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Hollywood's Black Christians are on the rise

By Ronda Racha Penrice Urban News Service

Black Christians shocked Hollywood last September.

War Room, the mainstream, prayer-themed film starring unknown black actors, dethroned the hit N.W.A. biopic, Straight Outta Compton, at the box office over Labor Day weekend. But this was no fluke. Black Christian entertainment has been broadening its appeal for years.

Veteran entertainment journalist Jawn Murray, who powers his own popular lifestyle website, AlwaysAList.com, credits Oprah Winfrey's talk show for this new gateway of opportunity for black entertainers.

"I think Oprah Winfrey kind of got the ball rolling when she would give platforms to artists like BeBe and CeCe [Winans] and Donnie McClurkin and other prominent faith-based artists," says Murray. "And then we saw people like Bishop T.D. Jakes and Tyler Perry launch faith-based film projects that were very lucrative."

Tyler Perry's first film, Diary of a Mad Black Woman, released in 2005, starring Kimberly Elise, Shemar Moore and Perry as the grandma-esque Madea, topped the box office with nearly \$22 million



in its first weekend on just a \$5.5-million budget, on its way to over \$50 million. Perry's 2009 film, I Can Do Bad All By Myself, starring Taraji P. Henson, topped the box office opening weekend with \$23 million and also passed the \$50-million mark. Video sales added another \$20 million on a production budget estimated at between \$13 million and \$19 million.

T.D. Jakes's 2004 film, Woman Thou Art Loosed — starring Kimberly Elise and Jakes, himself, as a pastor exploring the devastating effects of sexual molestation — generated \$2.5 million in a limited release on its opening weekend, on its way to nearly \$7 million overall.

"How did it wind up in the top 10

on a weekend where we had Shark Tale opening?" box office expert Paul Dergarabedian asked about this unexpected success.

Not Easily Broken, about a disintegrating marriage with God as a subtle, but important, influence, starring Taraji P. Henson and Morris Chestnut, grossed more than \$10 million and added \$15 million via home entertainment — five times its initial budget.

"We are seeing it also transfer over to the television realm." Murray says. "You have networks like UP and TV One doing lots of original, faith-based content with movies and sitcoms ..."

UP produced several TV films

See MOVIES, Page 6



AT&T & NDG team up for the #ItCanWait movement!

Local students awarded scholarships for texting and driving essay contest.

Look for NDGTV at NorthDallasGazette.com



NDG Staff Remembers Prince

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Celebrate Cinco de Mayo!

-See Page 8



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Are Black people becoming obsolete?

By James Clingman NNPA Columnist

Coalition-building is the best way for Black people to make the kind of progress we need to make in this country, especially when it comes to economic empowerment. Some have posited that Black people are swiftly becoming obsolete. From the agricultural economy to the industrial and mass production economy Black folks, in some cases, had it going on. Many individual Blacks did quite well with jobs and businesses in those areas.

As we moved through the technology/information economy and now into the knowledge-based economy, the rules for survival have changed.

Are Black people as a group becoming obsolete? Someone said, "All the shoes have been shined and all the cotton has been picked," which suggests that Black people are no longer needed by White folks, therefore, if we do not change our ways when it comes to business and job development we will indeed become obsolete.

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Dr. Joan Buchanon Hill



Jordan Cleaver

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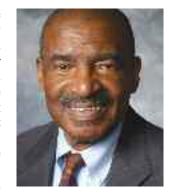


Dr. George Fair

UT Dallas will host the seventh annual Diversity Awards Ceremony and Soirée on Friday to honor student, faculty, staff and business leaders who have helped create a welcoming and inclusive environment on campus.

The ceremony will feature music, poetry and dance performances and food from around the world. It will be from 5 to 7:30 p.m. in the Davidson Auditorium. The event is free and open to the public. Tickets are available here.

"The Diversity Awards Ceremony and Soirée is a



celebration of the many contributions being made to promote diversity at UT Dallas," said Dr. George Fair, vice president for diversity and community engagement and dean of the

School of Interdisciplinary Studies. "We are grateful for the work that these students, faculty and staff and community leaders are doing to advance the University's commitment to diversity."

Award recipients have contributed through community service, teaching, research and by creating opportunities for graduates.

Alba Ramirez, who will receive the Student Diversity Award, chartered the Latina service-based sorority Kappa Delta Chi at UT Dallas. Through the sorority, Ramirez has led a canned food drive for the Comet Cupboard and a blood drive for the American Red Cross,

among other projects. The speech-language pathology and audiology senior also serves on the Multicultural Greek Council.

Two faculty members will receive diversity inclusive teaching awards: Dr. Meghna Sabharwal, associate professor of public affairs in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences; and Mary Beth Goodrich, senior lecturer in accounting in the Naveen Jindal School of Management

"I have a heart for diversity. Everyone benefits when we build on diversity. For this reason, I strive to incorporate multicultural learning

opportunities both inside and outside the classroom," Goodrich said.

Sabharwal said that she is honored to be recognized for her efforts.

"While diversity is one of the most important aspects in any organization, I believe it is not a numbers game," Sabharwal said. "It goes beyond making sure we have the appropriate representation of various groups across all levels of the organization. Diversity is about creating inclusive environments where everyone feels welcome and their opinions and perspectives are valued."

The Staff Diversity Award will be presented to Mary

Jane Partain, founding director of the UT Dallas Living Learning Communities. In addition, Jeff Leach will receive a Community Champion of Diversity Award for his work as a recruiter for Raytheon engineering and finance.

Rockwell Collins will receive the Corporate Diversity Award for its support of several diversity programs at the University, including scholarships and a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Camp.

Dr. Kenneth Pugh, audiologist and clinical associate professor at the Callier Center for Communication Dis-

See FAIR, Page 8

Sheryl Jones

April is Autism Awareness Month! Maybe you are someone you know has a child with Autism. Do you even know what Autism is? Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and Autism are both general terms for a group of complex disorders of brain development.

