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## MLK's daughter to speak

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## Last minute Valentines Gift ideas

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## In Real Life is a joy to see

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Win Tix to Skippyjon Jones!!!  
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# Sister Tarpley honored during Black History Month

*(Editor's Note: The staff of NDG could not agree more that Sis. Tarpley is a remarkable woman who boldly, and loving, shares her love of God with everyone. It is delightful to see her many accomplishments spotlighted and celebrated. We join the officials and members of Bethel Bible Fellowship and dignitaries of the City of Carrollton and the Carrollton-Farmers Branch I.S.D in saluting Sis. Tarpley!)*



Friends and family, including (back, L to R) Carrollton-Farmers Branch Superintendent Dr. Bobby Burns, Carrollton City Councilmember Steve Babick, Keimone Davis, Zuri Davis, CFB Boardmember Nancy Cline, Carl Goff, Carrollton City Councilmember Doug Hrbacek, (front, L to R) Tina Burns, Peggi Babick, CFB Board Asst. Secretary Richard Fleming, Carrollton City Council candidate Young Sung, Xavier Mottley, Elizabeth Mottley, Jarrell Tarpley, Shelia Tarpley Lott and Tyanna Lott, join (front, center) Sister Shirley Tarpley and youngest grandson Philip Lott in commemorating Tarpley's contributions to education and the community.

This year Bethel Bible Fellowship decided to honor members of its congregation by highlighting their contributions to Black History. One of the members selected for honoring for her community service is Sis. Shirley Tarpley. On Sunday Feb. 22 the church will honor another member, Mr. Scott Hunter who lived in Selma, Alabama during the march shown in the movie Selma.

Although Sister Shirley Tarpley is a relatively new member of Bethel Bible Fellowship, I mentioned to Dr. Terrance Woodson, Senior Pas-

tor of our church that she is so charming, he asked me if I knew she had been on the City Council of Carrollton.

He pointed me to article written about her by the local NAACP. There I saw her many firsts and exclaimed to Pastor Woodson, "She is living history, what a great person for our children and congregation to hear from. A living witness of history."

The presentation included a video interview allowing Sis. Tarpley to

share her story to the church, family, and friends. Always a delightful storyteller. in the video Sis. Tarpley shared a story about what would happen if a teacher had to call her parents because she misbehaved at school:

"I only said, it would be very bad for you, but I didn't say how it would be bad, now I want to say for all Demus children, if a teacher called our parents about bad conduct, we would get at least four

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COMMENTARY

## When are we going to get tired of abuse?

By James Clingman  
 NNPA Columnist

There comes a time in the course of human events for persons who have been mistreated to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with those who mistreat them. In the interest of self-respect and to claim the respect of others, after a long train of abuses, such persons have the right and the duty to throw off those who mis-

treat them and provide new guards for their future security.

- The Declaration of Independence

This country was established on the simple facts that people were being mistreated, they were tired of it, and they were not going to take it anymore. One cannot help but admire people who come to the end of their rope, defiantly proclaim the truth

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## People In The News...

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Ta-Nehisi Coates



Philip Lovell



Rev. Anthony Foster

More than 39,000 readers visited [NorthDallasGazette.com](http://NorthDallasGazette.com) last month!

## Ta-Nahesi Coates

National keynote speakers will lead an immersive and engaging discussion on the future of Dallas alongside city leaders and community members Feb. 27-28 during The Dallas Festival of Ideas.

The Dallas Festival of Ideas urges community attendance to create a passionate and informed discussion on how and what will shape the next century in Dallas. The two-day event will begin Friday, Feb. 27 at the Dallas City Performance Hall by highlighting each of the five



ideas for a world-class city: The Physical City, The Cultural City, The Innovative City, The Political City and The Educated City.

“This festival is about unveiling the next big idea,

and taking that idea and applying it to Dallas,” said Bob Mong, editor of the *Morning News*. “The Dallas Festival of Ideas is about channeling progressive action. Something tangible will come out of this festival and I’m looking forward to the results.”

Keynote addresses and panel discussions on the various ideas will be delivered at multiple locations in the Dallas Arts District by nationally known speakers and Dallas-area panelists on topics that are essential to the future of Dallas, concluding with actionable next steps to improve the city. Free family program-

ming will also be available at the Winspear Opera House Saturday, Feb. 28, from 9 a.m. until the closing ceremony.

The Physical City, led by New York City architect, developer and planner Vishaan Chakrabarti, will focus on how we can integrate nature in building and involve youth in planning for the future (Dallas City Performance Hall, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.).

The Cultural City, led by award-winning writer Luis Alberto Urrea, will highlight how we can express ourselves through food, music, art and the humanities to create a more vibrant

and diverse city (Crow Collection of Asian Art, 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.).

The Innovative City, led by digital innovation and foresight strategist Rahaf Harfoush, will explain how we can unlock creativity and embrace innovation in concert with what is already successful (Meyerson Symphony Center, 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.).

The Political City, led by prolific writer and senior editor of the Atlantic Ta-Nahesi Coates, will highlight how we can engage the youth in the political process and reduce the polarities of race and class (Dallas Museum of Art,

9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.).

The Educated City, led by New York Times bestselling author Elizabeth Green, will focus on how we can build toward a great urban school district (Booker T. Washington High School, 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.)

There will also be a free panel open to the public focusing on “How can Dallas attract and retain its creative talent?”, introduced by Mayor Mike Rawlings and led by Southern Methodist University’s Zannie Voss (Booker T. Washington High School, 1 p.m.).

Bishop T.D Jakes will

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## Phillip Lovell

WASHINGTON — Northrop Grumman Corporation’s Philip Lovell received a top-level award at the 29th annual Black Engineer of the Year Award (BEYA) Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Global Competitiveness Conference held this weekend in Washington, D.C. BEYA acknowledges excellence in accomplishments in STEM fields. Additionally, six Northrop Grumman employees were recognized as BEYA Modern-Day Technology Leaders and another received the Science Spec-



trum Trailblazer award at the conference.

The employees were recognized for their dedication to community service, educational leadership and outstanding technical and professional contributions,

among other achievements.

Lovell, a Fellow mechanical engineer at Northrop Grumman Electronic Systems, received the Outstanding Technical Contribution award. He has had many technical roles involved with programs such as Agile Beam Radar, F-22, the Joint Strike Fighter and STARLite. He has authored 18 publications and has received four new technology and 19 trade secret awards. He is an active mentor to younger engineers. Lovell earned a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from the University of the District of Columbia and a master’s degree in mechan-

ical engineering from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Tizoc Loza received the Corporate Promotion of Education award and is the Northrop Grumman manager for Global Supplier Diversity Programs/Government Relations. He is responsible for the development and implementation of the Small Business Innovation Research Program, which supports the transfer of technology to small businesses and universities, and he manages the Northrop Grumman Mentor-Protégé program. He supports education working with Historically Black Colleges and

Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, Tribal Colleges/Universities and other Minority Institutions to identify scholarship awards, research and development programs, and subcontracting opportunities.

Zachary Barnett, a software engineer in Northrop Grumman’s Information Systems sector, is responsible for the design and development of projects for the U.S. Department of Defense including a web-based collaborative tool and cross-domain capability supporting strategic planning. He received a Special Recognition award. He is the professional develop-

ment chair of the Northrop Grumman African American Task Group Employee Resource Group and involved in community youth activities as a mentor to local K-12 students, with the CyberPatriot and VEX Robotics student science competitions.

The six Northrop Grumman employees who were honored as BEYA Modern-Day Technology Leaders are: Aaron Copeland, Bianca Brandveen, Deidre Connor, Michael Finnessy, Matthew Janisz and William Smith. Anthony Barnes received the Science Spectrum Trailblazer award.

## Rev. Anthony Foster

Pastor Tony, as he was often referred to by First Baptist Church of Hamilton Park parishioners, has an approach which is straightforward, in your face, biblical application which unifies Christians to praise, worship and rejoice.

Rev. Anthony Foster, pastor at First Baptist Church of Hamilton Park, was born in Dallas on May 31, 1960 to Dr. Jesse Lee and Annie Pearl Foster. He graduated from Lake Highlands High School in 1978 and in 1979 he followed in his father’s footsteps and accepted a call from God to preach the good news of salvation. For over 36 years, Rev. Foster preached the Gospel and ministered to the lost and believers.



Throughout his early childhood, Rev. Foster observed and learned from his father how and grew into a gifted orator and preacher in his own right. A master at integrating metaphors into his sermons, with sound biblical doctrines, is a testament of his father’s teachings.

Even though Rev. Foster had the gift of preaching and a natural musical talent, his father demanded that he use his “burning” gift to further his education. So after graduating from Richardson ISD, he continued his higher education at Southern Bible Institute, Tyndale Theological Seminary, Criswell College and Louisiana Baptist University. His studies allowed him the opportunity to pursue his purpose and passion with collaborative work as a Minister and the joy of music from the pulpit.

After the death of his father in February 2003, Rev. Foster joined his brother Rev. Gregory Foster as Pastor in continuing their parent’s legacy at First Church. Dedicated to those who are

interested in unifying a Bible based ministry, Pastor Foster’s greatest desire is summed up in Jim Elliot’s quote, “God always gives His best to those who leave the choice with him.”

Rev. Foster’s legacy lives on through his four daughters, Latrice, Jennifer, Whitney, and Taylor, all of Dallas, Texas. Also his three grandchildren, Jayda, Jatavion, and Zaria, his brother, Dr. Gregory Foster of Allen, Texas, and every individual near or far who was impacted by his ministry.

