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Parkland Hospital's big move in August

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Irving plans 3-day MLK celebration

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The Book Club Play is a real crowd-pleaser at DTC

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The education of MLK

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

As he labored for social, civil and economic justice, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was extremely concerned both about the educational inequities that were a function of segregation, and about the purpose and quality of education. As early as 1947, as a Morehouse College student, he wrote an article, The Purpose of Education, for the Maroon Tiger, the college newspaper. His article is as relevant today as it was then.

Today, much of the focus of education is on passing standardized tests; and while educational measurement is important, Dr. King suggests that these measures are insufficient. In his article, he pondered the meaning and purpose of education. He wrote that "Education must enable a (person) to become more efficient, to achieve with increasing facility the legitimate goals of his life."

King was critical of the results of specific aspects of education when he wrote, "education must also train one for quick, resolute and effective thinking. To think, incisively and to think for one's self is very difficult. We are prone to let our mental life become invaded by legions of half-truths, prejudices, and propaganda. A great majority of the so-called educated people does not think logi-



Minnesota Historical Society Wikimedia

cally and scientifically. Even the press, the classroom, the platform, and the pulpit in many instances do not give us objective and unbiased truths."

True in 1947, but even more so today with 3-minute commentary passing for news, and some classrooms the site of propaganda delivery. Some Southerners still believe that the South won the Civil War, and they fly the confederate flags to honor it, and teach this falsity in their classrooms. A friend who lives in Georgia said nearly half of her junior high school-age daughter's U.S. history curriculum covered aspects of the Civil War.

From that perspective, young King was quite critical of segregationist, their intelligence, and their prejudice. "The late Eugene Talmadge, in my opinion, possessed

one of the better minds in Georgia, or even America. Moreover, he wore the Phi Beta Kappa key. By all measuring rods, Mr. Talmadge could think critically and intensively yet he contends that I am an inferior being. Are these the types of men we call educated?"

King said that intelligence is not enough. He said, "Intelligence plus character is the goal of true education."

We must develop and support young people who are educated in the King tradition – young people with character and discernment. We cannot do this work without a consciousness of people who are committed to breaking down educational barriers, closing the achievement gap, improving the quality of

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COMMENTARY

The 'Real' Dream speech

By Lee A. Daniels
NNPA Columnist

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today!

A suggestion for these days of special attention to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: Whenever people cite this sentence from his iconic "I Have A Dream"

speech, ask them if they know the rest of the speech.

I've long suspected that people who cite that sentence as proof we today should stop taking race into account in the necessary re-ordering of American society haven't bothered to understand – or, most likely, even read – the rest of the speech. I think that's because they've adopted the let's-pretend-race-has-no-

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Rep. G.K. Butterfield



Vivinne Williams



Chris Nieto

In December, more than 75,000 readers visited [NorthDallasGazette.com!](http://NorthDallasGazette.com)

Rep. G.K. Butterfield

By Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.
NNPA Columnist

Since 1971, the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) has had many strong leaders. As the new 114th Congress of the United States begins, the CBC elected my fellow North Carolina native, Congressman G.K. Butterfield, as its new chairman. I have known the long time freedom fighter and a skillful leader for more than 45 years.

Given the numerous issues and challenges facing Black America, I predict



that the CBC under Butterfield's leadership, the CB will become reinvigorated. It was surprising to hear G.K. say upon being sworn in: "My leadership of this Caucus will be influenced by my experiences growing

up in a segregated South. Jim Clyburn often says that, 'We are the sum total of our experiences' and that is so true. My life's experiences are similar to many of my colleagues. We saw racism at its worst."

Butterfield is from Wilson, N.C., about 65 miles southwest of my hometown of Oxford. In the 1960s, I frequently traveled to Wilson to meet with Milton Fitch, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) state field coordinator. Fitch and SCLC state field director Golden Frinks were two of my mentors during that period.

So when G.K. Butterfield

says that he is going the lead the CBC in a manner that will be influenced by his experiences growing up in the segregated South, that is assurance that the CBC will be at the vanguard of the fight for freedom, justice and equality under Butterfield's watch.

It will be an interesting tenure. The CBC has 46 members from 22 states, the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands, the largest CBC delegation in its 44-year history. Will the increased size translate into increased legislative clout? While we can't definitively answer that question yet, there certainly will be

higher expectations of the CBC, even in a Republican-controlled House and Senate.

Butterfield correctly declared that Black America is in a state of emergency.

"For many Black Americans, they are not even close to realizing the American dream," he explained. "Depending on where they live, an economic depression hangs over their head, and it is burdening their potential and the potential of their children. Black America is in a state of emergency today as it was at the turn of the century!"

As he made clear, Black lives do matter. All lives

matter. Although there has been progress in the United States during the past 50 years towards racial justice, racial injustice and inequality still persist. As Congressman Butterfield noted when he was sworn in:

- Twenty-five percent of Black households live below the poverty line, compared to 8 percent for White households;
- One out of three Black children lives in poverty;
- African Americans are twice as likely as Whites to be unemployed;
- African Americans earn \$13,000 less per year than

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Vivinne Williams

After leaving a bruising academic career, at the height of the recession, Vivinne Williams was depressed (on Zoloft) and burned-out.

The daily practice of yoga & meditation helped her to survive the stress of work-place bullying & subsequent long-term unemployment.

Now, Williams is utilizing her background to provide support for both uber-busy, stressed New Yorkers and their kids-- with yoga, stress management & massage at the office or at



home. Some specialties for kids: Hip Hop and Mindfulness and her brand of Desk-side Stretch (Yoga in clothes!) for corporate types.

"I struggled to figure out

what I could start with no money," she says. She had taken up blogging while depressed, wanting more readers she studied search engine optimization and got good at it.

Now living on a friends' sofa and working with a 10 year old laptop, she crafted her company's website and used those skills to help her website rank well.

According to Williams, "I can't afford to advertise but I've worked really hard to get the website to show up for words potential customer's might use."

ADULT WELLNESS: Unlike some big corpora-

tions offering wellness on demand, Williams auditions each teachers or therapist.

"Just having a license or certification isn't enough," I personally audition the wellness providers that I send out," Williams adds.

KIDS YOGA: "In addition to being certified kids yoga teachers, our team also have education backgrounds; some have worked with special needs kids extensively.

Yoga is becoming a popular consideration for children because the benefits it offers includes providing them with a healthy way to express their feelings and learn to control their emo-

tions. Students who struggle with test anxiety benefit from the discipline of yoga as well.

According to the CDC, the "Number of ambulatory care visits (to physician offices, hospital outpatient and emergency departments) with attention deficit disorder as primary diagnosis: 9.0 million." (average annual, 2009-2010.)

With such an apparent rise in kids with autism and ADD/ADHD, Namaste Concierge feels that yoga based practices can help kids.

"I've taught college students mindfulness myself,

and the results are amazing," according to Williams.

