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## Black and White views converge on interracial marriage

By LEE A. DANIELS

(NNPA) I've long believed a succinct modern definition of marriage can be found in America's Declaration of Independence: as "the pursuit of Happiness."

In that sense, then, it's no coincidence that the phrase comes at the end of the document's famous assertion: "We

hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." — connecting a time-honored human rite to the conventionally-accepted human right of freedom.

Nowhere, in the American



context, has that link between the rite and the right been more

apparent than in society's stance toward marriage between Blacks and Whites. And no more so than today, when intermarriage between Americans of different racial and ethnic backgrounds is more common than ever; and same-sex marriage has made historic breakthroughs in acceptance; and the nation's first Black

See CONVERGE, Page 6

## MY RIDE Dallas shares transportation resources for seniors and disabled Dallas County residents

Transportation is the link that allows people to stay connected to their communities and live independently in their homes. Without access to transportation, people go without medical care, groceries, banking services, social and religious activities.

Nationally, it's estimated



that more than one in five seniors do not drive; half of these seniors stay home on

any given day because they lack transportation. More than half of Dallas County AARP members say it would be difficult for them to get around the community if they no longer drive. Public transportation is not an option in about half of Dallas County cities.

Whether the person, family members/caregivers, physician, or the Texas Department of Public Safety make the decision that one can no longer drive safely, the decision is emotional and tough for everyone involved.

The number one reason

See RIDE, Page 5

## DISD changes times of 2013-14 Board Meetings and Board Briefings

DALLAS - The Dallas ISD Board of Trustees holds two regularly scheduled meetings each month—a board briefing and a board meeting. The times for each of these have changed for the 2013-2014 school year.

Board briefings will continue to be held on the second Thursday of each month, but

the start time moves to 4 p.m. from 11:30 a.m. The briefings are held in the Board Room of the Administration Building at 3700 Ross Ave.

The board meetings will remain on the fourth Thursday of the month, but will now start at 6 p.m. Board meetings are held in the Ada L. Williams Auditorium of the

Administration Building.

Speakers have the opportunity to speak on specific agenda items. A resident desiring to address the board must register to speak no later than 5 p.m. on the day before the meeting in Board Services at (972) 925-3720 during regular office hours. The earliest

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COVER STORY

## Humanizing the Trinity River Corridor Project



A look at the local impact of the Trinity River project

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Cissy Houston writes open letter to granddaughter Bobbi Kristina

See HOUSTON, Page 10

COMMENTARY

## Something is fundamentally wrong

By WILLIAM SPRIGGS

As President Barack Obama continues his visits to different parts of America to discuss the economy. This is his attempt to use the Bully Pulpit of the Presidency to direct a national dialogue. The President said, "There are no simple tricks to grow the economy. What we need is a serious, steady, long-term American strategy that reverses the long erosion of middle-class security and gives everyone a fair shot to get ahead."

On this score, the President is exactly right. Clearly, we have a huge jobs deficit, but the problems facing America run deeper. We are stuck because we lost the road map. Simply getting the engine of job growth running is not going to put us on the correct path. In fact, it will simply run us into another, deeper rut. The current Washington consensus that everything is fine, we just need to address long run fiscal deficits misses the pre-

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## People In The News...



Mayor Harry LaRosiliere



Audrey Davis-Sivasothy



Lance Gross

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## Mayor Harry LaRosiliere

PLANO - In anticipation of the largest cultural festival in Plano, the Plano International Festival has partnered with the Plano Multi-Cultural Outreach Roundtable (MCOR) to host the seventh annual Leadership Reception on Tuesday August 27, 2013, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., at the Center for American and International Law, 5201 Democracy Drive, Plano 75024.

The Leadership Reception is a collaborative

effort between corporate executives, government officials and community leaders to celebrate Plano's diversity and explore how leaders can work together to support community unity in Plano.

Plano Mayor Harry LaRosiliere will welcome attendees with opening remarks followed by a panel discussion moderated by Plano Deputy City Manager LaShon Ross. The evening's topics focus on the local im-

pact of global business and how to imbue future leaders with a global vision, led by Dr. Mike Pang, Jindal Chair of Global Strategies at UTD's Jindal School of Management. Live entertainment will be provided by the Plano Clarinet Choir.

The year-round efforts of MCOR will culminate on Saturday, October 5 at the 8th Annual Plano International Festival at Haggard Park. The Plano International Festival, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, celebrates cultural



diversity within Plano, creates an opportunity for cultural organizations to collaborate and advances Plano's reputation as an international city.

Supporting sponsors include the Center for American and International Law and Laurie Steenis, Realtor® and Certified International Property Specialist (CIPS) with Keller Williams Realty-Plano.

For additional information, visit [www.Plano-InternationalFestival.org](http://www.Plano-InternationalFestival.org).

## Audrey Davis-Sivasothy

Dallas area natural hair enthusiasts are invited to hear thought leaders in the natural hair industry as they discuss new products and techniques at the Natural Hair Expo in Addison on Aug. 10. This year's featured speaker is Audrey Davis-Sivasothy, writer, publisher, speaker and consultant to the cosmetology industry.

Other speakers will include Charnika Jett, a journalist and videographer, Karen Wilson, a licensed cosmetologist and instructor, and Betty Murray, nutritionist and holistic health counselor.

"The purpose of the event is to further educate African-American women about their natural hair and how to maximize hair growth through nutrition and proper hair care," said Audra Cooper, event sponsor and owner of Naturally Divine Beauty Supply and Salon in Dallas.

Workshop topics will include the science of Black Healthy Hair Growth Seminar; Maximizing Your Hair's Potential, Going Natural? Transition VS Big Chop; The Natural Hair Boom; All About Texture and Natural



Hair Styling and Nutrition and Eating for Optimal Hair Growth.

Audrey Davis-Sivasothy was born in Alexandria, LA, and works as a freelance writer, publisher, speaker and

consultant to the cosmetology industry. A trained Health Scientist, Audrey has written extensively on caring for hair at home. Sivasothy is author of two hair care books, most notably *The Science of Black*

*Hair: A Comprehensive Guide to Textured Hair Care.*

The website and book, as the title indicates delves into the science of hair. It includes an overview of the two important parts of your hair: follicles and oil glands – even explaining how our hair grows and why it is different:

"Kinky hair fibers are produced from elliptical or oval-shaped hair follicles in the scalp. (Caucasian and Asian hair fibers grow from round or circle-shaped hair follicles; these fibers tend to be slightly larger in diameter than black hair fibers and the follicles more densely distributed than black hair folli-

cles.)," according to Black-HairScience.com.

*The Science of Black Hair* has been featured by *Huffington Post*, *Essence Magazine*, *Sophisticate's Black Hair*, and *Hype Hair Magazines*. This comprehensive book has also been adopted for cosmetology training courses and continues to maintain international bestseller status in the US, Canadian, UK, and French fashion/beauty book markets.

Aug. 10, from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., at Addison Conference and Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Rd., Addison. \$20. 972-450-6241 [naturallydivinebeauty.com/events/](http://naturallydivinebeauty.com/events/)

## Lance Gross

SAN FRANCISCO - Wells Fargo & Company joins forces with a few of

Shirley Kinsey - Where Art and History Intersect.