Rev. Foster was preceded in death by his parents, Pastor J. Lee and Annie Pearl Foster; sister, Essie Louise Foster; and mother of his children, Sondra Howard Foster.

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# Poverty doesn't have to be a state of mind

By Julianne Malveaux  
NNPA Columnist

The racial differential in the poverty rate is staggering. Last time I checked, about 12 percent people in the United States, one in eight people are poor. Depending on race and ethnicity, however, poverty is differently experienced. Fewer than one in 10 Whites are poor; more than one in four African Americans and Latinos are poor.

Differences in occupation, income, employment and education are considered the main reasons for poverty, with current and past discrimination playing a role in educational, employment and occupational attainment. We see the discrimination when we consider that African American women with a doctoral de-

gree have median earnings of about \$1,000 a week, compared to about \$1,200 a week for Black men and White women, and \$1,600 a week for White men. White men earn 60 percent more than African American women, and a third more than Black men and White women.

It would not take much to recite the differences, by race, or education, unemployment, earnings and occupation. The recurrent question in reviewing the data is: What are we going to do? It makes no sense to just recite the data and then wring our hands as if nothing can be done. The three steps in social change are organization (especially protest), which leads to legislation (with pressure) and litigation (when legislation is not implemented).

Often laws preventing discrimination have been passed but not adhered to, forcing litigation to get offenders to do the right thing. Of course, it takes more than a minute. It takes people who are committed for the long run. “The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice,” Dr. Martin Luther King said in 1964.

Carter Godwin Woodson understood the long arc when he founded the Journal of Negro History and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915. The organization and the journal have changed their names to reflect the nomenclature of these times, and they are now called The Journal of African American History and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and

History. Both the organization and the journal have now existed for 100 years which is perhaps why ASALH chose “A Century of Black Lives, History and Culture” as its 2015 theme. (ASALH choose a Black History Month theme each year). This year, their focus on the long arc of African American life in our nation and asserts that “this transformation is the result of effort, not chance.”

Carter G. Woodson made many choices that led to his education and to the creativity and brilliance that motivated him to uplift Black History through Negro History Week, now Black History Month. Woodson was the son of former slaves, and a family that was large and poor. He

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about their condition, and then do something about it.

I long for the day when Black people finally get so tired of the abuse we suffer all over this country that we will decide to spend much more of our time, not trying to hurt someone else, but to use our resources to help ourselves. Our plight is similar to that of the founders of this country. The big difference: They were fed up and determined to make a change; we are just fed up. They had to go to war, as we must do if we want change. Our war must be revolutionary as well, but it must be fought with dollars rather than musket balls.

Our resolve must be the same as the Patriots. We must “admit” our problem and then “commit” to doing what we have to do to get what say we want. Why would we continue to hope and wish for change from people who have demonstrated no indication of their willingness to do so? Check out how Patrick Henry put it: “I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided, and that is the lamp of experience. I know of no way

of judging the future but by the past. And judging by the past, I wish to know what there has been in the conduct of the British ministry for the last ten years to justify those hopes with which gentlemen have been pleased to solace themselves...”

Henry knew he had to fight rather than hope and wish for change. He asked his compatriots what would make them believe their captors would change. “Is it that insidious smile with which our petition has been lately received? Trust it not, sir; it will prove a snare to your feet.”

Patrick Henry continued, “They tell us, sir, that we are weak; unable to cope with so formidable an adversary. But when shall we be stronger? Will it be the next week, or the next year? Will it be when we are totally disarmed... Shall we gather strength by irresolution and inaction? Shall we acquire the means of effectual resistance by lying supinely on our backs and hugging the delusive phantom of hope, until our enemies shall have bound us

hand and foot?”

Henry reminded the people of their futile petitions, their arguments against oppression, their entreaties and supplications to the King. He reminded them of their demonstrations, their protestations, and their humility, all rejected by the power structure. He told them it was time to take things into their own hands and stop begging their oppressors to come to their rescue. He said, “There is no longer any room for hope. If we wish to be free... we must fight! I repeat it, sir, we must fight.

Until Black people decide to fight against negative external forces and our own internal economic recalcitrance, things will not change.

If we do not act upon the historical juxtaposition of David Walker's Appeal and Patrick Henry's words, we are doomed to permanent underclass status. We must leverage our economic capacity against corporations that treat us like afterthoughts. And, we must combine our intellectual and financial resources to build our own political, economic, educational, and so-

cial independence. (Join the One Million Conscious Black Voters and Contributors movement by sending an email to info@iamone-ofthemillion.com)

Having written in this space for 22 years, I figured I'd let a White man do the talking this time. That way more of our people will listen and act; because if a White man called for a revolt, it must be all right for a Black man to call for one.

So I leave you with Patrick Henry's most famous words: “Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!”

Jim Clingman, founder of the Greater Cincinnati African American Chamber 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.

# Six healthy heart habits to implement

Despite decades of medical research and public campaigns to ease the problem, heart disease is the No. 1 killer in the United States and throughout the Western world.

One of the problems driving heart disease is the messaging, says Robert Thompson, M.D., an integrative medicine specialist deemed by his peers to be in the top 5 percent of U.S. physicians. While there's plenty of good research to indicate good advice, the general public, and many of his peers in the medical community, are stuck with faulty conclusions, he says.

"Perhaps the biggest misconception is that an overabundance of calcium, which may include supplements, is very good for people, especially women, but that's simply not true," says Thompson, author of "The Calcium Lie II: What Your Doctor Still Doesn't Know," (calciumliebook.com), a new book that details the roles minerals play in overall health and how to identify and correct deficiencies and imbalances.

Calcium is just one of 12 substances, as well as traces of 64 other minerals, that



make up our bones. Excessive amounts of calcium hurt our bodies in many ways, especially the heart and the brain, he says. We cannot possibly replace minerals with just calcium, which hardens concrete and makes bones more brittle.

One study, published in the British Medical Journal in 2008, was meant to assess the effect of calcium on bone density and fractures in postmenopausal women. Researchers found that participating women were significantly more likely to suffer heart attacks while taking calcium supplements.

"This is far from an isolated study – there are others, including 15 studies combined into a meta-analysis yielding similar heart-health results, which

show an increased risk of heart disease by at least 30 percent," says Thompson, who offers practical recommendations for what individuals can start doing for better overall health in recognition of American Heart Month, celebrated in February.

**Drink at least 64 ounces of water a day.** As a general rule, we need to drink half of our bodyweight in ounces of water daily. For a 150-pound individual, that's 75 ounces of water. Those who are overweight, or are heavy exercisers or live in warm climates may need more. Take care to drink quality water. Get a quality filtration system at home, which can range from \$200 to \$3,000.

**Take ionic sea salt-derived minerals.** We all

need a diverse range of minerals and virtually none of us get enough. Ionic minerals are the only ones that are completely available for our bodies to use because they are water-soluble and they naturally carry an electrical charge that allows them to be carried through the cell membranes. All sea salt-derived trace mineral products are recommended – at least three grams per day.

**Use only vitamin supplements made from 100 percent organic whole foods that have been vine-ripened.** Almost all of us need supplements because contemporary food supplies lack adequate amounts of vitamins and minerals, thanks to soil depletion. Most store-bought vitamins include just one component of the many complex molecular elements contained in the naturally occurring vitamin source. You need all of the nutrient components to get the full benefits.

**Get your fill of essential fatty acids;** raw nuts and/or seeds are a good source. In 2003, the Food and Drug Administration approved the following health claim for seven kinds of nuts:

"Scientific evidence suggests but does not prove that eating 1.5 oz. per day of most raw nuts as part of a diet low in saturated fat and cholesterol may reduce the risk of heart disease." Omega-3 and Omega-6 are considered essential because humans can't manufacture them within our bodies. Research has now shown that plant-derived Omega 6, and not fish oil, is the best oil for humans.

**Eat high-quality proteins.** Seafood, eggs, beans, chicken, game meat, duck and turkey are excellent sources of essential amino acids that are the building blocks of every protein molecule, hormone, neurotransmitter, cell membranes and immune molecules. Proteins can also be obtained from grains, sprouted grains, raw nuts and raw seeds. Vegetarians and vegans need to play close attention to combine protein sources to get the full complement of amino acids.

**Walk at least 30 minutes every day.** This activity has a huge effect on relieving the physiologic effects of stress on the human physiology. Exercise is good, but walking is amaz-

ing. No other single activity will more significantly or more rapidly affect the adrenal stress response in humans than walking, which probably works so well because it slows us down. And, it is an incredible way to build relationships.

"Also, I recommend ingesting essential monosaccharides, which is new and unknown territory for most people," he says. "They are the simplest form of carbohydrate molecules found in the body, are essential for protein molecules and can be found in maple syrup, sweet potatoes, parsnips, beets and onions."