Did you know????

- Autism now affects 1 in 68 children and 1 in 42 boys
- Autism prevalence figures are growing
- Autism is the fastestgrowing developmental disorder in the U.S.
 - · Autism costs a family



\$60,000 a year on average

- Boys are nearly five times more likely than girls to have autism
- There is no medical detection or cure for autism

It is now more common

than childhood cancer, juvenile diabetes & pediatric AIDS combined. Over 3 million individuals in the U.S. are affected by autism.

Here are the RED FLAGS to determine if child should be tested for Autism....

- No big smiles or other warm, joyful expressions by six months or thereafter
- No back-and-forth sharing of sounds, smiles or other facial expressions by nine months
- No babbling by 12 months
- No back-and-forth gestures such as pointing, showing, reaching or waving by 12 months

- No words by 16 months
- No meaningful, twoword phrases (not including imitating or repeating) by 24 months
- Any loss of speech, babbling or social skills at any age

The diagnosis of Autism has grown tremendously in the last 10 years. Chances are you know someone with Autism. I wanted to share information with you for practical steps to help you accept what is your "New Normal" and move on with your life:

- 1. Get a support network
- 2. Get the appropriate services

3. Get an action plan of care for your child

Get A Support Network

After the initial diagnosis most parents have been depressed, shocked and many are disbelief. If it would make you feel better, I encourage you to get 2 or 3 opinions. After all tests come back with the same diagnosis it's time to move forward. Support can be given from friends and family, use the time to discuss how your family can support you. Many times friends and family are too close to the situation and they are grieving just as much as you are. I

found that family and friends are great to have but this is a situation that needs much more support than just friends and family. I found that other parents were a HUGE source of help and encouragement. There is no better person to help you deal with something that they have dealt with and have found a "success system". Your success system has to be defined by you and no one else; you must determine what success looks like for

> Get The Appropriate Services

> > See JONES, Page 4

Jordan Cleaver

As a student at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, Jordan Cleaver, Class of 2008, found the perfect outlet to fuel her love of the arts. Today, Cleaver is a working cellist who, at a young age, has found herself in the company of royalty.

AlumNow, The Hub feature that profiles Dallas ISD alumni, caught up with Cleaver as she took the time to perform and talk with students during career day at Alex W. Spence Talented and Gifted Academy.

What are you doing now?

I am a professional cellist. Briefly list a few of your career and/or personal



highlights.

- Studied cello at Kennesaw State University and served as both principle and co-principle cellist
- Performed with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, members of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, and many other renowned musicians

- Opened at the Dallas House of Blues for funk legend, George Clinton and the Parliament Funkadelic
- Performed for Prince Edward of England and former Prime Minister Tony Blair
- Performed as a pit musician for many Broadway musicals and opera

What was your favorite subject or activity/involvement in high school?

Orchestra was hands down my favorite subject in high school. As students, we were given the chance to play music repertoire that was far more challenging than what other students my age were playing. Mr. Large put music in front of us that was on a professional and college level. It challenged

us mentally and physically, and when I got to college, I was well prepared to play the music put in front of me.

Who was your favorite teacher?

Ms. Reitz was my favorite teacher at arts! She was absolutely phenomenal! I took Pre AP history with her and then later sociology. She made me so excited to learn. I would look forward to going to her class because she always had new creative ways to teach us. I remember she would do social experiments with us like separating the class by a partition and giving one half cookies and making the other half complete work sheets. She pushed our thinking. She encouraged us to think creatively and critically.

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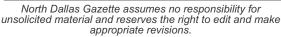


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Harriet Tubman: Economic freedom fighter

By Julianne Malveaux NNPA Columnist

When Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew announced that Harriet Tubman would grace the new \$20 bill, my heart sang hallelujah. Additional changes to the currency were also announced. The back of the \$10 bill will now recognize the five leaders of the women's suffrage movement and the back of the \$5 bill to recognize civil rights leaders, and honor historic events from the Lincoln Memorial. The faces on our money will no longer be all pale and male, and that's progress.

It is especially fitting that Harriet Tubman grace the \$20 bill, since she was an economic freedom fighter. She is credited with ushering more than 300 people out of enslavement, many of them family members from the state of Maryland. She hit slaveholders in the pocketbook, costing them billions of today's dollars. If the average enslaved person sold for \$1000 (which is about right for 1860), then the 300 she freed cost

\$300,000 in 1860 dollars, or about \$8.3 million in today's dollars (calculated from The Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index). That's quite a blow for a slaveholding society to absorb. Every time an enslaved person ran away, they struck a blow for freedom, and a blow against the economic sta-

See TUBMAN, Page 13

OBSELETE, continued from Page 1

Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington and Marcus Garvey spoke of a time when we would have to consider the question of Black obsolescence if we did not awaken from our deep sleep and refuse to be dependent upon the largess of others for our sustenance.

The strength we gain from coalescence will bring about this much-needed change, and one major step is to reach out and connect with other likeminded people of African descent. This should be done on a national and an international level, the closest area being just south of our country—the Caribbean.

One of the greatest Africans in modern history was born in Jamaica. Of course, that would be Marcus Mosiah Garvey, who founded the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA). Look across the Caribbean and you will find other Blacks who knew and followed through on solutions; they took action rather than merely talk about their problems. They stood up against aggression, ignorance, and oppression. They understood and followed through on the value of educating their people, and they subscribed to the lessons their elders left behind.