Social responsibility is a built in factor for this fledgling company- the company will channel a percentage of profits to organizations serving underprivileged populations.

Williams has been featured in *Self*, *Yoga Journal* and *Essence* magazines.

After a brutal stint in academia, she resumed her previous career as a yoga and mindfulness meditation teacher in NYC. Her focus now is on supporting busy career-driven New Yorkers to thrive under pressure.

Chris Nieto

The Arthritis Foundation South Central Region announced the recent addition of Chris Nieto, Regional Community Leadership Board Member, to its national board of directors. The announcement was made by Margaret Jackson, Chairman of the Board of the Arthritis Foundation South Central Region. The Arthritis Foundation South Central Region serves those living with arthritis, including 4 million Texans, 820,000 Oklahomans and 372,000 people in New Mexico.

Nieto became involved with the Arthritis Foundation following his daughter's diagnosis with Juve-



nile Arthritis at the age of 9 months old. His family credits the Foundation with helping them with vital arthritis resources and connecting them to other families of children with arthritis.

Since joining the South Central Region Board of Directors in 2012, Chris has

been an outspoken champion of people living with arthritis and has advocated on their behalf across the region and on Capitol Hill.

As president of Qobe Group, Nieto has provided professional and leadership training experiences throughout the United States for nearly 20 years. His passion is creating interactive and engaging environments for people to discover their natural talents, identify growth opportunities, and amplify their skills to have a greater impact in their personal and professional lives.

Nieto formed Qobe Group, a company that develops platforms to advance human capital within organizations, companies, and

communities. His emphasis through Qobe has always been to identify opportunities for growth versus focusing only on problems or challenges. This ensures that training initiatives are designed to make learning and development meaningful.

"We are honored to welcome Chris as our new board member to the Arthritis Foundation," said Jackson. He has demonstrated unwavering support for the Arthritis Foundation's mission, he will provide dynamic leadership for our organization. Chris will also bring a fresh regional perspective to the national board, as well be a voice for children and families with Juvenile Arthritis.

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Is Obama trying to kill Black colleges?

By George E. Curry
NNPA Columnist

Is Barack Obama, the nation's first African American president, trying to kill Historically Black Colleges and Universities?

If he's not, he's going to have a difficult time convincing HBCU presidents, trustees and alumni. Surprisingly, Obama has become their worst nightmare.

Neither Obama, the First Lady, the Secretary of Education or the president's closest advisers attended an HBCU and, consequently, are tone death in recognizing what is broadly viewed as sound policy can inadvertently harm our nation's HBCUs.

President Obama's proposal that the federal gov-

ernment pick up the tab for a worthy student's first two years of community college is a case in point. Without a doubt, a move toward free, universal higher education is an excellent decision.

But if the president had consulted the major organizations representing HBCUs, he would have heard suggestions on how to tweak his proposal so that it would not needlessly harm Black colleges, which it is certain to do.

The amended Higher Education Act of 1965 defines an HBCU as: "...any historically black college or university that was established prior to 1964, whose principal mission was, and is, the education of black Americans, and that is accredited by a nationally recognized

accrediting agency or association determined by the Secretary [of Education] to be a reliable authority as to the quality of training offered or is, according to such an agency or association, making reasonable progress toward accreditation."

HBCUs enroll only 3 percent of college students yet are responsible for nearly 20 percent of all bachelor degrees awarded to African Americans. In some fields, the figures are significantly higher.

President Obama noted, "America thrived in the 20th century in large part because we had the most educated workforce in the world. But other nations have matched or exceeded the secret to our success."

And the U.S. can't afford to lose the valuable contributions of HBCUs.

HBCUs compete directly with community colleges. Both enroll students who may need some additional tutoring or training before they are college ready. More importantly, students who enroll in community colleges and HBCUs are in dire need of financial assistance. If you make the first two years of college free to community college students – and not to HBCUs – you don't have to be a rocket or social scientist to see that Black colleges will come out the losers.

And the bleeding doesn't stop there.

If and when community college students decide to

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meaning stance conservatives have been pushing for the last 30 years – ever since losing their all-out effort to defeat the movement for the King national holiday.

So when people refer to that sentence, ask them to explain King's also saying to the throng, "I am not unmindful that some of you have come here out of great trials and tribulations. Some of you have come fresh from narrow jail cells. And some of you have come from areas where your quest for freedom left you battered by the storms of persecution and staggered by the winds of police brutality."

Or, ask them to explain his reminding America "of the fierce urgency of Now ... It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment. ... The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges."

Those are just two of the extraordinary passages in what is a wonderfully complex sermon, full of hidden-in-plain-sight demands and

warnings along with its call to our better selves. They and other passages illuminate the true meaning of its most famous sentence – a meaning underscored by the three "dreams" that immediately precede it and the one immediately after it.

Before mentioning his children, King declares that "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'"

He follows this with a "dream" that "one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave-owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood," and another that "even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice."

And then, after he speaks of his children, he says, "I have a dream that one day, down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips drip-

ping with the words of 'interposition' and 'nullification' – one day right there in Alabama little Black boys and Black girls will be able to join hands with little White boys and White girls as sisters and brothers."

In other words, King places his dream for all children squarely within the necessity of reforming three states with long histories of horrific state-sponsored and state-aided-and-abetted murders, beatings and other forms of violence that targeted Black children as well as adults.

He uses children as the focus of his dreams not only because children are born without prejudice and fear, but also because their being "able to join hands" at "the table of brotherhood" could only occur with their parents' acceptance of racial equality. Here, King was speaking directly to ordinary White southerners. Come, he said, for our children's sake, let us recognize our common humanity.

The White South of 1963 answered two weeks later. On September 15, 1963, members of the Birmingham KKK cell dynamited the Sixteenth Baptist Church just after its Sunday

School services had ended, killing four girls – Addie Mae Collins, 14, Denise McNair, 11, Carole Robertson, 14, and Cynthia Wesley, 14 – and wounding 20 others. In the maelstrom that enveloped the city that day, two Black teenaged boys who were not members of the church were shot to death. Virgil Ware, 13 was killed by two White male teenagers. Johnny Robinson, 16, was shot in the back of the head by a state police officer.

The Black freedom struggle in the South went on.

So, this Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, when people only reference the Dream Speech's "the content of their character" line and let it go at that, you'll know they're just whistling "Dixie."

Lee A. Daniels is a long-time journalist based in New York City. His essay, "Martin Luther King, Jr.: The Great Provocateur," appears in *Africa's Peacemakers: Nobel Peace Laureates of African Descent (2014)*, published by Zed Books. His new collection of columns, *Race Forward: Facing America's Racial Divide in 2014*, is available here on amazon.com.

Health enrollment numbers up for 2015

By Stacy M. Brown
Special to the NNPA from
The Washington Informer

The first detailed analysis of enrollment into the Affordable Care Act – or Obamacare – has yielded good news, particularly for those who may require financial assistance.