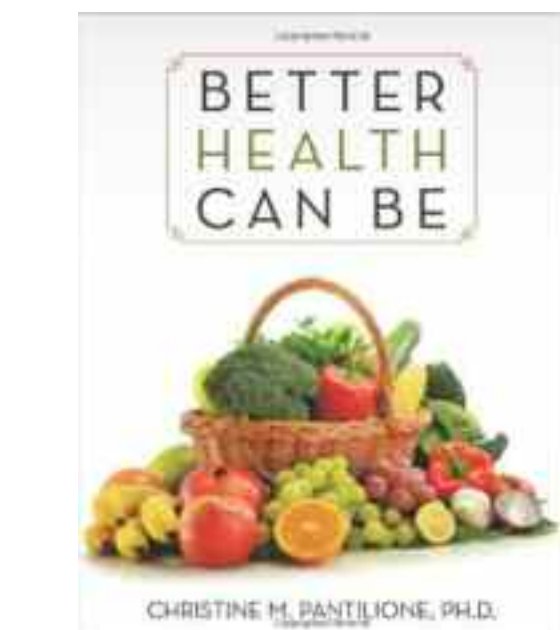
*Dr. Robert Thompson is a board-certified obstetrician and gynecologist, and a nutrition specialist who helps patients get long-term relief from chronic disease, including obesity, diabetes, hypothyroidism and adrenal fatigue. His newest book, "The Calcium Lie II," is available for free at calciumliebook.com. Dr. Thompson received his medical training at the University of Kentucky and has been a leader in medical advances for more than 30 years.*

## Author shares life story coupled with diet, exercise tips in 'Better Health Can Be'

SEWELL, N.J. – At the age of 22, author Christine M. Pantilione, Ph.D., received a life-changing diagnosis: multiple sclerosis. Though she was determined to live a full life despite the disease, a broadsided car accident led to further exacerbated medical complications.

Pantilione's new lifestyle guide, "Better Health Can Be" (published by LifeRich Publishing), details her inspirational story of overcoming pain while incorporating tips and strategies for living a healthy life.

Through prose and poetry, Pantilione shares her story, encouraging readers to have faith in God. She includes inspirational poems and verses thanking God for the strength and courage



that has gotten her through her darkest days.

"Better Health Can Be" stresses moderation when it comes to diet and exercise. The book offers advice on

the best foods to eat and supplements to take, and includes tasty yet healthy recipes. Even wine can be healthy, Pantilione says, but in moderation of course.

Through her story, Pantilione aims to give hope to readers who are struggling

with ongoing illnesses or pains. She hopes "Better Health Can Be" will chal-

lenge these readers to live the happiest and healthiest lives possible.

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# Irving Islamic Center denies accusations of hosting a Shariah Court

The Islamic Center of Irving issued the following statement regarding accusations they are facilitating a "Shariah Court":

*"Over the past few days, some media speculation has led members of the local community to wonder if the Islamic Center of Irving is facilitating 'Shariah Courts' at our Mosque. The management of the Islamic Center of Irving categorically*



*declares that no such court operates on the center's premises.*

*However, there is an Islamic Tribunal that operates in the Dallas-Fort*

*Worth Metroplex to address a genuine need within our faith community for intra-community arbitration. The religious leader of our center, Dr. Zia Sheikh, in his individual capacity participates in the Islamic Tribunal as an arbitrator. Similar religious tribunals have existed for decades in the American Jewish and American Christian faith communities to resolve dis-*

*putes, most especially within families.*

*These religious tribunals are optional arbitration vehicles that only conduct their work when requested to do so by both parties involved in a dispute, do not attempt to impose any belief system upon any individual and work in compliance with State of Texas and US law under the United States*

*Constitution.*

*The Islamic Center of Irving has been engaged with the local Irving community since 1989, participating in many community and civic projects. We strive to continue to provide similar services to the greater Irving population, with a view to maintaining the strong interfaith ties that bind us all as a community."*

# TWU fashion students win national competition

DENTON — Texas Woman's University fashion merchandising seniors Deema Aridi of Allen and Emily Mince of Grapevine recently won the 2015 Student Challenge Competition sponsored by the National Retail Federation (NRF), the world's largest retail trade association.

According to the NRF, Ms. Aridi and Ms. Mince took home the top scholarship and "bragging rights" with their product idea, the GradCap Kit — a do-it-yourself mortar board decorating kit. Ms. Aridi and Ms. Mince submitted business plans and a pitch video of their product idea during Retail's BIG Show 2015 convention in New York City in January, where they were announced as the winners of the NRF 2105 Student Challenge.

"Having TWU students win this prestigious national competition sponsored by

the NRF, which is considered the industry standard in retail, speaks to the quality and caliber of our fashion merchandising students and our program," said Dr. Deborah Young, professor and director of the TWU Fashion and Textiles Program, who mentored the TWU team. "I am extremely proud of both Deema and Emily for their extreme level of commitment to this project, which was demonstrated through endless meetings, point-on contributions, negotiated compromises, and overall hard work. I never had any doubt that this exceptional team would win!"

As the winners of the competition, Ms. Aridi and Ms. Mince each will receive a \$2,500 scholarship.

"Winning this competition means that our months of hard work and dedication to this project actually paid off," Ms. Aridi said. "Be-

cause of this competition, I have learned more than I could ever imagine about the retail industry. I could not be more proud that

Emily and I were able to participate in such an incredible program and accept an award from an organization as prestigious as

the National Retail Federation."

Ms. Mince added, "The experience of this competition and being recognized

for our work is one of my biggest accomplishments. Creating a product and

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Emily Mince of Grapevine (left) and Deema Aridi of Allen recently won the 2015 Student Challenge Competition sponsored by the National Retail Federation (NRF).





## LOVIN' BY EXAMPLE.

Here's to the leaders that don't talk about dedication, they show it. To the people who constantly perform selfless acts as they reach out, reach back and bring others along. We show our gratitude during Black History Month, but we applaud you everyday. Let's all be inspired to stay deeply rooted in spreading the love, 365 days a year. Find your motivation at [365Black.com](http://365Black.com).

**M | 365BLACK**

# Dallas high school seniors skipped \$34 million in financial aid last year

Dallas-area civic leaders, nonprofit organizations, school districts and institutions of higher education are coordinating in an unprecedented manner to support high school seniors filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA).

Last year, more than half of Dallas County seniors failed to fill out FAFSA or TASFA and missed out on more than \$34 million in grants.

Education beyond high school is becoming more important in today's workforce, and the perceived inability to pay for college is a barrier to students pursuing their dreams. Within the



next five years, 60 percent of jobs in the United States will require postsecondary credentials.

Exit surveys show that many of our local students don't understand the application process used by nearly all colleges and universities to determine financial aid eligibility. By not filing a FAFSA, students have no way of knowing how much college will re-

ally cost them and no access to state or federal aid to support them.

Low-income and minority students are the most affected by the lack of awareness about determining financial aid eligibility. Approximately 6,000 Dallas County high school seniors would be eligible for Pell Grants if they just filed a FAFSA form.

Dallas Mayor Mike

Rawlings has joined the effort and believes education is vital to the future of the region. "Every student should have access to a quality and affordable education," said Rawlings. "Students should take advantage of available state and federal dollars."

Volunteers from North Texas-area institutions of higher education, businesses and community organizations will help high school seniors and their families complete financial aid forms at six workshops. The workshops will take place on February 10, 21 and 28.

Bryan Adams High School  
2101 Millmar Drive  
Saturday, February 21

9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Richardson High School  
1250 West Belt Line Rd.  
Saturday, February 21  
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Molina High School  
2355 Duncanville Road  
Saturday, February 21  
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Adamson High School  
201 East 9th Street  
Saturday, February 28  
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Dallas Public Library  
1515 Young Street  
Saturday, February 28  
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

To complete the application at workshops, families need to bring their most re-

cent federal tax return, records of untaxed income (if applicable), bank statements and records of investment (if applicable), social security number (if applicable), driver's license (if applicable) and alien registration number (for non-citizens).

"We are excited that this initiative to help local high school seniors fill out financial aid documents is a community-wide effort," said Sarah Jensen, Deputy Director of College Access at Commit!. "Trained volunteers will help families and answer questions in English and Spanish."

More information is available at [www.youcanaffordcollege.org](http://www.youcanaffordcollege.org)

## MLK's daughter among featured speakers at UTA conference

The Center for African American Studies at The University of Texas at Arlington presents its third annual conference, "Critical Issues in the Black Community: Race and Social Justice," Feb. 20-21 at the E. H. Hereford University Center, 300 W. First St. The event is free and open to the public, but registration is required.

The two-day conference will examine progressive

solutions to social problems and identify strategies that will drive social change. The gathering will provide students, scholars, community leaders and others with opportunities to examine their development and role in the community.

Several noted speakers will be featured, including Rev. Bernice King, daughter of the late civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. She will deliver the mes-

sage, "A Concerned Generation: Social Justice Strategies to Charge the Revolution" at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21 in the Rosebud Theatre.

The conference also includes a screening of the film, "Evolution of a Criminal," with director Darius Clark Monroe. The Saturday screening begins at 12 p.m. in the Bluebonnet Ballroom of the E. H. Hereford University Center.

## Eastfield College goes red for women to kick off National Heart Health Month

MESQUITE — Eastfield College employees and students kicked off National Heart Health Month by participating in the American Heart Association's 12th annual Wear Red for Women Day campaign on Friday, Feb. 6.

The national event is designed to bring attention to America's No. 1 and No. 5 killers of women — heart disease and stroke.

The Eastfield College

Heath Center distributed gift bags to everyone wearing red, and the Office of Student Life passed out heart healthy apples.

Employees and students were also able to fill out remembrance cards honoring loved ones who have been impacted by heart disease and stroke. Prizes were awarded to the following participants for Best Red Outfit: first

place, Norma Mendoza, Student Life administrative assistant; second place, Elizabeth Crayton, Admissions specialist; and third place: Connie McMillian, Student Life student assistant.

On Jan. 20, the City of Mesquite proclaimed Feb. 6 as Wear Red for Women Day and encouraged local citizens and businesses to support the initiative.

## COATES, continued from Page 2

close the Festival at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 28 at the Winspear Opera House.