Haitian history shows us strength and refusal to submit to enslavement; it also shows us resolve and a willingness to help others, as in the case of Haitian soldiers going to Savannah, Georgia to fight against the British in the Siege of Savannah on Oct. 9, 1779, during the U.S. Revolutionary War. We also remember the irrepressible

Toussaint L'Ouverture, Jean-Jacques Dessalines, and Henri Christophe, Haitians who led the only successful slave revolt in the western hemisphere. Many Black people came

to the United States from the Caribbean and brought with them the same spirit, the same dedication and drive, and the same resolute character that causes men and women to seek for themselves, as Richard Allen taught back in 1767. Our Caribbean brothers and sisters have come with the determination to do for self, to rely on self, to cooperate with one another, and build an economic system within their own ranks. This article is written in an effort to celebrate our people and establish relationships that will engender cooperation among our people.

Marcus Garvey instructed us to do one thing prior to taking on economic empowerment initiatives. He told us to "Organize!" He shared with us the truth about economic empowerment over political empowerment and how we should seek economics first. He said, "The most important area for the exercise of independent effort is economic. After a people have established successfully a firm industrial foundation they naturally turn to politics and society, but not first to society and politics, because the two latter cannot exist without the former."

Lessons from Garvey and others have led a precious few of us to implement strategies that, in fact, will lead to economic empowerment; we need many more.

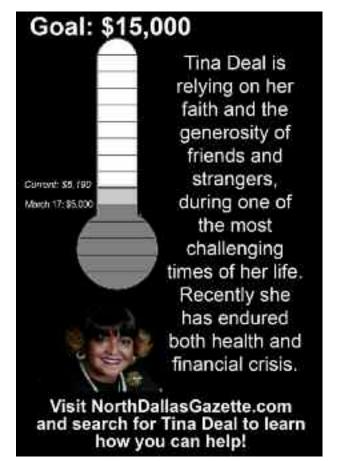
One such effort is the One Million Conscious Black Voters and Contributors (OMCBV&C), which was established on Garvey's words, "The greatest weapon used against the Black man is disorganization." The OMCBV&C movement is underway, actively recruiting that critical mass of Black people who will take action rather than merely talk about problems. The One Million will leverage dollars and votes to obtain reciprocity in the marketplace as well as in the public policy arena.

In the tradition of Marcus Garvey, the One Million is organized, cooperative, and supportive of one another. It is entrepreneurial in its philosophy regarding ownership and control of income producing assets. The One Million is molded in the very

practical notion of using our own resources to help ourselves and our children. We are committed, dedicated, sacrificial in our giving, and unapologetically Black as we pursue our ultimate goals of economic and political strength—in that order.

Black people, no matter where we were born or where we live, must appreciate the fact that we started out in the same place and our differences emanate from our experiences in the nations where our ships docked in the western hemisphere.

James Clingman is the nation's most prolific writer on economic empowerment for Black people. His latest book, "Black Dollars Matter! Teach Your Dollars How to Make More Sense," is available on his website. Blackonomics.com.



Prescription Drug Take-Back Day slated for April 30

Unused and expired medications in home medicine cabinets can potentially end up in the wrong hands and lead to accidental poisonings. In fact, medicines in the home are a leading cause of accidental poisonings in the U.S. And, simply throwing these substances in the trash or flushing them down drain can result in harm to the environment.

That's why Parkland Health & Hospital System, the North Texas Poison Center at Parkland and local law enforcement agencies are joining together to take part in National Prescription Drug Take Back Day with a



free event open to the public from 10 am – 2 p.m., Saturday April 30 at three Parkland locations:

- Garland Health Center, 802 Hopkins Road, Garland, 75040
 - Hatcher Station Health

Center, 4600 Scyene Road, Dallas, 75210

• Simmons Ambulatory Surgery Center, 4900 Harry Hines Blvd., Dallas 75235

"This is a great opportunity for Dallas County residents to properly dispose of expired or unused medications," said Miranda Skaaning, Parkland Sustainability Coordinator. "It also helps to raise awareness of the potential for abuse of prescription medicines."

Among the reasons to get rid of unused and expired medications are:

• Unwanted medications can be tempting to children and pets and can result in

unintentional poisonings.

- Expired medications are often ineffective because they have been kept past their expiration date or improperly stored.
- Unused medications can make your home a target of theft by drug abusers. In addition to the unintentional poisoning danger of unused and expired medications to individuals, there's also an environmental issue.

Skaaning said that flushing drugs down a drain can result in harm to the environment. "Contaminants from the prescription drugs can leach into the soil and water and affect the health

of not only humans, but other species, which can then impact people," Skaaning said. She emphasized that during the event individuals can drive into the parking lot and hand the medications to a law enforcement officer, no questions asked. No intravenous materials, such as solutions or syringes, will be accepted at the event.

For more information about the proper way to dispose of prescription and over-the-counter medication, contact the poison experts at the North Texas Poison Center at Parkland at 1-800-222-1222.

JONES, continued from Page 2

When you get ready to tackle the diagnosis of autism, start doing research to what your child can obtain in your city/state relating to services. The autism spectrum is very varied; symptoms can be slight to severe. Know your child and always think about what he/she needs to have a ULITI-MATE Quality of Life. I encourage you to check with your physician about various referrals for speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy and any other therapies that might assist your child.

Next I would contact my local MHMR-most of the time children with autism meet the criteria for mental retardation due to the IQ score that they obtain. Some people take offense to this, but use this as another resource for your child. Funding is available in various pockets to help with your child, so please don't shy away from this one because of the label of mental retardation.

The term is no more commonly called IDD- Intellectual Development Disorder. After you get connected with

your local governmental program, PLEASE check on any STATE Funded Program to see if you need to apply for any waiting list. Here in Texas the waiting list for State Funded Program could be 10+ years, while you are waiting you can be served by locally funded programs. If all else fails there is always great companies who offer private-pay services to help you get a respite care.

Get An Action Plan of Care for your Child

This step is the most important; you must have a future plan for your child. I offer a Free Report-Are all of Your Bases Covered?, please email at sheryljones@rod-

cor.com to get your copy. My report gives tips to make sure you do what is needed to take you for young child to happy adult.