Officials at the Department of Health and Human Services in Southwest said 87 percent of those who selected 2015 plans through HealthCare.gov in the first month of open enrollment have received financial assistance to lower their monthly premiums.

“We’re pleased that nationwide, millions of people signed up for Marketplace coverage starting January 1. The vast majority were able to lower their costs even



further by getting tax credits, making a difference in the bottom lines of so many families,” Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell said.

The 87 percent of individuals determined eligible for financial assistance to lower their monthly premiums counts as an improve-

ment over the 80 percent of enrollees who selected plans during a similar period last year.

Additionally, more than 4 million people in both the state and federal Marketplaces signed up for the first time or re-enrolled in coverage for 2015 during the first month of open enrollment.

Burwell said the numbers

include more than 3.4 million people who selected a plan in the 37 states that are using the HealthCare.gov platform for 2015 and more than 600,000 consumers who selected plans in the 14 states that are operating their own Marketplace platform for 2015.

The report also includes data for areas such as the District of Columbia, which use their own Marketplace platforms.

The report also revealed that the number of young adults signing up for coverage under the law remains low. Insurers rely on young people, who are generally healthier, to keep overall premiums low by offsetting the cost of older, sicker enrollees.

Last year, 23 percent of those who enrolled during the same time frame were

adults age 18 to 34. This year during the first month, the number stands at 24 percent or “way below” where it needs to be, Robert Laszewski, president of Health Policy and Strategy Associates LLC, told the Wall Street Journal.

“We need to get the young invincibles showing up to this,” Laszewski said.

Almost 60 percent of those who enrolled in new health care coverage between Nov. 15 and Dec. 15 were women, which women’s groups greeted as promising news.

“For women, the Affordable Care Act means ... greater peace of mind,” said Cecile Richards, president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

In total, from November 15 to December 26, nearly 6.5 million consumers se-

lected a plan or were automatically re-enrolled in health plans under Obamacare.

When the new law was rolled out in 2013, many cited its effect on college students, self-employed workers, small businesses, veterans and individuals with pre-existing medical conditions.

Further, officials at the Department of Health and Human Services said, because of the new law, the 92 percent of Washington, D.C. residents who already had insurance would now have more choices and stronger coverage.

For the 8 percent who do not or for District families and small businesses who buy their coverage but aren’t happy with it, promises of new options had arrived.

Ebola hotspots ebb and flow as fight continues

By Barrington M. Salmon
Special to the NNPA from
The Washington Informer

Ebola may have fallen off America’s radar, but the virus continues to devastate communities in three affected West African countries.

Since March, according to World Health Organiza-

tion officials, key numbers are going down in some areas, but the epidemic continues to rage in western sections of Sierra Leone. United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon led a delegation to Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Mali, all countries affected by the hemorrhagic fever. Others on the mission include WHO

Secretary-General Dr. Margaret Chan; Dr. David Nabarro, the UN’s Ebola coordinator; and Anthony Banbury, who runs the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response, UN-MEER.

The Ebola epidemic, which erupted in Guinea in December 2013, has killed more than 7,300 and af-

fecting more than 18,000 people in total, WHO officials said.

“The key numbers are going down in some areas. We’re making progress by dealing with the epidemic district-by-district and section-by-section,” said WHO spokesman Daniel Epstein. “Areas have been divided

and segmented, and we have dozens of outbreaks being handled by separate teams. We’re also making sure we have adequate burial teams.

“In a sense, things have improved. The epidemic’s numbers have gone down in Liberia. But cases are increasing slightly in Guinea

and markedly in Sierra Leone. We found a new surge in western Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone has surpassed Liberia in terms of numbers. Part of it is that they’re lacking what they need, but people in remote western areas didn’t recog-

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Science or other Army ROTC staff. They stand ready to assist you and will explain how you can make Army ROTC a part of your total college experience.

DISD taking applications for district magnet schools

(DISD News) Dallas ISD is home to some of the nation's top magnet schools. Students interested in attending one of these schools for the 2015-2016 school year can submit applications through January 30. There are programs for every age level covering a variety of interests. The magnet program includes vanguards and Montessori for elementary

students, academies for middle school students and magnets for high school students. For a complete list of schools and programs, visit the magnet school website. The requirements to attend magnet programs vary by school. Applications can be found online or at any Dallas ISD school. The deadline to apply is January 30.

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Parkland to move into new hospital facility on Aug. 20

DALLAS – The new Parkland hospital will officially open its doors to the 2.1-million-square-foot facility to patients on Thursday, Aug. 20. The state-of-the-art 862-bed, 17-story structure will replace the aging Parkland Memorial Hospital that opened in 1954. The latest healing concepts, quality and safety design features have been incorporated into the all-digital acute-care facility

making it a premier health care setting for Dallas County residents.

The transition of patients to the new facility will occur over a three-day period, beginning on Thursday, Aug. 20, and concluding Saturday, Aug. 22. Current forecasting projects that more than 500 patients will be moved from the current hospital to the new Parkland.

“The decision to transi-

tion patients over the course of three days is based entirely on the safety and well-being of our patients and their families,” said Fred Cerise, MD, MPH, Parkland’s President & CEO. “Our top priority is to ensure the absolute safety of all in our care as we make the move across Harry Hines into the new Parkland hospital.”

Every patient will be tracked as he or she moves

across the sky bridge into the new facility. Several safety checkpoints will be in place for providers to assess our patients’ welfare during the physical transport.

Approximately 80 percent of Parkland’s inpatient admissions come directly through Parkland’s Emergency Department (ED). Transitioning patients over a three-day window is in the

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MLK, continued from Page 1

schools and access to education. But while other countries are increasing their commitment to education, the United States is cutting back.

Said King, “The most dangerous criminal may be the man (person) gifted with reason, but no morals.” How moral is it to consign millions to low wages, refusing, even, to increase the minimum wage. How moral is it to cut food stamps and jobs programs in the name of economic growth, although many are still suffering? The art and science of politics is about compromise, but how do we compromise with people’s lives and well-being?

There ought to be a floor under which no citizen is allowed to fall. Wages, health care, education, and access to housing should not be bargained over, but automatically given.

Too many of our legislators are educated, but lack morals. It is shameful to watch them celebrate the shredding of the safety net.

Budget cuts have made education less obtainable than ever. While many parents hire coaches to help their children write essays and complete their college applications, working class parents don’t have the money to do this kind of hiring.

The American School Counselors says that many

states mandate a ratio of between 500 and 750 students per counselor. Even at the lower number, a counselor can spend just an hour per student per semester, hardly enough to get advice about college attendance, the filling out of applications, and other matters.

Some states have no mandate at all. They include

(but are not limited to) Florida, Illinois, Kansas, and Kentucky. Unless parents or civic organizations are willing to step up, some students face major barriers to college attendance and career preparation.