"This festival brings a diverse group of high-profile, global thought leaders to collaborate with Dallas leaders, as well as those in the broader public realm who want and deserve a voice in the future of their city," said Dr. Larry Allums, executive director of the Dallas Institute. "Our goal is to ignite and challenge our community to create plans that improve Dallas by using ideas from all ages, cultures, ethnicities and walks of life."

Tickets start at \$30, and

two-day passes are available for \$90. Students with a valid school ID will re-

ceive a 50 percent discount. To reserve your tickets or for more information, visit [www.thedallasfestival.com](http://www.thedallasfestival.com) or call 214-871-2440.

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**Film Screenings**  
Feb 18 & 24, Room H226  
9:30 AM, 11 AM, 2 PM  
**Speaker: Chris Tomlinson**  
Feb 25, Room H200  
11 AM - Speaker event  
1 PM - Writing event



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## TARPLEY, continued from Page 1

beatings, the first was because had brought shame to the name "Demus", acting a fool in school, we were always told that we were given that name as a privilege to be respected and worn with pride and honor, as if we asked to be born! (Many times I wanted to say, "Can't I just give the name back? But, I did not want to die right on the spot!")

The 2nd beating was because we led the teacher to think that we had not been taught how to act in public, another big no, no!

The 3rd beating was we failed to show proper respect to those who had authority over us when we were not at home.

The 4th beating was because we lost our self-respect, you must respect yourself before others could respect you.

The 5th beating was be-

cause we had caused them to whip us and they were already tired from working all day making a decent living for us and this made our parents really angry.

And, maybe the 6th and last beating for the infraction in school was for just general principle (GP) they said.

Now keep in mind, these beating would last for two or more days, according to how tired out parents were.

Therefore, if we acted a "fool in school, as our parents would say, it was better to beg the teacher not to call home, we were more than willing to do anything they wanted us to do and to gladly take any punishment, just don't call our parents!"

Born and reared in Dallas, Texas, Sister Shirley Demus Tarpley believes in a commitment to God, family, church, education and the community. She grew



Pastor Brenda Patterson (left) and Pastor Dr. Terrance Woodson present Sister Shirley Tarpley with flowers during a special presentation in her honor.

up in a home that consisted of her godly parents (Mr. Lloyd David and Mrs. Cedella Baker Demus), four sisters and three brothers.

Sister Tarpley was educated in segregated schools in Dallas; she attended elementary and middle schools, and in 1959 she graduated from Booker T. Washington High School (known today as Booker T. Washington Arts Magnet in North Dallas) which was one of only three African American High Schools in the Dallas Independent School District (DISD.)

She graduated from Prairie View A & M University, a Historical Black College and University (HBCU) in Prairie View, Texas, with a Bachelors of Science Degree in Business Education and a Minor Degree in Economics.

After graduation from college, she married and began working for Collins Radio Company (the name was changed to Rockwell International) as a Production Secretary. The company was contracted by the United States' government to produce the communication system for our first space ship launched by the U.S. Space Program. This is one of the highlights in her life, because she received the highest security clearance from the federal government to work on the project.

In 1965 she and the late Mr. Lorenzo Tarpley moved to Carrollton, Texas, and purchased their first home, which at the time was a small suburban town of only 9,000 plus residents; today its population is approximately 130,000 and

Blacks comprised of approximately two percent of its population; it was still geographically segregated, making the Tarpley's the first Black family to integrate the "all-white" section of town.

Sister Tarpley integrated R. L. Turner High School (RLT), the only high school in the Carrollton-Farmers Branch I.S.D. (C-FBISD) at the time. With the exception of her first year of teaching at RLT, she was voted one of the Top 10 Teachers by each senior class until she transferred to the new high school. She integrated Newman Smith High School (NSHS) in 1978, the second high school built in C-FBISD; she remained at NSHS until her retirement in 1996.

She and her husband had two children, a son, Jarrell Edwin, a graduate of RLT and The University of North Texas University (UNT) in Denton, Texas. Jarrell was a standout, award winning football player and attended UNT on a full football scholarship. He had the honor of being on the prestigious and highly covered Texas All Star Football Team from the North; only 30 are selected from all of the high schools in Texas each year. He lives in Venus, Texas, with his wife, Cleo Spann Tarpley, they have one son.

Her daughter Sheila Donnise is a graduate of RLT and Texas Woman's University (TWU) in Denton, Texas, was a standout cheerleader in Peewee, Junior High and Senior High Schools (she integrated all three cheerleading squads.) Sheila was honored by the RLT Football Team as their

personal Sweetheart her junior and her senior years. She was the first Black and only cheerleader honored with this title two years in a row, and this honor stands today. Sheila attended TWU on an academic scholarship. She is married to William (Bill) Lott; they have three children, and they live in Carrollton, Texas. Sheila is also a minister in the gospel.

Sister Tarpley is the proud grandmother of four: Tyanna Donnise, David Edward, and Philip Immanuel Lott and Deven Jaquan Tarpley.

In 1991 she became the first Black female to integrate and serve on the Carrollton City Council. In 1993 she ran unopposed for council and received the second highest votes in the history of Carrollton's elections. This record stands to this day. In 1995 she became the first Black to serve as Mayor Pro Tem for the City of Carrollton.

Sister Tarpley received

her Master's Certificate in Dispute Resolution (Mediation, Negotiation, and Arbitration) from Southern Methodist University (SMU) in Dallas, Texas.

In 2001 she became the first Religious Editor for the *North Dallas Gazette* weekly newspaper in Plano, Texas -- "North Dallas" Weekly Paper of Choice." She continues to serve in that position.

Her parents taught her to take pride in her heritage, to strive for the best in everything you do, to accept all people as they are, and to love and trust God above everybody and everything else. She continues to live by the teachings of her late parents and has always shared this philosophy with her children, her family, her church, school and her community.

Patricia Love is the Church administrator at Bethel Bible Fellowship. *North Dallas Gazette* contributed to this article also.

### For over 40 years Sister Tarpley received many awards, accolades and "firsts" in her teaching profession and life:

1. Personal Secretary for her Church Senior Pastor.
2. Church Announcer.
3. Sunday School Superintendent at church.
4. Sunday School Teacher at church.
5. 1993, KDFW-TV, Channel 4, selected Mrs. Tarpley as their first "Class Act" Teacher in the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) Metroplex.
6. First Black Board Member of Carrollton's Park Board.
7. Executive Board of the City of Carrollton Bi-Centennial Commission.
8. Executive Board Member of Carrollton's Peewee Football Association.
9. Executive Board Member of Carrollton's Peewee Cheerleader Association.
10. Peewee Team Mother for many of Carrollton's football and cheerleader teams.
11. Executive Board Member of the Parents, Teachers & Students Associations (PTSA's) at Central Elementary School, Dewitt Perry Jr. High School and R. L. Turner High School.
12. Senior Class Sponsor at Newman Smith High School (NSHS).
13. Junior Cheerleader Team Sponsor at NSHS.
14. PTSA Member at NSHS.
15. Co-Sponsor of NSHS's ACT-SO Organization of the NAACP.
16. Sponsor of Black History Programs in the Carrollton-Farmers Branch I.S.D.
17. Instrumental in bringing the first Black History Class to C-FBISD.
18. Instrumental in C-FBISD honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with the schools being closed for his federal holiday each year.
19. Executive Board Member of Carrollton's Country Fair Committee
20. Honored for contributions to C-FBISD by Christ Community Connection (CCC), a non-profit community organization in Carrollton.

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# AKA celebrates service, supports Austin Street Shelter

The members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Omicron Mu Omega honored the legacy of "Service to All Mankind" at its annual Founders' Day Luncheon on Saturday, January 31, 2015 at the Doubletree Campbell Center. Themed New Dimensions to a Vision Fair, the event welcomed nearly 400 attendees including city officials, members of various civic and service organizations, and community friends. Fine food and lively music capped off the event that celebrates members that have given 25 or more years of service to the sorority. Ms. Vickie Lewis and Mrs. Floristene Johnson served as event chairmen.

The event kicked off with opening remarks by Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings. Mayor Rawlings saluted the chapter for its 30 years of service to the greater Dallas community. Through its many donations, hands-on service projects, mentoring



AKA sisters celebrate coming together for community service.

programs and community events, the Omicron Mu Omega Chapter has been able to provide over \$250,000.00 in scholarships, and countless meals, financial assistance, guidance and career counseling to local youth and families as well as offer support to many global initiatives.

Mrs. Dawn Funches Allen, Omicron Mu Omega

President, encouraged attending sorority members to remain dedicated as we rally to achieve the goals and aims of the organization. She stated, "As we continue in our dedication to uphold the principles of Alpha Kappa Alpha, let us remember our commitment to a lifetime of service and continue strengthening our dimensions to a vision fair."

True to its nature, Omicron Mu Omega Chapter provided a sizeable donation of essential items to support the residents and beneficiaries of Austin Street Center. Austin Street Center is a faith-based organization that provides emergency shelter and services to homeless men and women in Dallas. Their goal is to empower those in

need to make responsible choices, create positive change, and obtain economic self-sufficiency. Austin Street Center is nationally recognized for its unique therapeutic program for the homeless. Not only does the Center offer safe, clean shelter and an evening meal for over 300 men and women each night, but it provides substance abuse treatment, medical and psychiatric care, adult rehabilitation, a transitional living facility for clients who qualify, and an interdenominational Chapel.

Seven members of Omicron Mu Omega Chapter were honored for their tireless years of service to the international sorority. Two members reached the 50-year "Golden" milestone: Mrs. Evelyn Hamilton and Ms. Seretha "Sam" Merchant. Both are retired educators from Dallas ISD and very vital to the work of Alpha Kappa Alpha in the Dallas communities. Mrs.