This step helps you put thoughts on paper such as guardianship, wills and general living desires for your child. Speak with your family, speak with your child and speak with your support system

This is the time to think of everything that you can anticipate your child could benefit from weather it is swimming, horseback riding, living in a group home or possibly living independently one day. Plan it so you can achieve it.

My wish for you as that you dream big, give your child the life of your dreams and know that ANYTHING is possible.

Sheryl Jones is the CEO and Queen of Hearts for Rodco Services, LLC.

LEGAL NOTICE

These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch ticket games will be closing soon:

Game #	Game Name / Gdds	s	Official Close of Game	End Validations Date
1714	Bonus Cashword Overall Odds are 1 in 3.64	\$3	5/8/16	11/4/16
1693	\$5 Set For Life Overall Odds are 1 in 3.81	\$5	5/12/16	11/8/16
1747	\$200,000 Double Payday Overall Odds are 1 in 4.11	\$5	5/12/18	11/8/16
1617	Money Money Millionaire Overall Odds are 1 in 2.90	\$20	5/14/16	11/10/16
1727	Mustache Money Overall Odds are 1 in 4.68	\$1	6/29/18	12/26/16
1724	Stocking Stuffer Overall Odds are 1 in 4.41	\$2	5/29/18	12/26/16
1728	Veterans Cash Overall Odds are 1 in 4.12	\$2	6/29/15	12/26/16
1687	20X The Cash Overall Odds are 1 in 3,83	\$6	6/29/16	12/26/16
1723	Morry Money Overall Odds are 1 in 3.65	\$5	6/29/16	12/26/16
1733	Super Loteria Overall Odds are 1 in 3.97	\$5	6/29/16	12/26/16
1768	High Roller Overall Odds are 1 in 3.97	\$5	6/29/16	12/26/16
1748	\$250,000 Cash Overall Odds are 1 in 3.74	\$10	6/29/18	12/26/16
1711	Holiday Game Book Overall Odds are 1 in 3.31	\$20	8/29/15	12/26/16
1492	Millionaires Club Overall Odds are 1 in 2.51	\$50	6/29/18	12/26/16

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SUPPORTING TEXAS EDUCATION AND VETERANS

NNPA, Chevrolet announce 2016 Discover The Unexpected journalism fellows

By Freddie Allen NNPA National News Editor

Sidnee King, a 20 yearold broadcast journalism student at Howard University, admitted that she was nervous about her summer plans, the day before the 2016 "Discover the Unexpected" (DTU) journalism fellows were announced.

King said that she missed the DTU program launch on March 23, when officials from the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), Chevrolet and the School of Communications



The NNPA, Chevrolet and Howard University recently announced the 2016 Discover the Unexpected journalism fellows in Washington, D.C. (Left to right): Brelaun Douglas, Briahnna Brown, Victoria Jones, Tatyana Hopkins, Sidnee King and McKenzie Marshall. (Freddie Allen/AMG/NNPA)

at Howard University revealed that eight student journalists would be selected to produce content for four NNPA member

publications.

"She said, 'It's okay, you're going to figure it out, don't worry,' because I panic some times," said

tian TV projects, cites the popularity of gospel stage

"When any play had any masse?

Academy Award-winner

based production company The Swirl Group, which has created many black Chris-

plays in the early 2000s as a major catalyst.

hint of the Word in it, the playwright was allowed to come to churches and promote," says Dismuke, a former stage-play producer whose company created Saints and Sinners. "So when you looked out at the audience of these plays that were touring the country, it was largely church congregations coming out en

Both Woman Thou Art Loosed and Diary of a Mad Black Woman began on stage.

Louis Gossett, Jr., who

King's mother reassured her that things would work out, and when they did, King couldn't wait to share the great news.

"So I just called her and told her that I figured out what I'm doing this summer and it includes an internship and a scholarship and all this good stuff, so she was really excited for me," said King, a native of Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

Gracie Lawson-Borders. the dean of the School of Communications at Howard University said that she

plays a blind pastor in the recently wrapped independent, mainstream Christian film The Reason, says Christian entertainment is becoming more popular because "we have gotten our fill of dropping bombs and shooting people."

The veteran actor — who also appeared as a bishop in Russ Parr's 2012 black church drama The Undershepherd — believes the rise of black Christian entertainment is a good thing.

"We need to lead the way now," Gossett says. "We have to be children of God."

young journalists as the future storytellers of the Black community.

The dean said that the NNPA. Howard University

hoped that people see the and Chevrolet were confident that they got the best students for the program.

The 2016 "Discover the

See TWC. Page 13









her OWN network this and Family Screenplay summer. Bounce TV has

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through its one-time Faith Competition at the American Black Film Festival, including Comeback Dad (2014) with Charles Dutton and Tatyana Ali and Somebody's Child (2012) starring Lynn Whitfield and Michael Jai White.

Now, at TV One, former UP head Brad Siegel has greenlit films re-telling biblical stories such as that of Job with the recent To Hell and Back, with Vanessa Bell Calloway and Ernie Hudson, and last year's For the Love of Ruth, starring Tyler Perry alum Denise Boutte, Gary Dourdan and Loretta Devine.

And Winfrey will unveil Greenleaf, a megachurch TV drama starring Lynn found success with gospel stars David and Tamela Mann's sitcom Mann & Wife and the dark drama Saints & Sinners, which has broken audience records. "They're not the stereo-

Whitfield and herself, on

typical church [fare]," Murray says. "Christians live real lives, so they're reallife stories. They're stories of relationships and infidelity. They're stories of addiction and abuse. They're stories of struggle and triumph. Whatever anybody is dealing with on a day-today basis, Christians and people of faith deal with that, too."