President Obama says he wants the US to be a leader in world education. Others could care less about the education of too many students.

Those who fail to care

about the next generation are, in Dr. King’s words, “dangerous criminals.”

Let’s celebrate the King

holiday with a commitment to close the achievement gap and to improve the quality of education in our

nation.

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist based in Washington, D.C.



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Richland named a national center of digital forensics academic excellence

DALLAS – Richland College recently met the requirements for designation as a National Center of Digital Forensics Academic Excellence (CDFAE), the only institution in Texas and one of only 10 institutions in the nation to earn this distinction.

The CDFAE program develops partnerships between institutions of higher education and the government to establish standards and best practices for digital forensics students, educators, researchers and practitioners, and in doing so creates advancements in digital forensics and increases the number of qualified professionals in the fields of law enforcement, counterintelligence, national defense and legal.

“At Richland College, digital forensics is a science, technology, engineering and mathematics field, meaning we have developed a unique STEM approach with ap-

plied research,” said Zoltan Szabo, Richland College computer science faculty. “Our goal is to teach the scientific method to students in this field as it is required by the legal system for evidence production.”

By focusing on the STEM aspect of digital forensics, Richland College’s digital forensics program provides a non-traditional, research-oriented education to its students in this emerging field.

With its CDFAE designation, Richland College is recognized as a school that establishes a common core curriculum, and the designation requires in-course peer reviews of curriculum and practicum within a three-year period. Richland College also provides the opportunity for students to demonstrate their skills and knowledge in digital forensics, thus giving employers the ability to confirm a candidate’s capabil-

ity to apply his or her knowledge as suitable in the workplace. In addition, this Richland College program has a certifiable path to meet Department of Defense workforce requirements and national cyber education needs with respect to digital forensics,

strengthening the bond among academia, government, professional organizations and the industry.

“The field of digital forensics is very rewarding for those who complete the program, as cyber security fields cannot be outsourced, offering great job secu-

ity to graduates,” Szabo said.

For more information on Richland College’s digital forensics program, visit www.richlandcollege.edu/forensics. For information on CDFAE, visit <http://dc3.mil/cyber-training/cdfae>.

Beginning students art show at the Collin College Arts Gallery

The ARTS Gallery will present an annual exhibition of students’ artworks from Collin College students in the “Beginning Students Art Show” which runs from Thursday, Jan. 15 – Wednesday, Feb. 4 at the Spring Creek Campus, located at 2800 E. Spring Creek Parkway in Plano.

Featured artworks will include art metals and jewelry, ceramics, communication design, drawing, figure drawing, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture and

watercolor. The “Beginning Students Art Show” closing reception is 4 – 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 4 at the Spring Creek Campus.

Gallery hours are Monday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Tuesday – Thursday, 9 a.m. – 8 p.m., and Friday – Saturday, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

For more information about THEARTS Gallery or this exhibit, visit www.collin.edu/THEARTS-gallery or call 972.881.5873.

EBOLA, continued from Page 3

nize it had cases. People were hiding cases, rejecting the idea that people had Ebola. We’re working to clean this hot spot.”

The transitory nature of the epidemic has made it hard to contain, with hot spots flaring up and moving rapidly to different regions of the affected countries. The number of Ebola cases has been stabilizing in Liberia and Guinea but is overwhelming parts of Sierra Leone. Last week, President Ernest Bai Koroma launched what U.N. officials described as “an intensified surge operation” in Freetown, the capital, and areas in the west of the country.

The international organization Doctors without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières first sounded the alarm and was one of the loudest voices calling for a robust international response to the fast-moving virus. Then, as now, officials argued that the response to the Ebola crisis had been slow and uneven, leaving local people, national governments and non-governmental organizations to do most of the practical, hands-on work. MSF officials continue to warn that the international community risks failing to adapt to the outbreak after initially failing to respond quickly enough.

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Irving plans to honor Dr. King with a day of service

Special grant funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service has allowed the City of Irving to expand its annual celebration of slain civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King into a three-day event. Adapting the theme, "Honoring the Legacy by Serving," this year's events will focus on community service.

Here's a preview of what's planned.

Jan. 17 – 9 a.m. | Day of Service Rally and Project

Join volunteers from local nonprofit organizations at Lively Pointe Youth Center, 909 N. O'Connor Road, for the City of Irving's first Day of Service rally and project. Speakers include City of Irving Councilman Dennis Webb (Place 3) and Irving Fire Chief Victor Conley. Following the rally, volunteers will canvas Irving neigh-



borhoods with fire safety messages. This event is being sponsored by the Cor-

poration for National and Community Service.

Jan. 18 – 6 p.m. | Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration

The City of Irving's 2015 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration will begin at 6 p.m. Jan. 18 in the Carpenter Theatre at the Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd. Attendees packed the house at last year's event, and this year's event also

promises to delight, engage and inform. At the celebration, Dr. King will be remembered through music, drama and dance. All ages are welcome to this family event and admission is free. This event is sponsored by the City of Irving Parks and Recreation Department.

Jan. 19 – Noon | Annual NAACP Spaghetti Luncheon

All are welcome to cele-

brate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by attending a free spaghetti luncheon from noon to 2 p.m. Jan. 19 at Georgia Farrow Recreation Center, 530 Davis Drive. In addition to lunch, attendees will hear from guest speakers. This event is sponsored by the Irving-Carrollton chapter of the NAACP and admission is free.

For more information, call (972) 721-2501 or visit irvingevents.org.

The Harlem Globetrotters are coming back to Dallas!

The world famous Harlem Globetrotters, featuring some of the greatest athletes and entertainers on the planet, will bring their unrivaled family show to American Airlines Center in Dallas for three games on Saturday, Jan. 24 (2 p.m. and 7 p.m.) and Sunday, Jan. 25 (2 p.m.), during the Harlem Globetrotters 2015 "Washington Generals' Revenge" Tour.



MantioRanteri / Flickr

The Globetrotters will face a great challenge this year, as the infamous Washington Generals are more determined than ever to

match the franchise's historic last victory over the Globetrotters nearly a half century ago. It has been five years since the GLOB-

trotters and Generals have faced off, as the Generals have been searching far and wide for the best players to retool their roster and have been preparing for one thing: victory over the Globetrotters.

In addition to the highly-anticipated match-up on the court, the Globetrotters, known worldwide as the Ambassadors of Goodwill, will honor a Harlem Globetrotters Hometown Hero at each of their 310-plus games in North America. The team is searching for active, wounded or retired

members of the military who have made their community proud with their brave service and exemplary character. Fans can nominate a Harlem Globetrotters Hometown Hero at

harlemglobetrotters.com. The Globetrotters will also play a portion of each game with a camouflage basketball as a sign of respect to all who protect our freedom.