Hamilton is a charter member and first President of Omicron Mu Omega Chapter. Additionally, five members reached the 25-year "Silver" milestone: Dr. Tameka Lewis-Baker; Mrs. Erinn Marks; Ms. Shanda Riley; Ms. Donna Smith; and Ms. Nichell Sumpter.

The guest speaker for this festive event was Ms. Danette Anthony Reed. Ms. Reed is a Dallas business executive and proud Alpha Kappa Alpha member who currently serves as the International Treasurer for this trailblazing sorority. She is a charter member of Omicron Mu Omega and the first in this chapter's history to be elected to an international position. She spoke from experience about the joys that come from knowing one has done something that can benefit many. The audience was inspired and encouraged to always consider what can be done to serve and enhance the greater community.

## More than 1 million Texans have now enrolled or renewed through the Health Insurance Marketplace

Mimi Garcia, Texas State Director of Get Covered America, this week announced that 1,015,772 Texans have enrolled in or renewed their coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace as of Feb. 6. The number was released by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services today. HHS also released updated numbers for various metro areas in Texas:

- Dallas/Fort Worth: 289,047
- Houston/The Woodlands/Sugar Land: 269,298
- San Antonio/New Braunfels: 94,166
- Austin/Round Rock: 87,876
- El Paso: 43,825
- McAllen/Edinburg/Mission: 27,884

"To hear that more than 1 million Texans have either renewed or enrolled in health care coverage since the start of this open enrollment period on November 15 is amazing. It proves that Texans across the state are interested in and need quality, affordable health plans," Garcia said.

"We still have a few days left before the deadline on Sunday and I'm confident the number of individuals receiving coverage will increase. Over the next few days we will continue to work tirelessly along with our partners to make sure every Texan who is eligible is enrolled in a health care plan."

## Last minute Valentines gifts they will love

By Ruth Ferguson  
NDG Editor

We promise to do better with our Valentine's Day shopping, the month starts with promise. Then we wake up and it is Feb. 13 — ok let's be honest — it is Valentine's Day. What to do! Well, if you find yourself in that position there are two stores you can go to that will rescue you, and if you totally mess up and have to make up for it with more perfume we have options!

When does Bath and Body Works ever disappoint you! They are the last minute gift shopper's paradise because you can mix and match or create wonderful gift sets and she will be delighted. Whether you are shopping for your daughter, girlfriend, wife or mama — she will love their **Mad About You lotion**. Of course it smells wonderful but it is helpful with the Vitamin E and conditioning Vitamin B5. More impor-



tantly it really is fast-absorbing and non-greasy. Unlike the knockoff brands when you use BBW lotions you know you do not have to keep re-applying it. The quality ingredients feature hints of strawberry, ginger lily, pink jasmine and vanilla musk. There are more, but just know it smells wonderful.

My favorite fragrance these days from BBW is **Forever Red**, not only is the bottle elegant with a splash of tech toysfun, but who can resist pomegranate, peony and vanilla rum floral delight?

As you know I am a big

fan of CVS because with the ExtraCard Rewards I can get gifts and get a little something back too! More importantly it is so easy to take care of a wide range of folks on your list in one store. She loves perfume great, because they have designer fragrances and just in case you don't remember which one she absolutely loves — buy her several of the mini's in a cute gift bag. CVS offers **Marc Jacobs, Burberry, Juicy Couture** and **Calvin Klein**.

Don't forget your favorite little Valentine for under \$10 you can grab them a cute plush toy like the soft and snuggly **Valmation Puppy** or **Beanie Boo Panda**. Honestly my favorite gift ideas this year from CVS is the tech toys like the **car adapter** and **Power Bank** to help me stay fully charged on the go for my phone and iPad, it even has the USB cord included. Be a real sweetheart and charge it up for them.

So let's say despite your

best laid plans, you did not get the perfect gift (tried to tell you not to go for a toaster on V-Day!). Well to get out of the dog house, might I suggest you rush to visit [Fragrance.net](http://Fragrance.net) because it offers the hottest spring fragrances. I will tell you about more later, but for now let me just say **Marc Jacobs Daisy Delight** is divine and the price you will pay at [Fragrance.net](http://Fragrance.net) compared to a department store is great. For only \$57.99, you can enjoy this playful perfume featuring apple and quince scents, with freesia for an aromatic pop. Add notes of peony and gardenia and you are in floral heaven.





# Valentines Out on the Town

Looking for something to do with your special someone (or your favorite girlfriends, we won't judge!) Here are a few ideas for this weekend:

**Radio One Dallas for "A Night of Jazz & Romance"** is a special evening featuring jazz crooners Natural Change, acclaimed acoustic guitarist Peter White, world-renowned jazz pianist Alex Bugnon and Grammy Award-winning vocalist Jonathan Butler. Be there to experience this night of love, passion and smooth sounds at the InterContinental Hotel in Addison.

**Love Jonz Presents "Alone But Not Lonely"**



The boneless ribeye from Asador at the Renaissance Dallas Hotel.

**Valentine's Singles Celebration at 10:30 p.m. in Duncanville.** On this night you can come have dinner, enjoy good music, feel the power and passion of Spokenword and just love yourself. Live at Social Arts Events Room. chocolates, flowers, and dance the night away.

**Lazaranda Modern Kitchen & Tequila on Beltline in Dallas** will offer a special three-course Valentine's Day dinner February 13-15 for \$37.95. Enjoy delightful Mexican dishes from Chef Antonio Marquez such as sauteed shrimp, scallop and beef filet brochette with bacon and passionate crepes for

dessert. 972-866-8900

## Places to Dine

**La Calle Doce in Lakewood** will offer a delightful, four-course menu complete with Valentine's Day cocktails for \$60 a couple featuring Seafood sampler appetizer, Tenderloin Filet, and end the meal with a Xango a la Mode—cheesecake wrapped in a flour tortilla with sugar and cinnamon. Served with ice cream. To make reservations, call 214-824-9900.

**The "Queen of Hearts Champagne Brunch" at Dee Lincoln's Bubble Bar** from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. will be a memorable afternoon filled with many signature

highlights. Dee Lincoln's Executive Chef, Andrew Powers, will create a specially crafted brunch buffet menu of items that will include Texas Migas, chicken and waffles, Anson Mill grits, O'Brian potatoes and assorted fruit. The cost is \$50 and the event will benefit the Bridge Breast Network, a local nonprofit organization that provides access to breast cancer services for low-income and uninsured individuals. Call 682-587-9805.

**Asador**, located at the Renaissance Dallas Hotel will offer a three-course prix fixe dinner for \$60 per person, \$90 per person with wine pairings on Feb. 13

and 14. Executive Chef Brad Phillips starts the evening with wood fired Gulf oysters followed by a choice of tuna tempura on a forbidden rice cake, a boneless ribeye or egg yolk ravioli. Dessert is a warm german chocolate cupcake or passion fruit curd. 214-267-4815

The International Museum of Cultures will present an afternoon of **poetry readings by Doris Black-Hubbard, and Rachel Karp**, on Feb. 12 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$5 and members are admitted FREE. Among poetry, chat and delightful chocolate of all kinds will also be featured a Paddle Auction, call 972 572 0462.

## Housewives had their own Super Bowl

Reality TV Talk  
By Marquesa LaDawn  
NNPA Columnist

Atlanta Housewives took a break last week because of the Super Bowl. Hey, I can appreciate big sporting events but, I still needed and wanted my Housewives. If Luther Vandross were still alive, he might sing, "A house is not house and unless the Housewives are playing there..."

The Housewives were not playing in Beverly Hills, Super Bowl or no Super Bowl. Three words sum up the Beverly Hills Housewives: addiction, old wounds, family. Okay, that's four words, but who's counting. You see, Kim Richards deals with an addiction to alcohol, which often takes her through many ups and downs. Not surprisingly, this has taken a toll on her relationships, especially her relationship with her sister, Kyle Richards.

Addicts love company,

which led to a tight bond between us. She is addicted to alcohol and I am addicted to seeing her addicted to alcohol. Hey, don't judge me. Kim's addiction has – I can't believe I'm saying this – also broken Brandi Glanville. It's co-dependency101.

Brandi has many things going for her but emotional intelligence is not one of them. She's what the fellas mean when they say, "Body by Fischer, Mind by Mattel." For those not old enough to know, Fischer was noted for building outstanding automobile bodies. Of course, Mattel is a toy-maker. It I have to explain more than that, they may be describing you in the same manner. Behind your back, of course. Back to Brandi, she just says and does whatever strikes her fancy at the time. This includes throwing wine in your face, slapping you, cursing you, making sexual innuendos at the wrong time and the list continues.

Bottom line: Kim and Brandi are a dangerous pair. But, there's one upside and that's Kyle Richards is finally speaking her mind. Finally. It only took 5-plus seasons.

Celebrity Apprentice was on fire!!!! I was on Facebook and Twitter @realitytvgirl and everyone was watching. It was the most shocking episode ever and I've seen them all. Only a housewife can accomplish that. I'm just sayin...

Take Atlanta Housewife Kenya Moore, movie star Vivica Fox, and throw The Donald into the mix and that's the definition spontaneous combustion.

First, let me give you the back story on Kenya and Vivica. During this episode in particular, Kenya's goal was to shame Vivica. It began while they were on the streets of NYC shooting an advertising campaign. As project director, Kenya made a butt of herself by fo-

See REALITY, Page 16

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# A celebration of where *Real Life* takes us when we agree to the journey

By Ruth Ferguson  
NDG Editor

In *Real Life* brings to close the trilogy of plays written by actress Charlayne Woodard, and Jubilee Theatre's fans will be saddened to see the series come to an end. For those who have seen the previous productions of *Pretty Fire* and *Neat*, they truly feel like they know Woodard's journey. *In Real Life* will certainly not disappoint fans of the trilogy or newcomers like myself.