The renowned collec-



the most recognizable faces in entertainment for an interactive campaign to extend its year-long celebratory tour featuring The Kinsey Collection: Shared Treasures of Bernard and

tion features African American art and artifacts chronicling the African American experience from the 1600's to present. Jordin Sparks, Lauren London, Lance Gross and Talib Kweli

serve as featured curators in a four-part short film series, "Untold Stories: Our Inspired History," that consists of documentary-style narrations taking viewers through specific points in history represented by artifacts in The Kinsey Collection. The series can be viewed online at [www.youtube.com/wellsfargo](http://www.youtube.com/wellsfargo). Additionally, fans are encouraged to join in the conversation and share their own untold stories via Twitter using the #KinseyUntold hashtag.

"Wells Fargo's primary goal in collaborating with the Kinsey family to bring this collection to audiences across the country was to create an opportunity for others to engage in dialogue around the rich history of African Americans," says Lisa Frison, African American segment manager, "The Untold Stories

campaign is an exciting extension of this partnership, and an innovative way to continue the discussion about the significant contributions of African Americans."

The series is designed to educate viewers about the historical impact of African American history on modern life using the perspective of each celebrity curator. In one video, Lance Gross describes the trials faced by Josiah Walls, an early African American statesman in the 41st and 42nd Congress. Another features Jordin Sparks sharing the accomplishments of a young Phillis Wheatley, the first African American woman poet to be published.

"The Kinsey Collection strives to give our ancestors a voice, name and personality, enabling the viewer to

understand the challenges, obstacles, triumphs and extraordinary sacrifice of

African Americans who've greatly contributed to the

**See GROSS, Page 13**

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## WRONG, continued from Page 1

carious position we are in and that we are lost.

In Chattanooga, President Obama raised two points directly that underscore the direction the national discussion needs to go. One is the issue of the minimum wage. The other was the awful track record of public-sector employment that has weakened the recovery from the Great Recession. Both relate to restoring the role of government and democracy in shaping our economy.

Once again, President Obama spoke to raising the minimum wage; a topic he mentioned in his State of the Union address. As he pointed out this week, "No one who works full-time in America should have to live in poverty, I will keep making the case that we need to raise a minimum wage that in real terms is lower than it was when Ronald Reagan took office."

To put that in a different way, we are currently paying workers wages that would have been illegal in 1980. To create the middle class out of the depths of the Great Depression, it was clear the government had to rewrite the rules of the game. The government had to reset the boundaries of economic activity, especially to set the boundaries for wages.

It follows absolutely that if it is legal to pay workers a wage that puts them in poverty, you will have poor people. It is neither in the power of workers, or the government, to fight poverty that the market generates. The growth of the middle class was achieved in the post World War II era, in large part, because until 1981, the minimum wage generally tracked closely the wage that yielded an income slightly higher than the poverty level. So, anyone who landed a job, and worked hard could at least start from being on the poverty floor. Today, that is not the case. Nearly 3 million people in America work hard full-time, year-round, but remain in the cellar, not even able to reach the floor of poverty.

The change in the 1980s was a change in policy priority. Instead of the government

setting boundaries so the market would generate mid-

"Job Creator" myth. For the many workers who walked



**President Obama considers strategies as Vice President Joe Biden shares thoughts**

dle-class outcomes, the government became the servant of the great "Job Creator"; a mythical beast that claimed powers impossible in economics. Modern economists believe that we observe the intersection of supply and demand forces; clearly outcomes cannot be generated simply by one force. This superstition has led to the "creation" of lots of low-wage jobs, despite a workforce that has grown in education and skills.

It is time to assert a positive role of the government in the economy. Letting market power reign is not the same as letting competition reign. Boundaries do not prevent competition; they merely proscribe the competitive outcome. The wielding of market power leads to the end of competition and the start of oligopolies and monopolies; and oligopolies and monopolies do not lead to efficient outcomes. This is why anti-trust laws were developed to counterbalance the powers of a few economic actors to dictate market outcomes; instead of market forces.

And, something the President said only obliquely is an important set of rules the government put in place as well. The president said, "We saved the auto industry, and thanks to General Motors and the UAW working together to bring jobs back to America, 1,800 autoworkers in Spring Hill are on the job today in what was a once-closed plant."

The importance of the UAW to saving the auto industry is a key to understanding the shortcomings of the

out in collective action at fast-food restaurants around America this week to demand a raise in the minimum wage, the need for labor law change is clear. Government is one counterbalance to market power, but empowering workers is another way to bring equilibrium in the market place.

The Senate finally confirmed the president's nominees to the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) so the rights of those fast-food workers can be protected and upheld. But, the president needs to articulate a modernization of enforcement of workers' rights to get us back from being lost to found.

And, in asserting a positive role for the government in the economy, the president raised the point, "Over the past four years, more than 700,000 workers at the federal, state, and local levels of government have lost their jobs. These are cops, and firefighters, and about half of them are the people who work in our kids' schools. These are real jobs, too. It doesn't help a company like Amazon when hundreds of thousands of customers have less money to spend. If those layoffs hadn't happened-if public-sector employment grew like it did after the past two recessions-the unemployment rate would be more than a full percent lower today, at 6.5%. And our economy would be much better off." The key acknowledgement he made is that "cops, and firefighters" are "real jobs, too."

Public-sector jobs are the result of democratic forces-people demand a public good

and government has to go out to hire people to deliver those goods. The market place runs on one dollar one vote. But, public demand is based on one person, one vote. The great fear of the rich in an unequal society is that the 99 percent will exercise their democratic voice to demand public goods-public safety, public roads and public education. Suddenly, what is produced in the country, and therefore the real priorities of the country, would reflect the democratic will of the people, and not just the dictates of the rich who hold the sway in what the market will produce. And in this economy, people want to know why we can't produce jobs that pay decent wages over an economy that produces profits for companies like Apple and GE that send their money overseas to hide their profits?

The president continues to move the nation to a discussion of what it will take to re-create the middle class in America. The initial reaction from Republicans was to continue to argue about long run fiscal stability; a smoke screen for a "stay the course" strategy of slow job growth and increasing inequality and ignoring the harm done to the middle class. If the president will stick to the conversation America's workers want to hear, he can unite us in a conversation about pulling America back together. He should not get distracted by a clamor for "bipartisanship."

He needs to unite America's working families, employed and people without jobs, young and needing work and old and seeking retirement security-not uniting phony party labels. That is his job; to heal the wounds of this downturn and get us back on a path to prosperity for all. Let the Republicans alone to fight for the lost cause.

*William Spriggs serves as Chief Economist to the AFL-CIO and is a professor in, and former chair of the Department of Economics at Howard University. Bill is also former assistant secretary for the Office of Policy at the United States Department of Labor.*



## Garland's Healthy Living Expo 2013 announced

If you are looking for tips for a healthy, safe and environmentally friendly lifestyle, mark your calendar for Garland's annual Healthy Living Expo.

The Expo includes the H2O 5K, sponsored by the City of Garland's Water and Stormwater Management departments to raise awareness about conserving and protecting water resources while encouraging physical fitness.