With a star-studded roster featuring Hi-Lite Bruton and female star T-Time Brawner – the Globetrotters' one-of-a-kind show is

See HARLEM, Page 12

Katt Williams is bringing the laughs back to Dallas/Ft. Worth

Katt Williams has certainly had his ups and downs in recent years. But comedic legend Richard Pryor talked about the best jokes are rooted in pain - so Williams has more than

enough material. He was very funny in 2014 when he performed on stage at the Verizon Theater and he must love the venue because the returns on Friday, Feb. 6.

Get there early because the show starts at 8 p.m. but you can grab your food and enjoy the early acts when the doors open at 7 p.m. Price range of tickets are \$47.25 to \$129.75.

Stagger Lee traces the music from Joplin-inspired hits to hip hop

A highlight this season for the Dallas Theater Center is the world premiere of Stagger Lee, a musical that takes its title from the century-old folk song that became a Number One R&B hit for Lloyd Price in 1959.

The story spans the 20th Century, tracing mythical characters in their quest to achieve the American Dream. The deep-seated themes of racism and the raw power of human will are sure to give you chills.

And the music—from Joplin-inspired tunes to R&B and hip-hop—will definitely get your feet moving.

Tickets are on sale now at 214-880-0202 or at DallasTheaterCenter.org.

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Dallas bookworms unite and go see *The Book Club Play* at DTC!

By Ruth Ferguson
NDG Editor

Dallas Theater Center's production of the hilarious *The Book Club Play* by Karen Zacarias spotlights one important detail: sometimes book clubs are not remotely about the books! They are really about the people who become your friends, and if you are lucky sometimes your family.

At one point I was a member of four bookclubs — yes at the same time — it was my more compulsive days. But each of the book clubs focused on African American literature and frequently the book selections overlapped. Each group was distinctively different because the membership was so different. Watching *The Book Club Play* last Friday



The DTC's The Book-Club Play featuring Tiana Kaye Johnson, Christie Vela, Jeffrey Schmidt, Steven Michael Walters Photo by Karen Almond via DTC

I was reminded of the joys and the struggles of being a part of book club.

You have Ana (Christie Vela), the Book Club's well-intended leader that perhaps becomes a little too drunk on power. Things start off fine, but somewhere along the line it can change from being the proud leader (something

that is sometimes a pretty funny point of dispute) of a group that has found their comfortable groove — to "It's my way or the highway" approach. Her co-founder (a point she seems to want to omit) is Steven Michael Walters (a standout from DTC's Clybourne Park year) who is shall we say a little confused. I won't

say another word!

Ana's husband is brought to life by Jeffrey Schmidt as Rob, he doesn't want to read, he just wants to enjoy the company and food. Southern Methodist University is represented very well by graduate students Tiana Kaye Johnson as Lily and Sarah Rutan as Jen. Brandon Potter, makes his DTC debut, as the newbie Alex, who is not exactly welcome by everyone. Potter has one of the richest and most distinctive voices clearly made for theater that I have enjoyed in sometime.

Now you might think OK did Zacarias have a diversity checklist, because they seem to cover most of the bases. But it really works because by the time diversity issues arise, you care about the characters so

much and it is so darn funny it does not remotely feel heavy handed.

From the moment you walk in the theater one of the stars of the show is the set design by created by scenic designer Daniel Zimmerman. It has an elegant, urban hip air of serenity.

From the opening moments, the audience was so into this play, the laughter was uproarious and their gasps at the right moments felt as much a part of the experience as a A&M's 12 Man. In other words, it is a reminder of why in this age of digital entertainment overload, we still love live theater.

I could tell you more, but won't because you need to call your book club members and go see the play together. For long time clubs,

you will recognize a few bumps in the road, and like old friends do — laugh at the memories. Because at the end of the day, our love for books is about a love of stories — and without interesting people there are no good stories.

You can order your tickets online for *The Book Club Play* at www.DallasTheaterCenter.org or by phone at (214) 880-0202, but hurry it is only on stage until Feb. 1. It is not often I want to see a play a second time, this is one of those exceptions, so don't miss it! And take advantage of Stay Late presented by Dr Pepper Snapple chat after the play with members of the cast who come out and sit down and answer your questions.

Win tickets to Marvel Universe LIVE!

Marvel fans, assemble! Marvel Universe LIVE! is taking the live entertainment experience to a whole new level, with a mind-blowing show unlike anything you've seen before.

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pyrotechnics, aerial stunts, martial arts, motorcycles and more.

It's being hailed as the most technically advanced live show ever. Join Marvel fans of all ages for this once-in-a-lifetime, monu-

mental performance. The fate of the universe depends on it!

NDG readers can win tickets to the Jan. 29 show by logging on to NorthDallasGazette.com for more info!

Another Happy Winner...



NDG Entertainment Winner, Joyce Brown was thrilled to win tickets to the Ronald K. Brown concert being held at the Winspear Opera House on Jan. 17, 2015

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No justice, no profit...

By James Clingman
NNPA Columnist

What now?

What a raucous, topsy-turvy, heart-wrenching, angry year we experienced in 2014. We had everything from the sadness of lives lost on airplanes and ferry boats, to the anger of Black men being killed and Black women being beaten by police officers, to the elation of a record-breaking stock market and the lowest gasoline prices since 2008. Certainly our emotions have been mixed as we witnessed a potpourri of ups and downs as we pondered the question: "What's next?"

Of course, none of us knows what will happen the next minute, much less the next year, but there are things we can do from day to day to solve some of our problems and improve our lot in life. I invite you to think about your personal and our collective situations, and make a commitment to do what you can to make the much needed changes we must have for self-empowerment and self-determination. After you seriously and honestly think about those things, I implore you to take appropriate action.

What happened during the past year, whether positive or negative, is now a lesson for all of us. We must move forward. We cannot live in the past; we can only learn from it. In light of that reality, here are a few suggestions to help get you moving in a positive direction in 2015.

First and foremost, build, strengthen, and nurture your spiritual foundation. Be thankful for each day, and use it wisely. Stay informed with real news, not with opinions from talking heads. Remember that followers pick their leaders; it's not the other way around. So pick leaders who work in your best interests rather than self-serving charlatans who are only

concerned about themselves.

Make an even stronger effort to support Black businesses and, Black business owners, take care of your business by doing what you say you will do with honesty and professionalism. It's tax time, so if you need a tax preparer use a Black firm. Compro Tax Service is an excellent and wise choice. Look online to find the office nearest you. Talk to your church leadership about joining or forming a local chapter of the Collective Empowerment Group (CEG), also found online.

Don't waste your vote. Give it to someone who is not afraid to state his or her position on regarding Black voters during the campaign and afterwards—and then fulfill their promises. If they fail to do so, don't vote for them. Also, on the political side of things, stop putting the same old folks into of-

fice, especially if they have not delivered anything to Black folks and/or if they have been in their particular office for decades. Put some new "young-bloods" with fresh ideas into office. We will never be politically empowered until we start playing to win instead of playing just to play.