A one woman production starring Ebony Marshall-Oliver, *In Real Life* follows Woodard from her arrival in New York City with her "five monologues: Sophocles, Shakespeare, Chekhov, Tennessee Williams, and Ntozake Shange," prepared for auditions she was confi-



Ebony Marshall-Oliver brings *In Real Life* to the Jubilee Theatre stage (Image: Jubilee Theatre)

dent would propel her to a career as a serious actress. Starry-eyed and confident she was going to set Broad-

way on fire playing real people or respected roles. But sometimes life takes us on a totally different jour-

ney – it can be a delightful journey – just not the one you had planned.

For the audience, *In Real Life*, is an enjoyable discovery which has only one person on stage but you meet and discover the joy and pain of probably close to 20. All of these characters are brought to life for us in very distinct and unique representations by Marshall-Oliver. Her costume is simple, the stage is minimal with just a New York backdrop and a single wooden chair. So the burden of success rests on the lovely shoulders of Marshall-Oliver. Not only does she deliver, she does it in the presence of Woodard who was in the audience with her husband Harris Friday night.

After the show the two women discussed their jour-

ney and if the play was not inspirational enough – listening to these two elegant ladies discuss their ups and downs on their path to success was worth the price of a ticket by itself.

Woodard never planned to be a writer, and Marshall-Oliver was convinced her days as a performer were likely over. Audiences are grateful they were both wrong.

With the death of her beloved "grandmama" and a command performance required by her minister's wife at a women's retreat, Woodard discovered the need to tell the story of the women who have meant so much to their family and their community. The unsung women who through the years have helped propel their children, grandchildren or sometimes just

the neighbor's kids to dream and pursue those dreams with full gusto. These women had their dreams, but given the limitations of society at those points in our history – their dreams became deferred but become alive though the children they love. From there the trilogy was brought to life by Woodard.

Jubilee Theatre fans have had the privilege of now enjoying all three productions brought to life by Marshall-Oliver and just as the plays were a part of the theatre's rebirth over the last three years – the opportunity provided Marshall-Oliver to discover her days as an actress were not over. Her career started brightly, but as a young bride and then

See REAL, Page 16

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# City of Irving to host annual Homebuyer Fair

The City of Irving and Business and Community Lenders (BCL) of Texas are partnering again to host the annual Homebuyer Fair and assist first-time homebuyers to become confident, educated and prepared consumers. Builders, community development housing organizations, housing and credit counselors, and lending institutions will be in attendance to provide information one-on-one to interested residents. This year's



fair will be held 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 28 at Senter Recreation Center, 901 S. Senter Road.

There will be free work-

shops, prizes, activities for children, and more.

Register for this annual event online at [homebuyerfair.com](http://homebuyerfair.com).

# POVERTY, continued from Page 3

worked as a miner in West Virginia, and attended school just a few months a year. At 20, he started high school and by 28 he had earned his bachelor's degree. He was only the second African American to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard (W.E.B DuBois was the first in 1895). He was a member of the Howard University faculty and was later a dean.

He wrote, "If you can control a man's thinking you do not have to worry about his action. When you determine what a man shall think you do not have to concern yourself about what he will do. If you make a man feel that he is inferior, you do not have to compel him to accept an inferior status, for he will seek it himself. If you make a man think that he is justly an outcast, you do not have to order him to the back door. He will go without being told; and if there is no back door, his very nature will demand one."

In other words, poverty can be the reality of living, but it doesn't have to be a state of mind. Many are trapped in poverty because that may be all they know, and because protest, legislation, and litigation have not provided a passage out of

poverty. No one provided a passage out of poverty for Woodson. He worked as a miner to earn a living, and he transcended his status as a miner to make a life of embracing his people and our history. He wrote about

the ways that our thinking could oppress us as much as living conditions can. He is a role model and example for African Americans today because, motivated by a desire to be educated, he fought his way out of poverty. There is a difference between thinking you

# REAL, continued from Page 10

mother she made the decision to step away from the stage. Returning later, she was not greeted with anything other no no and no. She was beginning to resolve that perhaps she should begin to settle for teaching other actors and forget about performing on stage herself. But a call from a friend telling her about auditions for *Pretty Fire* led to the artistic director telling Marshall-Oliver the role was her's if she wanted it.

*In Real Life* is on stage at the Jubilee Theatre until March 1. Do not miss this

opportunity to see an entertaining, but thought provoking production! You will be reminded that we can have the biggest of dreams, but sometimes *In Real Life*, when we open ourselves up

to a different journey life can be so much richer than we imagined.

This is the last week NDG readers can enter to win a pair of tickets to see *In Real Life*. Visit our Facebook page here and enter for a chance to win.

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### NOTICE TO PROPOSERS

Prospective vendors or their representatives may obtain an electronic PDF format of various Procurement Proposal documents on-line from the Dallas ISD website homepage at <http://www.dallasisd.org/at> the "Vendor Opportunities" link.

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Dallas, TX 75247  
(972) 432-5219

**TWU,** continued from Page 7

business plan like it was meant to be put on the shelves taught me more than I thought I would ever know. Being a part of the NRF Student Challenge has opened up many doors for me, and I feel so blessed to have been a part of it."

Now in its second year, the NRF Student Challenge is a business-case competition for NRF Student Association members to highlight their creativity and

business acumen to retail executives. Members of the student association from across the U.S. participated in the competition, with the top three finalists invited to present their project at Retail's Big Show.

More information about the NRF student challenge can be found at <https://nrf.com/career-center/scholarships/student-challenge/student-challenge-class-of-2015>.

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## Hey Irving, Pick Us Up!

You can find a copy of the North Dallas Gazette at any one of these fine businesses and organizations. Be sure to pick up a copy every week to stay on top of the issues important to the Irving area in particular and the DFW African American community as a whole.

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| <p><b>Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce</b><br/>5201 N. O'Connor Blvd., Ste. 100</p> <p><b>Iglesia Santa Marie de Guadalupe</b><br/>2601 S. MacArthur</p> <p><b>The Chateau on Wildbriar Lake</b><br/>1515 Hard Rock Rd</p> <p><b>Bombay Sizzlers</b><br/>397 East Las Colinas Blvd, Ste. 180</p> <p><b>Le Peep</b><br/>4835 N. O'Connor Blvd.</p> <p><b>Mattito's Tex Mex</b><br/>1001 MacArthur Park Drive</p> <p><b>Taqueria El Tacazo</b><br/>1150 W. Pioneer Drive</p> <p><b>Capistrano's Café &amp; Catering</b><br/>4650 W. Airport Frwy</p> <p><b>Empress of China</b><br/>2648 N. Beltline Rd.</p> <p><b>The Spirit Grille</b><br/>4030 N. MacArthur Blvd #112</p> <p><b>El Rancho Restaurant</b><br/>1210 E. Irving Blvd</p> <p><b>504 Salon</b><br/>3414 W. Rochelle</p> <p><b>Irving YMCA</b><br/>220 W. Irving Blvd</p> <p><b>Mitchell's Barbershop</b><br/>4020 N. Beltline Rd</p> <p><b>Roy's Pawn Shop</b><br/>635 E. Irving Blvd</p> | <p><b>Evergreen Baptist Church "The Green"</b><br/>3329 Country Club West</p> <p><b>Irving Islamic Center Valley Ranch - Valley Ranch Masjid</b><br/>9940 Valley Ranch Pkwy W.</p> <p><b>Irving Salvation Army</b><br/>1140 E. Irving Blvd</p> <p><b>Antioch Christian Church</b><br/>2043 W. Walnut Hill Ln</p> <p><b>Lee Park Recreation Center</b><br/>300 Pamela Drive</p> <p><b>Lively Pointe Youth Center</b><br/>909 N. O'Connor Rd</p> <p><b>Mustang Park Recreation Center</b><br/>2223 Kinwest Pkwy</p> <p><b>Northwest Park Recreation Center</b><br/>2800 Cheyenne St.</p> | <p><b>Senter Park Recreation Center</b><br/>907 S. Senter Rd</p> <p><b>Austin Recreation Center</b><br/>825 E. Union Bower Rd.</p> <p><b>Houston Recreation Center</b><br/>3033 Country Club Rd.</p> <p><b>Cimarron Park Recreation Center</b><br/>201 Red River Trail</p> <p><b>Georgia Farrow Recreation Center</b><br/>530 Davis Street</p> <p><b>Heritage Senior Center</b><br/>200 Jefferson Street</p> <p><b>iRealy Office Building</b><br/>320 Decker Drive</p> <p><b>Irving Hispanic Chamber of Commerce</b><br/>135 S. Jefferson</p> <p><b>Irving City Hall</b><br/>825 W. Irving Blvd</p> <p><b>Irving Public Library</b><br/>801 W. Irving Blvd</p> | <p><b>Shady Grove CME Church</b><br/>3537 E. Gilbert Road</p> <p><b>Emmanuel Baptist Missionary Church</b><br/>511 Gilbert Road</p> <p><b>Ben Washington Baptist Church</b><br/>3901 Frisco Ave</p> <p><b>Shepherd Church</b><br/>615 W. Davis</p> <p><b>West Irving C.O.G.I.C.</b><br/>4011 Conflans Road</p> <p><b>Bible Way Baptist Church</b><br/>4215 N. Greenview Dr.</p> <p><b>Strictly Business</b><br/>4159 W. Northgate</p> <p><b>Washateria</b><br/>3712 Cheyenne Street<br/><b>New Life Ministries</b><br/>3706 Cheyenne Street</p> <p><b>Elisha Mane Attractions</b><br/>3704 Cheyenne Street</p> <p><b>Bear Creek Community Church</b><br/>2700 Finley Rd.</p> | <p><b>Evergreen Baptist Church</b><br/>3329 W. Country Club Drive</p> <p><b>Po' Boys Restaurant</b><br/>4070 N. Beltline Rd. Ste. 100</p> <p><b>Girl Friends Africa</b><br/>4070 N. Beltline Rd. Ste. 134</p> <p><b>VW Barbership</b><br/>4070 N. Beltline Rd. Ste. 143</p> <p><b>Northlake College</b><br/>2000 College Blvd Bldg. A</p> <p><b>Antioch Christian Church</b><br/>2041 West Walnut Hill</p> <p><b>Kasbah Grill</b><br/>2851 Esters Rd</p> <p><b>Fresh Food Store</b><br/>4020 W. Northgate Drive</p> <p><b>Lee's Catfish</b><br/>1911 Esters Road</p> <p><b>Danal's Mexican Restaurant</b><br/>508 N. O'Connor Rd</p> <p><b>Fred's Pit Barbecue</b><br/>808 E. Irving Blvd</p> <p><b>Gary's Barbershop</b><br/>2117 Story Rd.</p> <p><b>African Village Restaurant</b><br/>3000 N. Beltline Rd</p> <p><b>New Look Barbershop</b><br/>3317 Finley Rd.</p> <p><b>Irving Arts Center</b><br/>3333 N. MacArthur #200</p> |
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## It's time for Hollywood to act like diversity matters