"The Healthy Living Expo provides resources and ideas for our residents and neighbors who want to learn more about personal health, safety and environmental issues that impact the entire family," says Garland Mayor Douglas Athas. "Whether your goals are to get fit, reduce clutter or save money on your utilities, the Expo is the place to find useful information."

Healthy You exhibitors will offer a variety of free health screenings, along with helpful insights for nutrition, exercise and more. Flu shots also will be available for a cost.

Healthy Earth exhibitors will feature landscaping information, energy-saving advice, recycling information and much more. You will have the opportunity to recycle or donate a multitude of items.

The event will also include adoptable pets from the Garland Animal Shelter, electronics recycling, paper shredding, a drop-off for expired or unwanted medications, and donation drop-offs for shoes and discarded eyeglasses.

Flu shots will be available through the City of Garland Health Departments. Please bring your insurance card for BCBS, Medicaid or CHIP and Medicare Part B.

For a complete list of available vaccines and costs, please visit the event website or call 972-205-3370.

The H2O 5K will begin at 8:15 a.m. Advance registration is only \$10 by Sept. 6 and will include a free race shirt. After Sept. 6 registration is \$15 with a limited amount of shirts available, so please register soon! Online and mail-in registration is available on the event website.

Admission to the Expo is free. The first 750 patrons who visit the Expo will receive a free folding tote bag. Only one bag per family, please. The event is set for Saturday, Sept. 21, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Curtis Culwell Center, 4999 Naa-man Forest Blvd.

For more details about Healthy Living Expo activities, visit [www.garlandgoesgreen.org](http://www.garlandgoesgreen.org).

## Back to School medicine tips

Summer is almost over and school will soon be back in session. A little extra planning is required for children who take medications during the day. Every year the Texas Poison Center Network receives calls from schools and daycare centers about medication being found on floors, in diaper bags, in backpacks or being shared among students.

Specialists with the Texas Poison Center Network, say "Parents need to make sure they're following school district policies before sending their kids off to class carrying any type of medication." It is also important to talk with your child about how dangerous these medications are, even if they are sold over the counter. Explain to children that even though medications may make one child



feel better, they can make another child very ill, so medications should never be shared with friends.

Back to school medication safety tips also include:

- Always keep medications in their original container and don't mix several different medications into one container.
- Be familiar with the school's medication policy. Most districts require all

medications to be distributed by authorized school personnel. Most policies are going to have you bring the medications to the school nurse and let them distribute the medications. Sending the medication in your child's backpack is not a good idea.

• Sports bags may contain asthma inhalers, which should never be shared with other people.

## Parkland burn camp to host benefit golf tournament

DALLAS — The 12th annual Camp I-Thonka-Chi Benefit Golf Tournament will be held Monday, Sept. 30 at Timarron Country Club in Southlake. Tournament proceeds help children with burn injuries attend Parkland's Camp I-Thonka-Chi, a summer camp designed especially for them.

This one-day tournament, the camp's largest fundraiser each year, is an 18-hole best ball scramble with 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. shotgun starts. The event also includes a silent auction throughout the day and a dinner to honor tournament winners and sponsors at 6:30 p.m. in the clubhouse.

Camp I-Thonka-Chi, means is Choctaw for "a place that makes one strong or fearless, not afraid to face life," relies on the generosity of private donors as well as participants in the annual golf tournament to help send kids to camp each

year. Unlike most charities, it does not rely on corporate sponsors.

"This golf tournament is not only a fundraiser, but it's one of the few times we get to interact with many of the donors who make our camp possible," said Donna

Crump, Parkland's physical therapy manager and director of Camp I-Thonka-Chi.

"Without the generous donations of so many individuals we wouldn't be able to

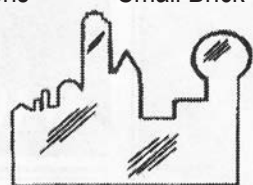
send the kids to camp with no charge to them."

**See BENEFIT, Page 11**

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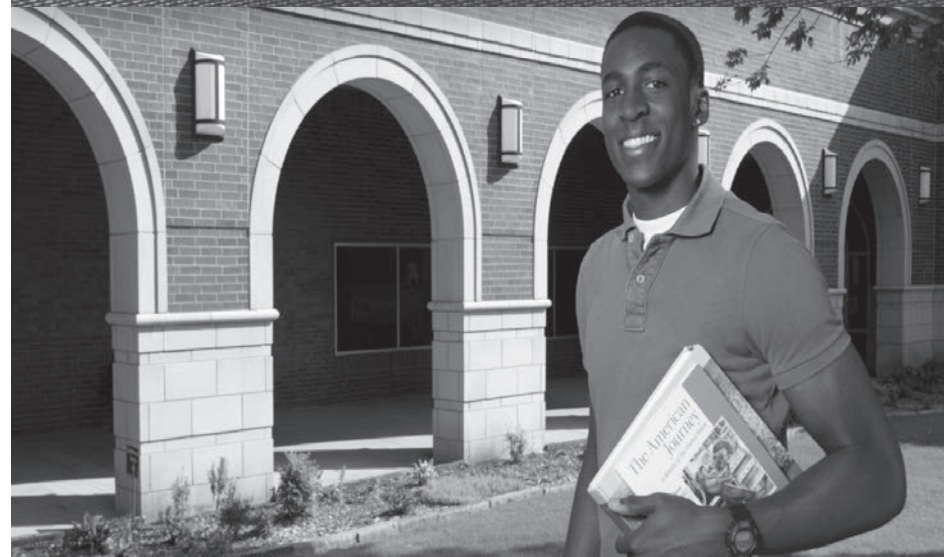
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## Urban League Garland offers homebuyer workshops for new buyers

Low interest rates and low property values makes it a buyer's market for potential homeowners. The Urban League Community Service Center in Garland is offering a FREE Homebuyer Workshop on Saturday, Aug. 10 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Audubon Recreation Center, 342 W. Oates Road in Garland. Lunch and refreshments will be served.

## RIDE,

continued from Page 1

caregivers miss work is to drive someone somewhere (The MetLife Caregiving Cost Study). Daughters and sons acknowledge it's challenging to work, meet their parents' needs and take care of the kids. Often, older relatives hesitate to ask for help.

MY RIDE Dallas, www.myriedallas.org provides free in person, online and printed resources that help seniors, persons with disabilities and their caregivers find transportation options. The Get a Ride Guide, available in both English and Spanish (in print and online), lists existing transportation options in Dallas County. The web site provides useful information and contact information for a personal navigator who can discuss options, point persons and caregivers toward mobility training and advise on budgeting. To reach the MY RIDE navigator in English or Spanish, call 972-855-8084.

Since MY RIDE Dallas began in 2009 as the Community Transportation Network, it has helped more than 10,000 persons connect to transportation. Founded by the Community Council of Greater Dallas and the Dallas Area Agency on Aging, its 90 partners include public and private transportation services, human services organizations, faith-based groups and volunteer driver transportation resources.

In addition to working with seniors and people with disabilities, MY RIDE also focuses on increasing transportation options in underserved areas of Dallas County, and in identifying volunteer drivers, funding for rides and transportation resources.



## Curtis Report

by Barry Curtis

I choose to trust my government I want to trust my government. Government requires trust. However I do not trust "big" government.



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## A patriot's trust

Big government by its very nature is intrusive on the personal liberties of those that it governs.