Brett Dismuke, president and COO of the Atlanta-

State of Colorado, District Court, Jefferson County AMENDED SUMMONS FOR DECLARATION OF INVALIDITY OF MARRIAGE for Case No: 15DR1696 in Division P, Honorable Ryan Paul Loewer; Federico Cordovez, Petitioner vs Favour Johnson aka Thelma Arnold, Respondent

To respondent: Favour Johnson aka Thelma Arnold:

This Summons serves as a notice to appear in this case.

You are notified that the petitioner named above has filed a lawsuit against you to determine invalidity of marriage. Within 35 days after this Summons is served on you, you must respond with a written answer, as that term is used in Colorado Code of Civil Procedure, to the Petition. Your response must be sent or delivered to the Court, whose address is: 100 Jefferson County Parkway, Golden, CO 80401 and to Katherine Windler, the petitioner's attorney whose address is 3737 Gill Drive, Denver, CO 80209. You may have an attorney help or represent you.

You may be required to pay a filing fee with your Response. The Response form (JDF 1270) can be found at www.courts.state.co.us by clicking on the "Self Help/Forms" tab. The Petition requests that the Court enter an Order affecting your marital status, distribution of property and debts, issues involving children such as child support, allocation of parental responsibilities (decision making and parenting time), maintenance (spousal support) attorneys' fees, and costs to the extent the Court has jurisdiction.

If you fail to file a Response in this case, any or all of the matters above, or any related matters which come before this Court may be decided without any further notice to

This is an action to obtain a Declaration of Invalidity of Marriage as more fully described in the Petition.

Dated this 18th day of APRIL 2016

BEST awards honor public's picks in Irving business and leadership

The BEST in Irving awards celebration recognized winners from an online contest selected by the public. Over 30,000 votes were submitted! The annual celebration, sponsored by the Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce, was held at the Texas Musicians Museum on April 21. Fox 4 news anchor, Steve Eagar, served as celebrity emcee for the evening.

The University of Dallas Satish & Yasmin Gupta College of Business was recognized as the Commercial Construction Project of the Year by The Honorable Mayor Beth Van Duyne. Verizon was named Outstanding Chamber Corporate Partner and David Palmer with Premark Health Science was honored with the Sister Cities International Clayton Dobson Memorial Award. Busi-



(Left to right) Dexter Freeman, Director of Education, Irving Chamber; Michael McCall, Chairman, Irving Chamber; MacArthur High School students, Yohana Tesfaselassie and Krisly Osegueda and Beth Bowman, President & CEO, Irving Chamber. (Photo Credit: Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce and Nick Mallouf)

ness and civic leaders receiving special recognition included Teddie Story with Irving Cares, who was presented the Chairman's Award for her dedication to the Irving community.

In recognition of April being National Volunteer Month, Mark Baker with Toyota of Irving was named Ambassador of the Year while Lori Bunger with HOLT CAT, was named Volunteer of the Year. Small Business of the Year went to i Fratelli.

Four Chamber members were selected for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Blue Ribbon Small Business including: Express Employment, DHD Films, Irving Cares, Creating & Managing Wealth. Creating and Managing Wealth, owned by Christina Winters Gears, was also named the Southwest/South Central Regional Finalist by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce

The celebration con-

cluded with the presentation of the Technology Leadership Council Innovation Award. MacArthur High School students, Yohana Tesfaselassie and Krisly Osegueda received first place and \$2,000 for their design of the "a whole new world

app", a mobile application that will help unite cultures across our community.

For a complete list of Best in Irving award winners and the Chamber's annual award winners, visit www.irvingchamber.com/B estinIrving.

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FELLOWS, continued from Page 6

Unexpected" journalism fellows are: Brandi Montgomery, Brelaun Douglas, Briahnna Brown, McKenzie Marshall, Tatyana Hopkins, Sidnee King, Victoria Jones and Rushawn Walters. The students come from the Media Journalism and Film department at the School of Communications with concentrations in print, online and broadcast journalism.

The Michigan Chronicle in Detroit, The Chicago Defender, The Atlanta Voice and The Washington Informer in Washington, D.C., are the first group of publishers to participate in the program. The students' stories and video packages will run in Black newspapers and on news websites across the country.

Lawson-Borders prised the student fellows last Friday with a special guest appearance by Hiphop pioneer MC Lyte, who also serves as the national spokesperson for the DTU program. MC Lyte revealed that the fellows will have access to a 2016 Chevrolet Malibu to use as a pool car

during their internships.

"Just to see the fellows getting inside the [Malibu] and shooting video and snapping photographs and talking...it was all truly amazing," said Michelle Matthews-Alexander, Chevrolet's Diversity Marketing Manager. "We're thrilled and we can't wait to see the content that the students will create."

Benjamin Chavis, the president and CEO of the NNPA, said that not only will the journalism fellows get a good learning experience, but the NNPA publishers will also gain from the perspective that the millennials will bring to their newsrooms, "so, this is going to be a mutually beneficial program this summer."

Victoria Jones said that having access to the Chevrolet Malibu to use as a pool car adds a level of professionalism to the whole experience.

Jones worked for the AFRO in Baltimore, Md., and Washington, D.C. from 2014-2015.

"When I found out that

there was another opportunity to work with the Black Press, I was really excited about it," said Jones.

Jones said that unlike the content that she created at the AFRO, when she interned at mainstream media outlets the stories were often tailored for a general audience.

"I missed that aspect of reporting on things that I'm personally interested in and that people I talk to are personally interested in," said Jones. "I missed that connection and targeting issues that affect the [Black community]."

While Jones said that she's looking forward to reporting about the D.C. statehood issue and voting rights at The Washington Informer, King said that she wants to write about education reform in Detroit and the Flint water crisis.

Matthews-Alexander said that she enjoyed having face time with the journalism fellows and the opportunity for Chevrolet to showcase its commitment to the program.