By Marc H. Morial  
NNPA Columnist

“Diversity is basically a description of independence. Diversity is what moves the ball for me, and I thought ‘give people a chance that have different points of view. Let the audience decide whether they like it or not. But give those voices a chance to be seen and heard.’”

– Robert Redford, actor, director, and co-founder of Sundance Film Festival

Hosted by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the 87th annual

Academy Awards ceremony, better known as the Oscars, will either best be remembered for the uproar incited by this year’s homogenous nominations, or as a seminal moment for change in the Academy’s long, non-inclusive history.

For the first time since 1998, the stage has been set for our nation to celebrate its least diverse Oscars. In a year that saw Oscar-worthy turns from several actors of color, none were nominated in the acting categories, with all 20 acting nominations going to White actors. But the story doesn’t end

there. Not a single woman stood among the five directors and 14 screenwriters nominated in those categories.

In a nation where nearly 51 percent of the population is female, how can formidable directors like Ava DuVernay for “Selma” and Angelina Jolie for “Unbroken” find themselves on the cutting room floor of the nomination selection? In a nation where, according to a 2014 Pew Research Center survey, “Some 43% of Millennial adults are non-white, the highest share of any generation,” how does

the Academy’s nominees not reflect Hollywood’s audience base or the nation in which we live?

In response to the outcry surrounding this year’s Oscar nominations, Cheryl Boone Isaacs, the first African American and third female president of the Academy, spoke to the Associated Press and pointed to progress in the Academy’s efforts to reflect our nation’s diverse, movie-going audience. She noted, “In the last two years, we’ve made greater strides

See OSCARS, Page 16

## Hawaiian Falls hosting area job fairs

Hawaiian Falls is holding Job Fairs beginning March 2 to hire more than 1,000 seasonal workers for its North Texas waterparks at the following locations:

Hawaiian Falls Garland – The Heights Church, 201 W. Renner Rd. & US75, Richardson 75080

March 3, Tue., 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
March 7, Sat., 9 a.m. - Noon.

Hawaiian Falls The Colony - Horizons Church, 6600 Paige Road, The Colony 75056

March 3, Tue., 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
March 7, Sat., 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Hawaiian Falls Mansfield – First Baptist Church, 1800 E. Broad St., Mansfield 76063

March 2, Mon., 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
March 7, Sat., 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Hawaiian Falls Roanoke - Roanoke Recreation Center, 501 Roanoke Road, Roanoke 76262

March 5, Thur., 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
March 7, Sat., 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Hawaiian Falls White Settlement - Aloha Event Center, 8905 Clifford St, White Settlement 76108

March 2, Mon., 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
March 7, Sat., 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Hawaiian Falls offers job opportunities for candidates 16 years of age and older in a safe, value-centered, conservative and exciting environment. There are great

opportunities for students, teachers, single parents, extra wage earners, and seniors.

Seasonal positions include Activities Director, Camp Counselor, Team Splash, Groups Coordinator, Emergency Medical Technician, Lifeguards (age 16+ training provided), Ride Attendants & Dispatchers (training provided), Cash Control – Daily Reporting, Cashier/Ticket Sales, Ticket Takers, Cooks, Dishwashers, Food Prep, Runners, Cabana Waiters, Locker Attendants, Maintenance, Grounds Control, Housekeeping, Bathroom and

Trash Attendants.

In addition to the seasonal water park positions, Hawaiian Falls White Settlement is also seeking Adventure Park Attendants, Birthday Host/Hostess, Front Gate/Ticketing, Food & Beverage, Arcade & Redemption, Park Services, Maintenance and Parking Attendants.

All candidates must complete an application at <http://www.hfalls.com/employment> for consideration. Sorry, applications will not be accepted at the parks, by mail or drop-offs. Candidates will then need to attend one of the Job Fairs for a short orientation about

Hawaiian Falls and interview on the spot. Candidates should plan to spend 1 - 2 hours to complete the process. Candidates should dress for success and bring their smile.

For questions, please email [info@hfalls.com](mailto:info@hfalls.com) or call 972.999.1265.



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Or email your resume to: [careers@edbellconstruction.com](mailto:careers@edbellconstruction.com)

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**February 15**  
Join us this Sunday at 8 a.m. for our praise and worship services, God will bless you. And don't forget to come back for our Iglesia de Cristo Services (the Word of God in Spanish.)

**February 18, 9:30 a.m.**  
You're invited to join us for Bible study as we worship and praise God for His blessings. Prepare to be encouraged by God's plan to grow.

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

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**February 15, 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. We will also have some Black History facts to share with you.

**February 18, 7 p.m.**  
Join us in Wednesday's Prayer and Bible Study Class with Senior Pastor Dr. Woodson and/or 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. Come and be blessed by God.

Dr. Terrance Woodson,  
Senior Pastor  
1944 E. Hebron Parkway  
Carrollton, TX 75007  
972-492-4300

www.bethelbiblefellowship.org

**CHRIST  
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RICHARDSON**

**February 15, 8:45 a.m.  
and 11 a.m.**

You're invited to our Morning Services as we worship, honor and praise God for His blessings. Our February Month Series is "Being Wired for Sex."

**February 18**  
Join us at 12 Noon with Rev. Viveca Potter teaching on the Word of God; come back at 6:45 for Corporate Prayer and stay for Senior Pastor Autry at 7:30 p.m. teaching the Word of God. Our youth come for Food and Fellowship at 7 p.m. followed by Bible Study at 7:30 p.m. and Tutoring/Homework Assistance at 8 p.m.

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

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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

**February 15**  
Join us this Sunday for our praise and worship services at 9:30 a.m. followed by Morning Services at 1550 Edelweiss Drive in Allen and bring someone with you; you will be blessed.

**February 18**  
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. Be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and His glory; and most of all, be prepared to grow.

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**

**February 15, 7:35 a.m.**

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

**February 18, 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 Dr.  
Irving, TX 75062  
972-257-3766  
www.biblewayirving.org

**MT. OLIVE CHURCH  
OF PLANO (MOCOP)**

**February 15**

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.

**February 18, 7 p.m.**  
You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study; you will learn what God has to say to us. Come to be encouraged by God's plan for your spiritual growth and His glory.

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

**NEW MOUNT ZION  
BAPTIST CHURCH**

**February 15**

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.

**February 18**

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**

**February 15,  
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.

**February 18, 7 p.m.**  
You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study to learn more about God's Word. Come and be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and growth; and it's all for His glory.

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**

**February 15,  
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.

**February 16, 7 p.m.**  
Join us in Monday School as we learn what God has to say to us.

**February 20, 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.Ibocchurch.org

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**February 22, 3 p.m.**  
PACE presents its 2015 African American Read-In at the Josey Ranch Lake Branch of the Carrollton Public Library. The guest speaker will be Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District educator Mrs. Michelle Bailey.

There will be readings and recitals from PACE members and local youth. Also on the program will be local performer Jennifer White Miller who will present a Harriet Tubman monologue and song performance.

Free new and slightly used books will be given away to children in the audience. Books have been provided by PACE members, members of the public and a generous donation from Friends of the Library. Light refreshments will be served. Contact Tracey Richardson, Historian, for book donations or information at pacemaster@pacedfw.org. or call 469-585-6844.



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# Black History facts continue...



**Sister Tarpley**

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Robert R. Taylor, (June 8, 1868 – December 13, 1942) was an American architect; and by some the most prolific contributor to Tuskegee University's structural design and the namesake of its architecture and construction school will soon be remembered with the launch of a new U.S. postage stamp.

On today, February 12, the United States Postal Service will issue a limited edition of the Forever Stamp of Robert Robinson Taylor. The stamp is the 38th addition to the service's Black Heritage series.

Taylor is believed to have been both the first Black graduate of MIT, he enrolled at MIT in 1888; and he is the country's first academically trained Black architect.