There is big government, and then there is big progressive government. Progressive liberal government is inherently dangerous. Big liberal government consumes all in

its wake. Big government targets Personal property thru taxation and unreasonable punitive sanctions against its citizens for failure to comply with the big government rules.

Big governments by definition must restrict your personal choices. These choice

restrictions could be the size of a big gulp you drink, taxation on how large of a car you purchase, or penalty for failure to have the "designated" health insurance mandated by the state.

One of the most dangerous aspects of big government

**See TRUST, Page 16**



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**DISD**, continued from Page 1

a person may register for an upcoming regular board meeting or an upcoming board briefing is the next regular business day following the posting of that meeting. No registrations shall be accepted after 5 p.m. the day

preceding the meeting. Only those who are properly registered may address the board.

Copies of any documents for the board are to be handed to the executive director of Board Services at that time.

Only one person may approach the microphone and only the person at the microphone will be allowed to speak, with the exception of interpreters. There will be no substitution of speakers.

Residents and visitors who have signed up to address the board are allotted three minutes to speak. Those who continue speaking after three minutes will be warned by the executive director (through the sounding of a tone) that their time is up.

Upon expiration of the time limit, the resident or visitor is expected to stop speaking and either return to his or her seat or leave the auditorium or district property.

Groups consisting of two or more people shall appoint one

person to pre-sent their views before the board.

For a complete meeting and briefing schedule, visit the district Web site at <http://www.dallasisd.org/cms/lib/TX01001475/Centricity/Domain/447/MeetingDates1314.pdf>.

**CONVERGE**, continued from Page 1

president is the child of an interracial marriage.

That's why the finding of a just-released Gallup survey that Black Americans and White Americans are approaching a point of unanimous tolerance about Black-White intermarriage is so important: Because the fact that 96 percent of Blacks and 84 percent of Whites express approval of intermarriage – an average of 87 percent – indicates a great deal about America's present and future.

We know about the past of Black-White intermarriage in America. Whites, driven by crackpot assertions of racial purity and the "practical" necessities of slavery, banned it by law during the slave and Jim Crow eras. Not until California's Supreme Court struck down that state's law in 1948 – when a total of 24 other states had such laws and state and federal courts routinely dismissed challenges to them – did the racist restriction of the rite begin to lose power.

The Supreme Court's famous 1967 decision in *Loving v. Virginia* invalidated the intermarriage bans in the last 16 backward states. But even so,

Whites' attitudes toward intermarriage remained mired in the past.

A 1969 Gallup survey found that while more than 1 of every 2 Blacks expressed approval of intermarriage, less than 1 in 5 of Whites did. By 1983, Black approval was at 71 percent; White approval at 38 percent. Not until 1997 did White approval pass the 60 percent mark; and not until 2005, when Black approval was at 87 percent, did White approval break 70 percent.

The current valuable Gallup survey, conducted over four weeks from early June to early July, just presents the data. It wasn't designed to explore the reasons behind the rise in tolerance.

But of course doing so is imperative.

One source of the progress is obvious: The landmark immigration act Congress passed in 1965, four months after the Voting Rights Act, produced a huge wave of immigrants of color from Asia, Latin America, and to a lesser extent, Black African nations that sharply increased the number of Americans who are people of color.

That first wave of new Americans had by the 1980s married (largely among themselves) and birthed a sizable second-generation – their children – who grew up thoroughly Americanized. In numerical terms, it's the marriage record of that generation and Americans who've married in the last decade that have made intermarriage a common fact of American life.

Now, one in seven American marriages are between people of different racial or ethnic backgrounds – and together White-Hispanic American and White-Asian American marriages account for more than half of them.

The 558,000 married couples in which one spouse is Black and the other White make up only about 11 percent of all intermarriages and less than 1 percent of all married couples in America.

Those two facts underscore the central role Black-White intermarriage continues to have: as a source of inspiration to the acceptance of intermarriage in a broader sense; and specifically to the fight for same-sex marriage; and, finally, as lighting-

rod for the continuing racist sentiment in American society.

The Gallup survey findings are not a recommendation for thinking those attitudes have completely disappeared. The virulent slurs against President Obama's parents and him as their child testify to its continued grip on the diseased minds of some Americans, including

some in high places. So does the stunning explosion of racist tweets against the now-famous Cheerios interracial advertisement of late May.

But it's equally important to note that while the racist tweets initially had the element of surprise on their side, the huge outpouring of support for the ad from the decent denizens of the

Twitter-verse conveyed the same message as the Gallup survey's data: the overwhelming majority of Americans accept that this human rite is a human right.

*Lee A. Daniels is a longtime journalist based in New York City. His latest book is Last Chance: The Political Threat to Black America.*



# Going Places!

**August 2013**

## DART Day at Hawaiian Falls Garland

**DART is your ticket to half-price admission and discounted food at Garland's wettest and wildest waterpark!**

Friday, August 2 at Hawaiian Falls Garland (4550 North Garland Avenue)

Must purchase at least 24 hours in advance at:

[partywirks.com/store/hawaiian\\_falls\\_garland](http://partywirks.com/store/hawaiian_falls_garland)

Click on "DART Day at the Park" and apply discount code DARTFUN at checkout!

Blue Line to Downtown Garland Station, then transfer to route 566

## Summer Adventures in Fair Park

**Splash into summer with rides, shows, attractions and museums in Fair Park, including the new 500-foot-tall Top O' Texas Tower!**

[fairparkfun.com](http://fairparkfun.com)

Through August 18 at Fair Park

Green Line to Fair Park Station

## Music on Main Street

**The City of Irving's new FREE and family friendly outdoor concert series showcases great metroplex musicians!**

August 24 (1 – 2:30 p.m.) at Whistlestop Plaza next to Downtown Irving/Heritage Crossing Station

[irvingevents.org](http://irvingevents.org)

TRE to Downtown Irving/Heritage Crossing Station

**For a complete list of August events you can reach on DART, visit [DART.org/specialevents](http://DART.org/specialevents).**

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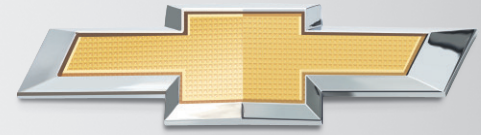
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# Humanizing the Trinity River Corridor Project

BY TAMARIND PHINISEE,  
NDG CONTRIBUTING  
WRITER

Life for 60-something Lena Perez has been pretty routine. For more than 40 years, Perez has lived in the same neighborhood in West Dallas and she can't imagine living anywhere else.

In fact, says Perez, she and her husband Angel have raised three children in the neighborhood. And now, they take care of her grandkids. But the city's Trinity River Corridor Project could turn their lives upside down, says Perez.

The reason: the project is being developed just a few streets over from their home. And, Perez says, investors are already trying to buy out her neighbors.

"It's scary because of the fact that we're older and we don't know how to handle a situation like this. If this had happened when we were in our 20s, it would've been a lot easier," Perez says. "We need help and advice ... about what to do."

Perez says her husband Angel has been attending the local neighborhood meetings sponsored by the city about the project. But, she says, the meetings aren't helpful.

"He's (my husband) left the meetings with a lot of questions," she says, adding that it would be easier if the city was honest and open with area residents about the project.