"What's most exciting about this phase of the program, from a Chevrolet per-

spective, is that [students] are going to go out and really uncover these unexpected stories and find those men and women in these communities that are doing amazing things that we might not hear about," said Matthews-Alexander. "So for [Chevrolet], a brand that is focused on the positive and being optimistic and ingenious, at the end of the day, we feel like this is per-

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Community Briefs

DESOTO **BINGO** for Babies

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. - Kappa Zeta Chapter's 4th Annual BINGO For Babies is set to raise money in support of the lifesaving work of the March of Dimes on May 22 at the DeSoto Civic Center, 211 E Pleasant Run Rd, in Desoto. Tickets are \$25 pre-sale or \$30 at the door. Dress in your "Sunday Chic" or "race regalia" for an afternoon of Kentucky Derby style fun, at the 4th Annual Bingo for Babies.

Proceeds from this event benefits Stork's Nest Charity Fund of Dallas! Visit https://www.eventbrite.co m/e/bingo-for-babies-2016-tickets-22631641850 to purchase tickets. If you are not able to attend this event your donation of items and or/funds are welcome. Please contact via email 2ndanti@kappazpb.org or call 214-941-DOVE (3683).

McKINNEY CERT classes scheduled

The McKinney Fire Department-Office of Emergency Management will be hosting the next Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Class beginning May 18. The CERT Program is based around community preparedness and response, and neighbors helping neighbors during disasters and emer-

"The McKinney CERT Training Program will help residents be better prepared in helping themselves and others during a time of need. Trained CERT members are extremely important and valuable in helping a community get back on track during the most critical situations, like natural disasters," said Emergency Management Coordinator Karen Adkins.

To register for the 2016 CERT class, please fill out and return the application available online at www.mckinnevtexas.org/ CERT before May 6. For more information on the program, contact Randall Gurney at 972-547-2866 or rgurney@mckinneytexas.org.

Is there anything Dallasites love more thy a

FAIR, continued from Page 2

orders, will serve as master the event. of ceremonies. Lennin Murillo, a mechanical engineering senior and Diversity Scholarship recipient, will give a testimonial at

The celebration benefits the University's Diversity Retention Scholarship Program, which serves a diverse group of students

who are in the later years of their undergraduate education. The Office of Diversity and Community Engagement oversees a range of programs to promote diversity, including the Academic Bridge Program.

Murchase a table for \$90 to Jazz At The Muse featuring Shelton & Geno On Piano and receive a complimentary Congo Street CD Call the FBAAL Box Office of 214 743 2400 and use code: JAMCD Offer expires Thursday, April 21, 2016 at 5pm. VIP Tables include. 6 tickets, VIP entry, reserved table with personalized signage and one complimentary bottle of wine The Black Academy of Arts and Letters Season 39 HELTON & GENO FRI. MAY 6+SAT, 7 // 9:00 PM CLARENCE MUSE CAFE THEATRE SIS Physical Address: 1309 Canton Street Dallas, Tx 75201 HOSTED BY TBAAL BOARD CHAIR BARBARA STEELE FEATURING SHELTON SUMMONS, GEND YOUNG Dallas' trigger finger planters SHELTON SUMMONS and GENO YOUNG. thump and glide on all 56 keys when they go back-and-forth on plane railing in a jazz, hip-hop, pop and blues language all their own! Simple ... IFS going to be a super searing right of music made by two musicians. with four hands! HOSTED BY TBAAL BOARD CHAIR BARBARA STEELE Finite and Estimate May 5 & 7, 2015 significant - Education Magnitude Tomans Dollos Convention Center Theorer Comple 1009 Control Storal | Quillos, TX, 75201 Admission - 515 To purchase tickets, call TBAAL Box Office at 214-743-2406



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North Dallas Gazette remembers Prince

By Ruth Ferguson NDG Editor

Almost a week later and it is still hard to believe we live in a world that does not include Prince Rogers Nelson anymore. For over three decades, he has never been far from shaping and redefining the music we listened to. Sometimes it was his vocals and musical talents we danced to, and sometimes we poured out our souls and grooved to his words or danced to songs performed by others.

Prince was so visionary he created an anthem for the turn of the century nearly 10 years before 1999. His shoe wear and eyeliner was not the only ways he was in touch with his feminine side, Prince spent a career empowering women in the industry. Whether he was launching the career of Shelia E or adding to the legendary careers Alicia Keys, The Bangles, Sinead O'Connor and Ms. Chaka Khan.

As President Barack Obama, Spike Lee, Oprah and others have joined fans worldwide in reflecting on the influence of Prince, the *North Dallas Gazette* (*NDG*) staff took a few minutes to honor the one and only Prince.

Jessica Brewer, *NDG's* Vice President of Marketing loved his song Adore but was even more impressed by his character, than just his music.

"Prince was a musical genius, but his music was just one part of his legacy, he was most importantly a humanitarian. He was truly



dedicated to helping others in the community! He created programs, gave to charities, spent time with the urban youth, generously gave of his time and energy to helping others. Later in life, he was noted for fulfilling his spiritual responsibility by contributing to the

welfare of the community by offering Bible education free of charge, giving emotional and, most substantially and far-reaching, spiritual support in bringing those in the community a hope for the future."

Brewer added, "He did so with an abundant amount of

modesty and humility, not seeking to gain credit or glory. He had a genuine concern and compassion for others, giving true meaning to the best told secret, 'There is more happiness in giving than there is in receiving.' He was truly a humanitarian and will be deeply missed!"

NDG's Account Executive Nina Garcia indicated Prince's influence on her life extended beyond just jamming to his hits.