Find a Black certified financial planner and get involved in some level of investment in the stock market. As we are standing in line to buy Nike shoes, we should also be teaching our children how to buy Nike stock. Also, teach entrepreneurship to our youth. Let them know they can own a business even if they end up working for someone. Teach them early by using examples of young Black business owners such as Jasmine Lawrence, Moziah Bridges, Cory Nieves, Omar Bailey, and many others you can find on the In-

ternet.

Make it a habit to listen to the Carl Nelson Radio Show (1450AM WOL in Washington, DC or www.woldcnews.com), Brother Daren "State of the City" Muhammad in Baltimore, Dr. Rosie Milligan in L.A., Elliott Booker (Time for an Awakening) in Philadelphia, and other conscious and informative radio shows.

Finally, in response to the outrageous treatment some of us have received, boycott prisons. That is stop committing crimes and putting yourself at the mercy of a system that cares absolutely nothing about you. Second, in addition to the protests the young folks are doing now, add a strategy, an end game that uses economic sanctions (No Justice, No Profit!) as leverage to get the CEO's of various corpo-

See PROFIT, Page 13

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However, in 2014, that same company might hesitate to utilize traditional advertising yet very pro-active to insure they are seen on the World Wide Web that provides their potential customers with immediate information accessible with just the click of a mouse. We are now an "Information Society" that must have it NOW, not later. The quicker a company can provide that information, the better.

There is a Web Site called "BRILLIANT COMPENSATION" which outlines very efficiently the role and value of Network Marketing as one of the MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS of customer acquisition for numerous companies such as Mary Kay, Amway, Shacklee, Jusuru, ACN, etc. This Web Site will show in no uncertain terms how you can be part of a plan and a program that will "potentially" provide you with an income stream for life as long as you consistently are involved with "customer acquisition".

The key to this growth is finding a team of people and services that are in residual

demand. Products such as fuel, power, electricity, groceries, etc., that are consumable so that the customer continues to come back and purchase again and again. NSA Water Filters made many millionaires in the 1990's, but it lacked the variable of consumption that results in residual sales.

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HARLEM, continued from Page 9

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2014 was a banner year

By Harry C. Alford
NNPA Columnist

I will be 67 years old next month. For nearly half of those years my wife, Kay, and I have been stand-alone entrepreneurs. Times can be bad, good, great and catastrophic, depending on how you look at it. For us, 2014 will go down as a very good year. Challenging, yet rewarding in regards to the upcoming prospects.

Our twin sons presented us with their first post graduate degrees. Thomas received his Masters in Communication Management from the University of Southern California (mighty Trojans). Harry brought home his Masters

in Sports Management from Georgetown University. They immediately kept the pace up. Harry is in the MBA program for Babson University while Thomas is enrolled in the MBA program at John Hopkins University. They also successfully completed the sale of their first business venture, Lacrosse Playground. Side money is now coming from their individual consulting service. They are fast becoming the best investment Kay and I have ever made together. I see this bundle of "tools" being applied to the growth of the National Black Chamber of Commerce (NBCC).

Procurement activity among our members has

taken off with lightning speed. Central and South America have been the most active. Liquid Nitrogen Gas stations are up and running in Colombia. Solar heating farms now exist in El Salvador. A gold mine has been commissioned in Surinam by NBCC members from Maryland, Mississippi, Colombia and principles in Spain. Deep Water Port activity is now taking place in Nigeria, Costa Rica and Nicaragua. An actual resort city is in the planning stages in Ghana.

Our San Francisco African American Chamber of Commerce has put together a consortium to

See BANNER, Page 16

PARKLAND,

continued from Page 7
safest interest of patients and their families given the unpredictable ED volume.

"The next seven months are going to be an incredibly exciting, fast-paced time as we ready ourselves for the next chapter of caring for our patients," Dr. Cerise added. "We must seize every opportunity to review and improve delivery of care, access to services and service excellence. Since 1894, Parkland has served at the very heart of Dallas County's health care community. We are building upon this great legacy for those we serve."

For more information on the new Parkland hospital, visit www.parklandhospital.com

BUTTERFIELD,

continued from Page 2

their White counterparts;

- The unemployment rate of African Americans has consistently been twice as high as for Whites for past 50 years and

- For every \$100 in wealth of a White household, the Black household has only \$6.

Congressman Butterfield and his colleagues in the Congressional Black Cau-

cus cannot change America by themselves. They need and deserve our support. They need our voices and votes to join theirs. We need one another.

America is at another crossroad. Will we revive the U.S. economy and create a more inclusive democracy where race will not be the determining factor that determines the quality of

life? We all have an obligation to help determine the answer to that question. May our leadership be blessed with the courage and determination to make a real and lasting difference. And let's make sure we join them in striving for that goal.

Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is the President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association and can be reached for national

of Commerce, is the nation's most prolific writer on economic empowerment for Black people. He is an adjunct professor at the University of Cincinnati and can be reached through his Web site, blackonomics.com.

PROFIT,

continued from Page 11

rations to come out publicly and denounce the abuse being inflicted upon the people. Remember, it's not simply about withdrawing our money just to hurt someone else; it's about using that same money to help ourselves by building our own economic infrastructure.

Lastly, but certainly not least, sign up as one the Million Conscious Black Voters and Consumers by going to www.amefika.com or contacting me at jjclingman@blackonomics.com. Our goals is 1 million Black folks willing to leverage our votes and our dollars can change our situation. Get involved in 2015; let your actions outweigh your

words, and let's move forward.

Jim Clingman, founder of the Greater Cincinnati African American Chamber

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**January 18, 2015
at 7:35 a.m.**

Join us this Sunday for our praise and worship services and receive a blessing from God.

January 21, 9:30 a.m.

You're invited to join us for Bible study as we worship and praise God for His blessings.

**January 25,
After Service**

Stop by for our Blood Pressure Clinic today, it's for your health. It's offered on the last Sunday of every month after morning and evening services.

Brother Ramon Hodridge, Minister of Education
1026 Avenue F
Plano, TX 75074
972-423-8833
www.avefchurchofchrist.org

BETHEL BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CARROLLTON

January 18, 2015

You're invited to our Sunday Morning "Prayer and Mediation" followed by Morning Worship Service at 10 a.m. See what God is doing through and with us in the New Year; you will be blessed.

January 21, 7 p.m.

Join us in Wednesday's Prayer and Bible Study Class with Associate Pastor Brenda Patterson teaching on the subject of Spiritual Warfare. These are Hot Topics in Winter Months. We will learn what God says about critical issues and topics through the study of His word.

Dr. Terrance Woodson, Senior Pastor
1944 E. Hebron Parkway
Carrollton, TX 75007

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH IN RICHARDSON

**January 18, 9:30 a.m.
And 10:30 a.m. for
Morning Service**

You're invited to our Morning Services as we worship, honor and praise God for His blessings and join us for Church School Classes at 10:30 a.m.