## Project at a glance

The Trinity River Corridor Project will create a 20-mile corridor and 10,000-acre public space through the city's core, which will span seven city districts, including West Dallas (now District 6).

The project's Balanced Vision Plan purports to address the areas of: flood protection; transportation; environmental restoration and management; and parks and recreation.

Last week, the city began work on a new plan called the Connected City Design Challenge ([connectedcitydesign.com](http://connectedcitydesign.com)), which will update or replace the Balanced Vision Plan.

Dallas City Councilwoman Monica Alonzo — who is now represents District 6, which includes West Dallas — did not return calls by press time.

The targeted area in the West Dallas community includes two side-by-side neighborhoods: La Bajada (the closest area to the Trinity River) and Los Altos.

Planning for the project has been in the works for many, many years. Voters approved \$246 million for improvements to the Trinity River in a 1998 bond election. These improvements include the development of hundreds of miles of a walking and biking trail network to connect several major parks around

garet Hunt Hill Bridge that opened in March 2012.

It is hoped, say city officials, that these improvements will spur more urban revitalization to the West Dallas neighborhood, through housing in-fill and mixed-use development. In fact, District 1 City Councilman Scott Griggs says restoration of the street grid and new residential projects are on the radar in an area south of Singleton Boulevard, between Beckley and Sylvan Roads.

But encouraging urban revitalization in an existing neighborhood, says Perez, may mean that current homeowners will be forced to sell their homes as investors seek to move in.

Of course, not all area residents and business owners see this as a bad thing.

Aaron Odom Jr., a member of the family that owns West Dallas-based Odom's BBQ, says he's excited about the incoming economic development. His family's business owns a chain of barbecue restaurants, one of which sits on Singleton Boulevard which borders both neighborhoods.

***"It's scary because of the fact that we're older and we don't know how to handle a situation like this. if this had happened when we were in our 20s, it would've been a lot easier," Lena Perez says. "We need help and advice... about what to do."***

Dallas to the city's core; the conversion of the historic Continental Bridge to a pedestrian only bridge (already underway) and Calatrava-designed bridges like the 1,870-foot-long Mar-

Odom says the new Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge, which sits at the mouth of Singleton Boulevard as a gateway to the West Dallas neighborhood from downtown has increased area traffic.



Construction underway at Trinity River Corridor Project

"We like the bridge. It brought the guy doing all the investing in the area and actually, that's helping out our business," Odom says. "There are a lot of people offering to buy out the area and people are willing to invest in it. ..."

Edward Hadnot, who lives in the Los Altos neighborhood adjacent to Perez's, says he's happy that the city has turned its attention to a part of the city that has been neglected for so many years. Still, he agrees with Perez, that the city hasn't been as honest with area residents as it could be as to the fate of their homes.

"I think it's good for the area; it's bringing back some economic development out there to make the community better, although I don't know what impact that will have on me. I think the city could do a better job of doing that," Hadnot says.

## City level feedback

Aldo Fritz, chief planner in the City of Dallas' neighborhood and planning

division, concedes that the displacement of some neighborhood residents could happen as property taxes slowly rise over a period of time and residents are unable to make the payments.

"Yes, there will be an increase in property taxes; but it won't be anything substantial or overnight. It will be a gradual change over a few years," Fritz says. "Unfortunately, it's a catch 22 because you want the neighborhood to improve. But how do you pay for it?"

Fritz says if a homeowner's land is necessary for flood protection, he or she will be compensated. But, he adds, nothing like that has happened so far and the city's goal is not to "bulldoze" existing homes. In fact, he says, the city passed an ordinance last year limiting the development of buildings in West Dallas to two floors, to push future development further south of the two neighborhoods and retain the existing residential footprint.

"We want to minimize displacement. We don't want anyone to be forced to move out ... We don't want to kick anyone out or take anyone's homes away," Fritz says. "We want to empower them to live in an improved, vibrant neighborhood."

Paula Blackmon, chief of staff in Mayor Mike Rawlings' office, says she's not sure as to whether or not residents will have to move.

"If they want more information or help about this issue, have them contact us; we'll help them find the info they need," Blackmon says.

However, Blackmon stresses that the Trinity River Corridor Project is vital to the economic development and growth of Dallas as a whole.

"The Trinity River has long bisected our community. This project will create an environment that we're hoping will bring people to the river and the water and will create flow to (both sides of the river)," she says.



## NDG Gossip: Cissy Houston writes open letter to granddaughter Bobbi Kristina

By SHENICE SANDERS,  
NDG INTERN

The very public dislike between Whitney Houston's daughter Bobbi Kristina Brown and the late singer's mother, Cissy Houston, has been one of the hot topics for media outlets for several months. Much of the speculation is coming from statements from Cissy Houston and Bobbi Kristina Brown themselves.

When Houston's book *Remembering Whitney* was published in January, Brown has been keeping her distance from her grandmother and taking to twitter to express her dislike. Stating "anything concerning my grandmothers book, I and @nickdgordon of course personally have nothing to do with it, i ask you pls respect that havnt read& wont."

According to The Hollywood Reporter.. Bobby calls the book (which details Whitney's drug abuse, problems with ex-husband Bobby



Whitney & Bobbi Kristina

Brown and gay relationship rumors) "disrespectful."

Now Houston is trying to win her granddaughter back into her life. She released an open letter to the press on Wednesday, addressed to "Krissi," and also to Nick Gordon who Bobbi is engaged to.

**Read Houston's full letter below:**

Dear Krissi

I love you. My heart is full. I don't know where to begin.

You may think I don't understand you and what you're feeling but remember, Baby, I lost my mom when I was just a child. So, I do know some of the sadness and loneliness of your life since your mom passed away.

Although I know her spirit is with you always, I cry with you and for you. I grieve with you and for you ... for all of the days and nights you need to tell her something or

See HOUSTON, Page 11

## Meso Maya launches new weekend brunch menu

DALLAS — Whether you crave a savory and spicy remedy for a not so hot "morning after," or a light and zesty start to your weekend fiesta, Meso Maya's bold new brunch menu will leave you thinking you are actually south of the border.

The new brunch menu is available at both Meso Maya locations, at Preston and Forest and Downtown



Huevos Borrachos

across from the Perot Museum of Nature and Science, and one block from Klyde Warren Park. Meso Maya offers brunch from 11 a.m. –

2 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays.

"Dallas loves brunch, so I wanted to take traditional brunch favorites and give them an authentic Mexican, Meso Maya twist," says Executive Chef Nico Sanchez. "Brunch is fun, and I had a lot of fun developing this menu. And, of course, each dish is bursting with the bold and adventurous flavors that are our culinary signature."



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- +Maintain vehicles in good working condition to prevent leaks.



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## 50 years later another Martin mobilizes African Americans

The 50th Anniversary of the historic 1963 March on Washington led by Rev. Martin Luther King approaches, the African American community still grapples with the not guilty verdict for George Zimmerman for the murder of Trayvon Martin.



The recent August cover of the Capital Cities Decision Makers spotlights the fact that another Martin appears to be mobilizing our community. It also spotlights the need for the voice of the African American press.