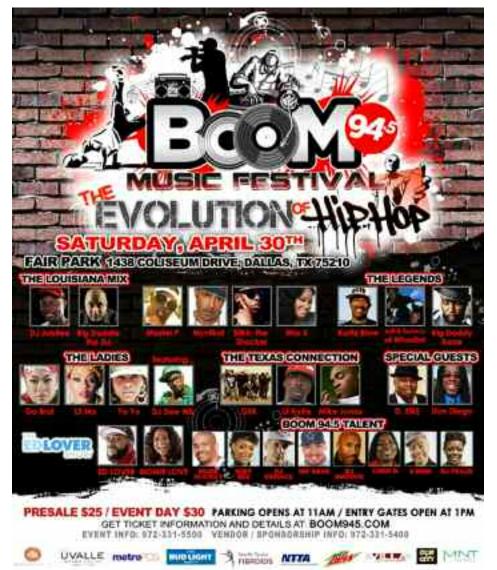
"Prince called his fans, 'Friends.' I feel I was more than just a 'Fan' or 'Friend.' The influence of Prince was paramount in my life. Although I had heard of Prince and was aware of his music, my infatuation with the Purple Highness came about when I was in the 6th grade.

Our music teacher assigned our class to choreograph a dance to any song we wanted. I would like to say that the girls group chose a Prince song but it was the boys group that chose the song Controversy.

That was the first time I became fascinated by the sound of his unique voice as it permeated through the auditorium. Since that day, I wanted to know ALL I could about this intriguing man of one name.

Another memory I have tied to a Prince song is when I had my first slow dance with a boy at my Junior-High school dance. As the D.J. announced the last song of the night would be a slow jam, I was asked by a guy that I had a crush on to

See PRINCE, Page 11





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NDG Entertainment Ticket Giveaway!!! Visit us on Facebook to win tickets to see DCT's The Big Friendly Giant.

Beyonce serving Lemonade on her way to Dal

By Ruth Ferguson NDG Editor

Well Beyonce has certainly ruffled feathers with her latest visual album release. You have to wonder what things are like at home following the release of her Lemonade which leaves no doubt who she is putting on

blast: her husband Jay Z. He will have more time to think about it while she continues her Formation World Tour which lands in Dallas at AT&T Stadium on Mother's Day.

One thing is for certain, Beyonce has proven once again she is not to be played with. Her sister Solange

maybe was a little more vocal upfront on how she felt about her brother in law's wandering eye, but Beyonce, who quietly stood by, truly has had the last word.

There is no sign that fans attending the May 9 Dallas Beyonce show will hear any of the latest songs from Lemonade, but we all know it will be a sexy and fierce show. By the way, how many artists have their stuff together that they release one album while touring to

ACK V

produce an earlier one. For tickets and information visit www.livenation.com.

Win tickets to The BFG at DO THE BFG is back in GIANT) returns to the DCT popular children's play-

town! After driving across the country, visiting 29 states, and performing in 57 cities, the cast of Dallas Children's Theater National Touring Production of ROALD DAHL'S THE BFG (BIG FRIENDLY

Experience DCT's larger than life version of the classic tale that hails from the mind of Roald Dahl, considered the world's most imaginative storyteller, and David Wood, Britain's most

wright, from April 29 -May 22, 2016. NDG readers can WIN tickets for the ride. Visit on our Facebook and Instagram pages for more details.

For tickets to the show visit DCT.org.

Ocean Prime Dallas offering an elegant Mother's Day Brunch

On Sunday, May 8, OCEAN PRIME Dallas will open its doors early at 11 a.m. with a special Mother's Day Brunch Menu - think Blueberry French Toast, Braised Short Ribs over Poached Eggs and a Blood Orange Mimosa.

Each Mom will also be gifted an exclusive artisanal candle from Seventh Avenue Apothecary while supplies last

The menu will feature Crab & Eggs with a Toasted English Muffin and Fresh



Fruit; Blueberry French Toast, with Smoked Bacon; Smoked Salmon with Sliced Tomato; and Braised Short Ribs over Poached Eggs with Marble Potatoes. Entrée prices are an affordable \$14-

Start the summer with free tickets to the Boom Music Festival

Boom945DFW is kicking off the summer with Classic Hip Hop at it's best and of course NDG Readers can win FREE TICKETS to the Boom Music Festival!!! Here's what to do, visit our

Facebook page and LIKE the post, SHARE the Post and COMMENT on the POST. We want to know who your favorite artist is that you can't wait to see perform!

To see the list of over 20 musical guests visit http://boom945.com/events/ boom-94-5-music-festival/. Tickets are \$25 now, \$30 at the door on April 30.

Enjoy the sounds of Summons and Young with free tickets

anists, SHELTON SUM-MONS and GENO YOUNG, thump and glide on all 88 keys when they go back-and-forth on piano

Dallas' trigger-finger pi- talking in a jazz, hip-hop, pop and blues language all their own!

TBAAL is hosting the talented pair on May 6 and 7 at 9 p.m. at the Clarence

Muse Cafe Theatre at 1309 Canton Street in Dallas.

NDG readers, tell us on Facebook what sounds you love from this duo? You may be going to the show.



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MAY 9

Dallas Black Chamber partners with DCCCD during National Small Business Week

Entrepreneurs who want to learn how to expand their businesses are invited to attend the inaugural National Small Business Week Conference presented by the Dallas County Community College District, in collaboration with the Greater Dallas Asian American Chamber of Commerce, the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Small business owners can attend free workshops that will teach them important skills such as accessing capital, hiring, bidding on contracts, how to get certified as minority businesses and more.

The three-day program will be held Monday through Wednesday, May 2-4, from 4 to 7:30 p.m. each day at DCCCD's Bill J. Priest Institute for Economic Development, located at 1402 S. Corinth St.

Small business owners who have been established for at least two years and would like to attend can sign up through Eventbrite. Participants must attend all three days of the conference in order to receive a certificate of completion.

"Small business owners will learn how to grow their businesses, gain access to capital and increase their business branding opportunities," said Denita Lacking-Quinn, communications manager for the Dallas Black Chamber of Com-

Lacking-Quinn said almost 100 entrepreneurs already have signed up for the ers" free conference. "Participants also will gain knowledge that will help them understand the hiring process, gain employees, and get minority business certifications," she added.