January 21

Join us at 12 Noon with Rev. Viveca Potter teaching on the Word of God; come back at 6:45 for prayer and stay for Senior Pastor Autry at 7:30 p.m. teaching the Word of God.

Dr. Terrence Autry, Senior Pastor
George Bush Fwy at Jupiter Road on the Garland/Richardson Border
972-991-0200
www.christcommunityrichardson.com

FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH IN ALLEN "The Ship"

**Monday – Friday
9 a.m.-1 p.m.**

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

January 18

Join us this Sunday for our praise and worship services at 9:30 a.m. at 1550 Edelweiss Drive in Allen and bring someone with you; you will be blessed.

January 21

You're invited to our Wednesday's 12 Noon-Day Live Prayer and Bible Study and/or our Wednesday Night Live Prayer and Bible Study at 7 p.m. to learn more about God's Word at Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall, 200 W. Belmont Drive in Allen.

January 24

Calling All Youth! Join our Hype Sunday Worship (first service only) Service on our main campus at 200 West Belmont Drive and be blessed.

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

BIBLE WAY COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

January 18, 7:35 a.m.

Join us this Sunday for our praise and worship services and receive a blessing from God.

January 21, 7 p.m.

You're invited to our Wednesday Bible Study to learn more about God's word and how it can lead and guide you.

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

MT. OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO (MOCOP)

January 18

Join us in Sunday School at 8:30 a.m.; stay for our Sunday prayer at 9:30 a.m. and our Worship Service at 10 a.m.

January 21, 7 p.m.

You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study; you will learn what God has to say to us.

Pastor Sam Fenceroy
Senior Pastor
300 Chisholm Place
Plano, TX 75075
972-633-5511
www.mocop.org

NEW MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

January 18

You're invited to join us for Early Morning Services at

7:30 a.m., followed by Sunday School at 9 a.m. and Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

January 21

Join us for Wednesday's Bible Study and learn what God has to say to us.

Dr. Tommy L. Brown
Senior Pastor
9550 Shepherd Road
Dallas, Texas 75243
Phone: 214-341-6459
www.nmzb.org

SHILOH MBC IN PLANO

**January 18,
8 a.m. and 11 a.m.**

Come and worship with us this Sunday. God will greet us and bless us with words of wisdom as He leads and guide us in all truth and righteousness.

January 21, 7 p.m.

You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study to learn more about God's Word.

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

THE INSPIRING BODY OF CHRIST CHURCH

**January 18,
7:30 and 11:30 a.m.**

You're invited this Sunday to our praise and worship service as we honor and magnify God's Holy name; and receive a blessing from Him.

January 19, 7 p.m.

Join us in Monday School as we learn what God has to say to us.

January 23, 7 p.m.

All men are invited to join us for Men's Fellowship night. What is God saying to us?

Pastor Rickie Rush
7701 S Westmoreland Road
Dallas, TX 75237
972-372-4262
www.lbocchurch.org

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A Kingdom Building Church

Pastor Dr. W.L. Stafford, Sr.
Every Morning Service
200 W. Belmont Drive
Allen, TX 75013
8:00 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship
Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall
1550 Edelweiss Drive
Allen, TX 75013
9:30 a.m.

Wednesday Night Live
200 W. Belmont Drive
Allen, TX 75013
7:00 p.m.

MT. OLIVE CHURCH OF PLANO
300 Chisholm Pl. Plano, TX 75075 972-633-5511

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- Sunday Morning Prayer 9:30 am
- Sunday Service 10:00 am
- Wednesday Night Service 7:00 pm

Pastor Sam Fenceroy
Pastor Gloria Fenceroy

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Thank God for Dr. M.L. King, Jr.



Sister Tarpley

Send email to: businessoffice@northdallasgazette.com to sign up for Sister Tarpley's weekly electronic newsletter.

January 15, 1929, is the day that Martin Luther King came into this world, and on January 19, 2015, our nation will celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a Nobel Peace Prize winner in 1968 at age 35, for his contributions to our nation and to the world.

Dr. King (January 15, 1929-April 4, 1968) was born Michael Luther King, Jr., but later he had his name changed to Martin. His grandfather began the family's long tenure as pastors of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta honoring and praising God, he served from 1914 to 1931.

Dr. King's father served from then until his death; and from 1960 until his death Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. acted as co-pastor.

Dr. King attended segregated public schools in Georgia, graduating from high school at the age of 15; he received his B. A. degree

in 1948 from Morehouse College, a distinguished Negro institution of Atlanta from which both his father and grandfather had graduated.

After three years of theological study at Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania where he was elected president of a predominantly white senior class, he was awarded the B.D. in 1951. Dr. King received his doctorate degree in 1955.

In Boston he met and married Coretta Scott, a young woman of uncommon intellectual and artistic attainments. Two sons and two daughters were born into the family.

In 1954, Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. became pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama and he was a member of the executive committee of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the leading organization of its kind in the nation.

In December 1955 he accepted the leadership of the first great Black nonviolent demonstration of contemporary times in the United

States; the bus boycott lasted 382 days.

On December 21, 1956, after the Supreme Court of the United States had declared unconstitutional the laws requiring segregation on buses, Blacks and Whites rode the buses as equals.

In 1957 he was elected president of the Southern Christian Leadership Con-

ference (SCLC), an organization formed to provide new leadership for the now burgeoning civil rights movement.

The ideals for this organization he took from Christianity; its operational techniques from Gandhi.

In the eleven-year period between 1957 and 1968, Dr. King traveled over six million miles and spoke over

twenty-five hundred times, appearing wherever there was injustice, protest, and action; and meanwhile he wrote five books as well as numerous articles.

In these years, he led a massive protest in Birmingham, Alabama, that caught the attention of the entire world, providing what he called a coalition of conscience.

Dr. King planned voter registration drives in Alabama and he directed the peaceful march on Washington, D.C., of 250,000 people to whom he delivered his address, "I Have a Dream", he conferred with President John F. Kennedy and campaigned for President Lyndon B. Johnson.

He was awarded five honorary degrees; was named Man of the Year by Time magazine in 1963; and became not only the

symbolic leader of American Blacks but also a world figure.

At the age of thirty-five, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was the youngest man to have received the Nobel Peace Prize. When notified of his selection, he announced that he would turn over the prize money of \$54,123 to the furtherance of the civil rights movement.

Christian Wisdom and Quotes: It is impossible for a person not to be puffed up by his good works unless he has first been deflated and destroyed by suffering and evil to the point that he knows that he is worthless and that his works are not his but God's.

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." — Martin Luther King Jr.



*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
(January 15, 1929-April 4, 1968)*

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www.smbcplano.org

NDG Book Review: My Boy, Ben: A Story of Love, Loss and Grace

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

He was a once-in-a-lifetime dog.

From the moment you brought him home until the day he left, you never had a minutes' problem. He was easy to teach, easy to trust, easy to love and, unfortunately, too easy to lose. You'll never forget your once-in-a-lifetime dog – nobody does - and in the book "My Boy, Ben," David Wheaton tells you about his.