## New DNC Website: Voting Rights Matter

To mark the 48th anniversary of the signing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, Democrats have launched [www.votingrightsmatter.com](http://www.votingrightsmatter.com). This new microsite tells the story of the fight for voting rights, connecting the historic struggle to what's happening today. The timeline begins with the Civil War, Reconstruction, and the 15th amendment, then continues to women's suffrage, the civil rights movement all the way up to the Supreme Court's recent decision.

While the Voting Rights Act was a major step forward in protecting and expanding access to the ballot, the



Supreme Court's decision to rule parts of the law unconstitutional opened the door for Republican state legislatures to pass harmful obstructive legislation. After only one month,

eleven Republican-controlled states are taking steps to make it harder to cast a vote.

President Obama, Democratic lawmakers and Demo-

**See DNC, Page 16**

## BENEFIT, continued from Page 4

Since 1992, Parkland's burn camp has helped hundreds of children by providing a place that allows them to be, well, just kids. Children ages 6 to 18 years build friendships, improve social skills and simply have fun without being self-conscious of their scars or injuries. Camp is held

each year at Camp John Marc in Meridian, Texas, where campers participate in a variety of activities including horseback riding, swimming, fishing, archery, arts and crafts, boating and other activities.

Timarron Country Club is located at 1400 Byron Nelson Parkway, South-

lake, Texas 76092. Spots are still available for both morning and afternoon flights. For a tournament entry form or more information, please call Jill Bass at 214.725.9266, Chip Sloan at 817.999.2887 or Josh Santiago at (214) 641.1375 or visit [parkland-burncamp.org](http://parkland-burncamp.org).

## HOUSTON, continued from Page 10

ask her advice or just hear her voice ... and she's not there. For all of the times when you need to put your head in her lap or feel her arms around you and she's not there ... For the good and happy times you want to share with her; for the fun and laughter you enjoyed together, but she's not there ... for every day and every night you just miss her ... I know.

She was your mom and she was my child and Krissi, I loved her too, more than you might imagine. I know you were upset that I wrote my book, "Remembering Whitney," but I hope one day you'll read it and understand that I just wanted to let the world see some of My Nippy—the sweet, friendly, loving little girl with the extraordinary beauty and boundless talent, who grew into the superstar and musical icon the world saw. I want people to know—fans and critics and ordinary people alike—Nippy was a whole person, and like all of us, she was good and bad AND she was my joy!

Krissi, all I want for you is your good health and your happiness. I want you to have a good life that you can be proud of. Do I want you

to get married in the near future? No, I don't. I think you're too young and I wish you'd wait. But that's because I'm Grandma. I'm supposed to worry about you. I'm supposed to wonder if Nick or ANY man is good enough for you, My Baby's Baby. I'm not angry with Nick and I don't think, nor did I ever say anything hurtful about him to anyone. I have NEVER publicly commented on your personal life and I don't intend to. So in the future when you read or hear that Cissy Houston said this or Cissy Houston said that, be confident in the knowledge that it isn't true.

I try to believe that when your mother passed away the world decided that you belong to them as she did. I'm trying very hard to trust that people who make comments or offer their opinions about you are sincere in their desire for you to be happy. I can only hope they come to realize the best they can offer you is their prayers.

Krissi, as many years as I've lived and as many experiences as I've had I know I don't have all of the answers. I do know this, Baby Girl: God's got you and so do I.

With all my love,  
Grandma

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**Citizenship Classes** at Irving Central Public Library - Each participant will be assisted to fil out the naturalization application. Free assistance from immigration attorneys. You do not need to know English to participate. Each Monday from 6 to 8 p.m. at 801 W. Irving Blvd

**Every Tuesday**

**Dallas Comedy House Open Mic** at 2645 Commerce St; 214-741-4448

**Saturdays in August**

**Addison Summer Series** from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at Beckert Park

**Through August 11**

**Jubilee Theatre: *Mirandy and Brother Wind*** at Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St. in FW, 8 p.m. 817-338-4411

**Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus** at American Airlines Center. <http://www.ringling.com/SectionLandingPage.aspx?id=45125>

**Through August 8**

**21st Annual Yellow Rose Classic at the Amon G. Carter, Jr., Exhibits Hall** at the Will Rogers Memorial Center in Ft. Worth [www. yellowrosecarshow.com](http://www.yellowrosecarshow.com)

**Viva Dallas! Hispanic Expo** at Dallas Market Hall – Main Hall 2200 Stemmons Frwy. 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. [www.gdhcc.com](http://www.gdhcc.com)

**Through August 16**

*Summer Art Adventure Camps* at Irving Arts Center. <http://www.irvingartscenter.com>

**Mentoring in Medicine**, This event is hosted online register at [http://mimvc2. eventbrite.com](http://mimvc2.eventbrite.com) [www.medicalmentor.org](http://www.medicalmentor.org)

**Through August 28**

**Mesquite Championship Rodeo** in Mesquite [www. mesquiterodeo.com](http://www.mesquiterodeo.com)

**Through August 31**

**Justicia: the Struggle for Mexican American Civil Rights** in Dallas, Texas 1920-2012 at Latino Cultural Center, 2600 Live Oak Street, 214-671-0052

**Malleable Forms: an Exploration of Texas Sculpture and Clay** at Latino Cultural Center, 2600 Live Oak Street, 214-671-0052

**Through September 6**

**Gaylord Texan SummerFest Wonderland Adventure** in Grapevine [www. gaylordhotels.com](http://www.gaylordhotels.com)

**August 9**

**Veteran's Tribute Gala** at Plaza Theater 972-205-2769

**American Idols Live** at American Airlines Center [www. americanairlinescenter.com](http://www.americanairlinescenter.com)

**The Rankin Brothers Classic Music Review** at Granville Arts Center – Brownlee Auditorium 8 p.m. 972-205-2790

**August 9-11**

**Tax Free Shopping Week-end**

**August 10**

**Mad Science Presents "Spin! Pop! Boom!"** at West Irving library at 2:30 p.m.

**North American Reptile Breeders Conference & Trade Show** at Arlington Convention Center

**August 11**

**125th Salem Institutional Baptist Church Anniversary** 3918 Crozier Street in Dallas 214-428-3797

**August 12-18**

**KRLD's Restaurant Week**

**August 13-14**

**17th Annual Europa Super Show & Sports EXPO** in Dallas [www.supershowexpo.com](http://www.supershowexpo.com)

**August 13 - 15**

**Arlington Peddler Show** in Arlington [peddlershow.com](http://peddlershow.com)

**August 14**

**UCP Life Without Limits Run, Walk, & Roll** at Reverchon Park. 7 to 11

a.m. [lifewithoutlimitsrwr.org](http://lifewithoutlimitsrwr.org)

**August 16 -22**

**KRLD Restaurant Week** at area DFW area Restaurants. [www.krld.com](http://www.krld.com)

**August 17**

**Speedway Children's Charities Tony Stewart "Smo-ke Show"** at Texas Motor Speedway [texas. speedwaycharities.org/ events](http://texas.speedwaycharities.org/events)

**August 17-25**

**North Texas State Fair and Rodeo** at 2217 N. Carroll Blvd, 940-387-2632

**August 17-18**

**Dallas Home Show** at Fort Worth Convention Center

**August 17-19**

**Lion's Club Balloon Festival & Fair** at Highland village at Copperas Branch park, Highland park, [http://www.lionsballoonfest.co m/](http://www.lionsballoonfest.com/)

