 today!**  
(Don't wait until it's too late to make your final wishes known)

Schools are starting; students are college-bound, and people are joining the workforce. We wish you good health and prosperity. Now do "The Simplicity Plan" for family security and peace of mind.

**THE SIMPLICITY PLAN®**