The Taylor stamp will be officially introduced during a ceremony today at 11 a.m. EST in the atrium of the Smithsonian National

Postal Museum in Washington, D.C.

Tuskegee University president, Dr. Brian L. Johnson, will bring remarks, along with Valerie Jarrett, Taylor's great granddaughter and senior advisor to President Barack Obama, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) president Rafael Reif.

A celebration of the stamp's launch is also planned at Tuskegee University for later this month.

Recruited by Tuskegee's first president, Booker T. Washington, Taylor came to the university in 1892 and spent nearly his entire career teaching, developing the architecture and construction trade program, and designing more than 20 campus buildings until his death in 1942.

He was also the architect of The Oaks, Washington's home and modern day historic site. Many of his historic campus buildings still stand and are used today.

Taylor served as second-in-command to its founder and first President, Booker T. Washington.

In 1898, he married Beatrice Rochon Taylor, they had four children. After Beatrice died in 1906, he got remarried in 1912 to Nellie Chestnut Taylor, they

had one child.

Taylor died while attending services in the Tuskegee Chapel, the building that he considered his most outstanding achievement as an architect.

The housing project in Chicago, Robert Taylor Homes, was named after his son, Robert Rochon Taylor, a civic leader, communist and former Chairman of the Chicago Housing Authority.

While attending MIT, in June 1890 and again in Sep-

tember 1891, he was recommended for the Loring Scholarship, which he held for two consecutive academic years: 1890-1891 and 1891-1892.

At the MIT faculty meeting on May 26, 1892, Taylor was one of twelve students in Course IV recommended for the degree in architecture. The class of 1892 was the largest on record since MIT's founding.

His first building project

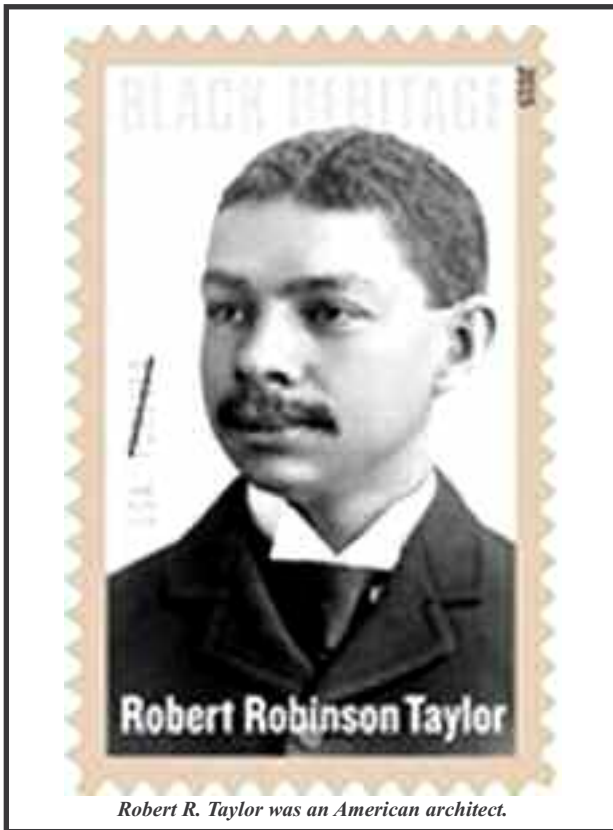
on the Tuskegee University campus was the Science Hall (Thrasher Hall) completed in 1893. The new Science Hall was constructed entirely by students, using bricks made also by students under Taylor's supervision.

The project epitomized Washington's philosophy of instilling in Tuskegee students, the descendants of former enslaved Blacks, the value and dignity of physical labor and it provided an example to the world of the capabilities of Blacks in the building trades, and it un-

derscored the larger potential of the manual training curricula being developed at Tuskegee.

Taylor's father, Henry Taylor, worked as a carpenter and businessman, born a slave and freed as a result of President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation shortly after the American Civil War of 1861-1865.

His mother, Emily Still, was the daughter of freedmen even prior to the Civil War and he had four brothers and sisters.



Robert R. Taylor was an American architect.

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# NDG Book Review: *The Case for Loving: The Fight for Interracial Marriage*

By Terry Schlichenmeyer

Your best friend's Mom never minds if you make too much noise.

She takes you places and gives you snacks, too. She's a really nice lady.

Your best friend's Dad shows you how to do things, and he makes you laugh. You like spending time at their house.

But what if there was a rule somewhere that said they couldn't be a family? In "The Case for Loving" by Selina Alko, illustrated by Sean Qualls and Selina Alko, there was once such a law, and the reason was



black and white.

Falling in love was very easy. Richard Loving and Mildred Jeter did that right after they met, and it didn't take long for them to decide that they wanted to get married and raise a family.

But there was one problem: Richard was white.

Mildred was "colored." They didn't think that was any big deal but in Virginia in 1958, it was illegal for them to get married. Yes, a simple wedding could land them in jail!

So Mildred and Richard went to Washington, D.C. and tied the knot there. Family and friends went to the wedding, and everybody was happy. The Lovings "couldn't wait" to start their new lives back home.

Not long after they were back in Virginia, though, the police came in the middle of the night and said that the Lovings' marriage certificate was no good. They

put Richard and Mildred behind bars because their marriage was unlawful – and that "was just awful!"

In order to stay out of jail for good, Richard and Mildred had to leave their families and move to another state.

In Washington, D.C. again, the Lovings tried to settle in. Richard got a job. Mildred had three children in "three different shades of milk-chocolate brown." But the city wasn't a good place for the Lovings. They missed their families. They weren't happy so, nine years after that late-night visit by the police, because

times had changed, they hired lawyers to fight for the right to live in their beloved Virginia ...

For any adult who's too young to remember Loving v. Virginia (or any child who wasn't born then), "The Case for Loving" is a very informative, eye-opening book.

Author Selina Alko says in her notes that, as a Jewish white woman, she finds it "difficult to imagine" that her marriage (to illustrator Sean Qualls, an African American) might've been illegal, fifty years ago. Kids might find that notion to be almost "unbelievable," too,

given that they've never known a world like one described here.

What parents will want to understand, however, is this: for its 4-to-8-year-old target age group – particularly for those on the younger end – this book could be scary, especially the "taken away and locked up in jail" part. For toddlers, that's the stuff of nightmares, so be warned.

Still, if you're prepared to explain and you keep the youngest audience members in mind, this could be a great read-aloud book. "The Case for Loving" may become one your kids will make noise for.

## OSCARS, continued from Page 13

than we ever have in the past toward becoming a more diverse and inclusive organization through admitting new members and more inclusive classes of members," adding, "I would love to see and look forward to see a greater cultural diversity among all our nominees in all of our categories."

I share her vision, but the question remains of when those words will be put into a plan of action – and championed by the broader industry.

A much-cited 2012 survey of the Academy by the Los Angeles Times demonstrates the crux of the prob-

lem. According to the survey, the estimated 7,000 Academy members are 94 percent White, 77 percent male and have a median age of 62 – hardly a representative reflection of the nation.

While my role is not to question the film credentials of the Academy's members, I do question the ability of such a homogenous body to reflect the perspectives, lives, and stories of a diverse pool of moviemakers – and moviegoers. I would also question the ability of the Academy to monitor itself and become a more inclusive body without the pressure of public scrutiny and advocacy.

Here are a few things to note about Academy membership: membership is "limited to film artists working in the production of theatrically-released motion pictures...The Academy's membership process is by sponsorship, not application. Candidates must be sponsored by two Academy members from the branch to which the candidate seeks admission. Additionally, Academy Award nominees are automatically considered for membership and do not require sponsors ... The Board decides which individuals will receive invitations."

The Academy's membership requirements are both an indictment and call to ac-

tion.

This is about more than awards deferred; it is about dreams deferred. It is about the lack of racial and gender diversity we find both behind the screen and in front of it. It is about the inevitable way the Academy's membership roll directly in-

fluences who gets nominated and who wins.

What it is not about is an unfair advantage, but instead, a fair chance to have the work of a wider swath of our filmmakers, casts and crews considered.

I would be remiss not to

acknowledge the strides the Academy has begun to make to address its diversity issues. But more must be done.

*Marc H. Morial, former mayor of New Orleans, is president and CEO of the National Urban League.*

## REALITY, continued from Page 9

cusing on butts, literally. And that caused Kenya to butt heads with Vivica.

To keep a short story short, Kenya felt Vivica's butt was not slim enough to be in the main part of the campaign; instead she thought Vivica was more suited for carrying her coat. You could see the frustration in V's face as she worked through the task. Kenya, of course, had to include a photograph of her luscious booty in the commercial.

Add to that a tweet being sent out under Vivica's

name saying she was dealing with hot flashes from menopause and she feels 50 ain't sexy. Oh, it gets better. That tweet was sent after Vivica's phone had been stolen. Though she staunchly denies it, many people, including me, believe Kenya (love you Kenya) did it. It was a movie and reality TV all rolled into one. I was screaming at the TV during the episode.

The drama continued in the boardroom. The Donald fired Kenya. As soon as the words "you're fired" were

uttered, V she was so happy that cried and went to church without leaving the room.. Brandi Glandville, the other Housewife, was also shown the revolving door. This was my Super Bowl – minus the overhyped halftime. Since I couldn't see my Atlanta Housewives last week, this was a desperately needed alternative.

*Marquesa LaDawn is a professional business woman who escapes the pressures of living in New York City by retreating into the real world of reality TV. Subscribe to her podcast at www.RealitytvGirl.com.*

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