**August 18**

**Musical Accents presents Summer JAM 2013** at Plaza Theatre, 972-333-3677.

**August 19**

**Gordon Lightfoot Live** in Concert at the Verizon Theatre at 8 p.m. [www.veri- zontheatre.com](http://www.verizontheatre.com)

**August 20 -21**

**Women of Faith Conference** at American Airlines Center [womenoffaith.com](http://womenoffaith.com)

**August 21-23**

**Fort Worth MusicFest** located in the parking Lot of 3520 E. Berry [www.fwmu- sicfestival.org](http://www.fwmusicfestival.org)

**August 20 -22**

**23rd Annual Lions Club Balloon Festival and Fair** in Highland Village, TX. [www. hvballoonfest. org](http://www.hvballoonfest.org)

**August 23**

**Little Elm hosting a Dive In movie** at Little Elm Park Beach 7:30 p.m.

**August 23-25**

**Visions: The Women's Expo** at Dallas market Hall

**August 24 & September 21**

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**GROSS,** continued from Page 2

success of this country,” said Bernard Kinsey, “We are delighted to join with Wells Fargo in honoring the 150th Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation by sharing this collection with national audiences.”

The Wells Fargo “Untold Stories: Our Inspired History” campaign extends into social media with the launch of multiple video vignettes featuring prominent lifestyle bloggers sharing their personal stories. The robust social media influencer strategy aims to broaden the reach of the campaign by tapping into the networks of each influencer to emphasize the role of history and its significance to today.

Denene Millner —participating influencer and New York Times Bestselling Author named one of the most influential black female writers by Black Voices— recently shared personal reflections via her popular My Brown Baby blog on the Family First short film featuring Talib Kweli.

For more information or details on the “Untold Stories: Our Inspired History” campaign, please visit [www.wellsfargo.com/kinseycollection](http://www.wellsfargo.com/kinseycollection).

An exhibition of the renowned Kinsey Collection is currently on tour in honor of the 150th Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. Presented by Wells Fargo, the tour officially launched during Black History Month at the Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD) in San Francisco, CA. On June 29, the tour kicked off its second stop at the Harvey B. Gantt Center in Charlotte, NC. It will move to Baltimore’s Reginald F. Lewis Museum in November.

For a limited time, customers wishing to “own a piece” of the collection can personalize their Wells Fargo debit and/ or credit card with a select piece of art from The Kinsey Collection. Customers can visit Wells Fargo Card Design StudioTM at:

[www.wellsfargo.com/card-designstudio](http://www.wellsfargo.com/card-designstudio) and select Kinsey Art in the image library.

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**August 15, Noon**

Come to a "Between Jobs Support Group" meeting at the Christian Works for Children, 6320 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, TX 75240. Call 972-960-9981 to register.

**Brother Ramon Hodridge,  
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**August 11**

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**Dr. Timothy Wilbert, Sr.  
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[www.biblewayirving.org](http://www.biblewayirving.org)**

**CHRIST COMMUNITY  
CHURCH  
IN RICHARDSON**

**August 11, 8:45 or 11 a.m.**

Join us in our Worship Services as we honor and praise God for

**Dr. Terrence Autry,  
Senior Pastor  
George Bush Fwy at  
Jupiter Road on the  
Garland/Richardson Border  
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[www.followpeace.org](http://www.followpeace.org)**

**FELLOWSHIP  
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CHURCH IN ALLEN  
"The Ship"**

**Monday – Friday  
9 a.m.-1 p.m.**

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

For Community help the Assistance Center serves Collin County by responding to people in crisis for emergency shelter, clothing, food, and access to medicine and medical services for county residents. Call the church or Allen's City Hall for details.

**August 11, 8 a.m.  
And 9:30 a.m.**

You're invited to our Worship Services as we praise God for the victories in our lives. Come and grow with us. You're also invited to a new series of teaching, "Guaranteed Victory". God will "Equip, Elevate, and Empower" you; call the church for details.

**August 14, 7 p.m.**

Join us for Wednesday Night Live in the Joycie Turner Fel-

lowship Hall on Belmont Drive, with old school prayer and testimony. Also, come to our Corporate Prayer and our Kidz Zone (an environment to equip children to grow and to show God's love.)

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

**SALEM INSTITUTIONAL  
BAPTIST CHURCH**

**August 11, 11 am  
and 3:30 pm**

You're invited to join us at our 125th Church Anniversary; theme: "It's Time To Break Every Chain" Luke 4:18. Reverend Dr. Zan Wesley Holmes, Jr., Pastor Emeritus of St. Luke "Community" UMC will bring the Word at 11 am and Senior Pastor Bryan L. Carter of Concord MBC will speak at 3:30 pm with a memorial tribute to Salem's rich legacy of Christian service and community awareness for 125 years in the heart of Sunny South Dallas.

**Rev. Todd M. Atkins  
Senior Pastor  
3918 Crozier Street  
Dallas, TX 75215  
214.428.3797**

**SHILOH MBC  
IN PLANO**

**August 11**

**8 a.m. and 11 a.m.**

Join us for Worship Service as we praise and honor God. After both services ministers and deacons are available to meet with you for prayer or questions.

**Dr. Isaiah Joshua, Jr.  
Senior Pastor  
920 E. 14th Street  
Plano, TX 75074  
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[www.smbcplano.org](http://www.smbcplano.org)**

**THE INSPIRING BODY  
OF CHRIST CHURCH**

**August 11, 7:30 a.m.**

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

**August 12, 7 p.m.**

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

**August 15-17**

Everyone is invited to our P.O.T. (Parents of Teenage Boys) Conference. Call for details or register by visiting [www.potboysconference.com](http://www.potboysconference.com).

There's an art to raising a responsible and well-adjusted teenage boy, and there's an art to surviving those often turbulent years. Not his survival--yours. The event is designed to encourage, motivate, and inspire, the P.O.T. Boys Experience brings a shocking awareness to the adults in the teen's life.

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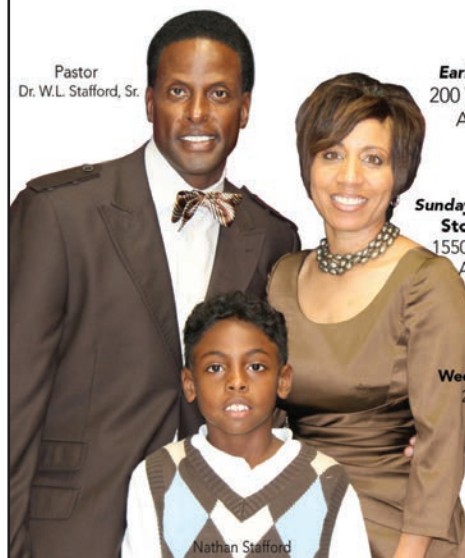
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**Wednesday Night Live**  
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Lady Tasha Stafford





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Send email to: [salesmanager@northdallasgazette.com](mailto:salesmanager@northdallasgazette.com) to sign up for Sister Tarpley's weekly electronic newsletter.

*Life is so precious; and this is something to ponder:* "The older I get, the more I enjoy Saturday mornings.