Years ago, there was always a dog or two at the Wheaton household.

David Wheaton remembers several of them: big dogs, Husky-dogs, always ready to join a Minnesota boy with adventure in his heart. As the youngest of four kids, Wheaton cher-

My Boy, Ben A STORY OF LOVE, LOSS AND Grace



ished those dogs as his favorite playmates.

As an adult and a world-traveling tennis pro, though, Wheaton knew that having

a dog would mean asking his parents to help with the care while he was on the road. That was something they weren't willing to do,

so Wheaton continued to dream – until he received a note from his mother that mentioned a dog she happened to notice.

The pooch, a Lab from a kennel in Iowa, had an easy-going demeanor and was textbook perfect, with a wedge-shaped head and soft brown eyes. Smitten, she didn't waste any time in contacting the owner of the kennel and she quickly put down a deposit on a puppy that wasn't even yet conceived. Wheaton was stunned at her uncharacteristic behavior – and he was overjoyed.

A few months later, they picked up Ben.

In the upper Midwest, says Wheaton, there are four distinct seasons and each had a memory attached to his years with

Ben. In wanting a hunting dog, Wheaton turned to a reference book for guidance; fall, therefore, reminded him of taking Ben afield. Winter was spent skating on a nearby pond, with Ben loping along behind. In the spring, as soon as the ice melted to reveal one of Minnesota's lakes, Ben was in it. Summers were spent at the family's cabin, exploring nearby woods and swimming.

But as Ben aged, Wheaton tried to remember one thing: at the beginning of loving a dog, you know there'll always be an end. His and Ben's, he hoped, was years away...

I liked "My Boy, Ben," but there are two big surprises inside this book.

I don't think I'm ruining anything by telling you the

first one: unlike other books that finish with the death of a dog, author David Wheaton puts Ben's demise about halfway through this story. I wasn't expecting that, and it was a pleasant aspect since it gives readers a leisurely chance to see what happens next.

What happens next was the second surprise: this book then takes a heavy Biblical turn. That isn't bad but, despite a few early-page Bible references, it was unexpected and therefore bears mentioning.

Still, how could a dog parent resist a book like this? You can't, so bring a box of tissues and settle in. For the inveterate Lab fan or anyone who's every truly loved a dog, "My Boy, Ben" could be a once-in-a-lifetime book.

BANNER, continued from Page 13

link a portion of the high speed railway in Northern California – \$1.5 billion of infrastructure. Oh yes! We have learned how to do this and are putting it to practice. Cuba is about to open up and we are more than ready. To say that in 2014 we have taken it to a new level would be a major understatement.

The organized threat against the NBCC by the White House has apparently ended in failure. We have stood firm against the back

alley Chicago style dirt. Marching forward and rising as we step – God is truly great! We continue to be the strongest Black business association in the world with exponential continuing growth.

The organized attempt to kill the coal industry has ended in a heap of ashes. Technology breakthroughs, a very friendly free market and astute investments are making this sector not only survive but grow and take a firm position to lead Amer-

ica to more affordable energy providing wealth for investors, jobs for workers and lower prices for consumers. There is no other nation on earth as strong as the United States when it comes to energy reserves and exporting. All of this accomplished with the fiercest of adverse regulation and evil policy making.

Our Department of Education continues to fight against free enterprise with its attack on for-profit colleges and universities. Confusing policies such as Common Core Curriculum

and a hatred of charter schools reminds me of the late singer Curtis Mayfield, "taught by fools from uneducated schools." Let us close the Department of Education, which was another crazy idea started by former President Jimmy Carter.

Our Internet activities over the past 15 years have propelled our nation to forefront of communications throughout the world. This is a proven example of the virtues of free markets and less obstructive government. However, we seem to have a Federal Communica-

tions Commission eager to do something counter-productive and anti-capitalistic. Let us continue to make great strides in Telecom with good policy and less adverse regulation and rule making.

Yes, 2014 had challenges but we were ready and seized the opportunities as they emerged. And 2015 promises to be an even more exciting year. Fortunately, we are prepared and are making changes to our board of directors and management structure that will make our managerial ability

even more prudent and sharper than ever before.

A meeting in Paris next April during Fashion Week is planned. A formal visit with our sister association, Pan African Chamber of Commerce and Industry (36 nations), in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia will be soon confirmed. Our 23rd annual conference is set for August 6-9 at the new Margartaville Beach Resort in Hollywood, Fla.

Harry C. Alford is the co-founder, President/CEO of the National Black Chamber of Commerce®.

HBCU, continued from Page 3

continue their education, they may be more inclined to transfer to a state-supported public university, where costs are cheaper than those of a private or public HBCU. In many instances, that state-supported university might accept all of the student's credits whereas the Black institution might accept some of them.

Public HBCUs are likely to suffer under this scenario as well. If a Black student has attended a community college in Alabama, for example, he or she may be

more prone to enroll in the University of Alabama or Auburn than they would if they had initially enrolled in Alabama A&M University or Alabama State.

And given the costs, those students might totally bypass Tuskegee University, Talladega College or Stillman College, all private institutions.

Colleges such as Spelman and Morehouse, though harmed, can probably sustain the drop in enrollment. But without any adjustments, it could be the

death knell for many others, including Miles College, Tougaloo, Paine and my alma mater, Knoxville College, which already has a foot in the grave.

With Republicans now in control of the House and Senate, it would have been far wiser for Obama to huddle with Republicans – whose presidents have been strong supporters of HBCUs over the years – to come up with a proposal that both sides could support. Going it alone, especially in this environment, virtually guarantees that the America's College Promise

program will go nowhere.

What should be done?

As one educator told me, it would have been better if Obama had said the federal government would pick up the first two years at a two- or four-year college. That would be better for most HBCUs. Because public tax dollars probably would not be designated for private colleges, the private and religious-affiliated institutions would still be in a bind.

As for the Republican majority accustomed to saying "no" to everything when they were out of power, education would be

a good thing to say "yes" to. And correcting the blunders made by the White House may even help in reaching out to a broader political base, a goal the GOP claims it wants to achieve.

In the meantime, this new community college proposal, coming on the heels of the administration dropping the ball on Parent PLUS student loans that caused some HBCUs to lose as much as 20 percent of their student body and a proposed federal rating system that could also disadvantage some HCBUs, has some of Obama's ardent

supporters wondering if this is part of a plan to kill Black colleges. If it's not, it may have the same sad effect.

George E. Curry, former editor-in-chief of *Emergence* magazine, is editor-in-chief of the *National Newspaper Publishers Association News Service (NNPA)*. He is a keynote speaker, moderator, and media coach. Curry can be reached through his Web site, www.georgecurry.com. You can also follow him at www.twitter.com/curry-george and *George E. Curry Fan Page on Facebook*.