Perhaps it's the quiet solitude that comes with being the first to rise, or maybe it's the unbounded joy of not having to be at work. Either way, the first few hours of a Saturday morning are most enjoyable," said a gentleman.

"A few weeks ago, what began as a typical Saturday morning turned into one of those lessons which life seem to hand you from time to time."

"Listening to a Saturday morning talk show, I heard an older sounding man with a golden voice. He was talking about *"A Thousands Marbles"* to someone named Tom. I was intrigued and sat down to listen."

"Well Tom, it sounds like you're busy with your job. I'm sure they pay you

## "After You Lose All Your Marbles"



*Sister Tarpley is enjoying her birthday bouquet of flowers from her daughter and family while waiting for her birthday lunch.*

well but it's a shame you have to be away from home and your family so much.

It's hard to believe a young fellow should have to work 60 or 70 hours a week to make ends meet. Too bad you missed your daughters' dance recital."

"Let me tell you something Tom that has helped me to keep a good perspective on my own priorities." That's when he began to explain his theory of *"A Thousand Marbles."*

"A person lives about 75 years. Some live more and some live less, but on an average, folks live to be about 75."

"I multiplied 75 times 52 and I came up with 3,900

which is the number of Saturday that the average person has in their lifetime."

"It took me until I was 55 years old to think about all this in detail, and by that time I had lived through over 28 hundred Saturdays. If I lived to be 75, I only had about a thousand of them left to enjoy."

"I went to a toy store and brought every marble they had. I ended up visiting three toy stores to roundup 1000 marbles. I took them home and put them in a plastic container."

"Every Saturday since then, I have taken one marble out and thrown it away." I found that by watching the marbles diminish, I focused

more on the really important things in life.

There is nothing like watching your time on earth run out to help get your priorities straight."

"This morning, I took the last marble out of the container. I figure if I make it until next Saturday then God has blessed me with a little extra time to be with my loved ones."

"Tom, I hope you spend more time with your loved ones and I hope to meet you again, someday. Have a good morning!"

You could have heard a pin drop when he finished. Even the show's moderator didn't have anything to say for a few moments. He gave us all a lot to think about.

I had planned to do some work that morning, then go to the gym and work out; instead, I went upstairs and woke up my wife with a kiss. "C'mon honey, I'm taking you and the kids to breakfast."

"What brought this on?" She asked with a smile. "Oh, nothing special," I said, "It has just been a long time since we spent a Saturday together with the kids. Hey, can we stop at a toy store while

we're out? I need to buy some marbles."

Have a great day, may all your Saturday be special and may you have many happy years, *"After You Lose All Your Marbles!"*  
Author Unknown

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## NDG Bookshelf



BY TERRI  
SCHLICHENMEYER

The first time he laid eyes on her, your father thought your mother was the most beautiful girl in the world.

She thought he was a pain in the neck, all gangly with legs going this way and that, asking her out until she couldn't say anything but "yes." It didn't take long for her to realize, though, that she couldn't lay her hands on a better man.

You know the story of how your parents fell in love, but there are a lot of things you *don't* know about them. And in the new book, **"A Family Affair"** by ReShonda Tate Billingsley, finding out could be a painful thing.

Olivia Dawson never wanted much.

Since she was a child, she dreamed of going to Juliard but she knew that was out of reach now. Her mother, Lorraine, was already working multiple jobs to keep a roof over their heads. Olivia hadn't had a new pair of shoes in ages. Even with a scholarship, Juliard just wasn't in the budget.

But Lorraine knew where to get the money. Without



telling Olivia where she was going, Lorraine rushed out the door of their apartment...

...and never came home. Lorraine had a fatal heart attack – but her last words to Olivia gave the

young woman quite a start. Despite everything Olivia thought she knew, and despite that her Aunt Betty was reluctant to confirm it, Olivia's father was alive and living in California!

Bernard Wells was stuck.

Years ago, he'd given up love for money and he'd regretted it for more than twenty years. His wife, Adele, was a shrew with no compassion but lots of cash; she was nothing like the woman he lost, the woman he thought about every day. His lovely mistress, Alyssa, couldn't give him comfort. He couldn't very well get a divorce. Bernard was stuck in a life he wished he'd never had.

Everyone assumed that Kendall Wells would take over the family business someday. It was his birthright, really, but there was one problem: Kendall didn't want it. No, he had other dreams of producing music and singing.

He also had memories of a nanny who loved him like a son. Memories of a sweet little girl he called Pinky. Memories of hugs, kisses, and bedtime stories, but no idea why they disappeared...

Though it's a little predictable, "A Family Affair" ain't too bad.

Author ReShonda Tate Billingsley offers readers a bit of scandalous

drama mixed in a story of forgiveness that spans over time. That goodness is wrapped a cast of mostly-likeable characters and scenarios that aren't too far-fetched for comfort. There's a chaste bedroom scene or two here, but I think you'll be happy to know that this novel is mostly on the tamer side, so you can Book Club it without worry.

If you're looking for something a little gentler, maybe something more genteel but not too mild, then I think this is your book. "A Family Affair" may be the perfect novel to lay your eyes on this weekend.

## TRUST, continued from Page 5

ment is that it has anointed itself the end all be all for the people. You see big government acts on its own accord believing that it knows better than we patriots do on subjects of general welfare. These amassed bureaucrats and experts will deliver action against us and to us for our own good. It is their position that big government knows better than we patriots do as to what is in our best interest. Big government accepts this premise as modus operandi regardless if we patriots do or not.

There exists today a dangerous threat to our freedoms. This threat is so real and so

devastating that it has the capacity to absorb all of our cherished freedoms. This threat does not come from an outside entity such as a foreign government or ideology, but it is from within. This threat is a large organization, network or entity. This network is not always visible. It cloaks itself either in secrecy or in the guise of policy and necessity. This large and damaging entity can't help but leave crumbs that become clues to connect the missing pieces together. These crumbs or dots that we can connect together come in the form of an electronic trail that includes e mails, credit card

transactions, cell phone records, surveillance cameras, medical records and government files. This massive gathering of data that is stored without cause and without oversight by bureaucrats that have little care or oversight themselves, can represent the strangle hold on our republic.

Amassed personal information is power. Big governments must have power to sustain its self. Our founding fathers who warned us against a large central government would be horrified by technologies ability to violate the sanctity of privacy and personal liberties. We have seen so blatantly the ex-

ecutive's branches willingness to use personal information as a political weapon or at the least to intimidate private citizens.

Patriots are warned that big government is inherently evil, for it deprives us patriots of our GOD given birth rights that we all know are not sanctioned by government but are the unalienable DNA of the American character. Remember, *Patriots love their country all the time and supports its government when it deserves it.*

Listen to The Curtis Report on KLIF 570 AM and KSKY 660 AM [www.thecurtisinitiative.com](http://www.thecurtisinitiative.com).

## DNC, continued from Page 11

cratic governors are working to combat these actions and fight these restrictive laws. From creating the new Commission on Electoral Administration to drafting and signing legislation into law that expands access to the polls and protects to the

right to vote, Democrats are working to live up to the potential laid out in the Voting Rights Act. The timeline on the new website finishes with an opportunity to sign up to join the fight to protect voting rights—we need your help!

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