Sessions for the conference workshops, by date,

Mon., May 2, 2016

- · Overview of DCCCD and how to do business with the district
- Information about how to be a vendor by registering on the Bidder Registration System
- Details on understanding the Bidding and Contract Pricing Agreement
- DCCCD's procurement forecast and "meet the buy-

Tues., May 3, 2016

- Tips and tools for small business - developing your business
- Workforce development training
 - Access to capital —

funding for small businesses (traditional and nontraditional)

Wed., May 4, 2016

 Information session about understanding the certification process (North Central Texas Regional

Certification Agency; DFW Minority Supplier Development Council; and the Women's Business Council-Southwest)

- Completion certificates ceremony
- Reception mixer



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PRINCE, continued from Page 9

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dance. Do me Baby was played and we danced as if we were the only ones in the gym.

"My favorite song was 'Let's Go Crazy'," David Wilfong, NDG's Graphic Artist shared. "The first thing that drew me to the music of Prince was his guitar skills. He was the first I remember who incorporated the blistering sound of heavy metal guitars (which I was a fan of at the time) and fuse it prominently into the funk and R&B sounds coming out of black radio at the time. Mixing the genres got a lot of hype when Anthrax teamed up with Public Enemy for "Bring the Noize," and ultimately Living Color hit the scene, but Prince was probably the first to force the two very divergent music crowds into one concert venue on a regular basis."

Garcia sums up how

many of his fans feel, "I just wanted to express how much Prince has influenced me and will always be a part of my life. R.I.P. Prince Rogers Nelson."





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Who's Who in Black Dallas unveiled May 2

The third edition of Who's Who In Black Dallas will be unveiled at a networking reception and program at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science, Monday, May 2 beginning at 6:30 p.m., officials announced today. Who's Who In Black Dallas will be celebrating the achievements of African Americans in the metropolitan Dallas area. Over 200 people will be highlighted in the publication.

Joining the celebration for the third edition will be Matrice Ellis Kirk, Partner in RSR Partners and Chair of the AT&T Performing Arts Center and Levi Davis. investment banker and former Assistant City Manager for the City of Dallas. Kirk has written the Foreword and Davis the Introduction for the third edition.

"Recognizing the achievements of African Americans in Dallas is significant. Sharing my thoughts among those affiliated with Who's Who In Black Dallas. is very heart issuing of three awards warming," said Kirk.

"I was thrilled to be invited to write the Introduction for the third edition of Who's Who," said Davis who has been featured as one of the Most Influential in Dallas and completing a video history of the city. "I have been a student of this city for a long time and am encouraged about recognizing African American contributions."

"We are excited to be doing the third edition of Who's Who In Black Dallas and are equally excited to have Matrice Kirk and Levi Davis penning the Foreword and Introduction for this edition," says Carter Womack, Chief Operating Officer of Who's Who Publishing. "Their respective impact on the African-American community goes hand in hand with the commitment and vision of Who's Who Publishing."

An added feature to the third edition unveiling is the

Trailblazer, Comer Cottrell Maverick in honor of the late Hair Care Manufacturing Entrepreneur and Community Impact. Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson will received the Trailblazer, Roland Parrish, owner of numerous Mc-Donald's franchises will get the Comer Cottrell Maverick Award and City Wide Community Development Corporation, developer of the highly successful Lancaster Urban Village and other housing projects in Lancaster Keist area, the Community Impact Award.

"We wanted to recognize three areas of impact," said returning Associate Publisher Ken Carter, President and CEO of Focus Communications, a 36 year-old public relations, public affairs, marketing and crisis communications company "We strongly believe the recipients of these honors are truly noteworthy and Game Changers," said Carter.



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TUBMAN, continued from Page 3

bility of the South.

Enslavement was at the root of the development of contemporary U.S. capitalism. Black lives were the collateral that plantation owners used to purchase more land, to purchase more slaves, to purchase equipment, to expand. Enslaved people were, in many ways, a form of currency. Harriett Tubman gracing the \$20 bill makes perfect sense.

The new \$10 bill is supposed to be available in 2020, nearly four years from now. The new \$20 bill may not be available until 2030. The design and production schedule have to be approved by the Federal Reserve Board. That shouldn't be much of a challenge – Fed Chairman Janet Yellen has hailed the decision to put Harriet Tubman on the \$20 bill, and many have applauded the other elements of currency design. Perhaps the Fed can be lobbied to speed the production schedule up. I can't wait to cash a check and ask for my money in "Harriets."

As exciting as the currency design is, it is a symbolic, not a substantive change. Real change would close the income gap between men and women. Real change would close the racial economic gap. Real change would take a look at the reparations issue. In this last year of his Presidency, President Obama could use his executive order to appoint a commission to look into issues of racial economic justice. He could make an amazing, if belated, contribution by bringing the reparations issue to the economic forefront. The Black Lives Matter community has raised the reparations issue with both Democratic Presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Bernie

Sanders. President Obama would do his successor a favor by starting the public work on this key issue.

I suppose we have to reconcile ourselves to progress at a snail's pace, to symbolism, not substance. Still, the image our economic freedom fighter on the twenty-dollar bill will be inspirational for all of us, especially for the young people who don't know all of the sordid details of our history of enslavement. I hope that as we talk about Harriet Tubman on the money, we also talk about the economic impact she had on the institution of slavery by freeing those 300 people. This is part of the history we must never forget, and Tubman's presence on the \$20 will help us to remem-

The most exciting thing about the presence of Harriet Tubman on the \$20 bill is the way that the change came about. The public was engaged. Hundreds of thousands of people signed petitions, and participated with some of the online polls that various groups sponsored. The Treasury Secretary asked for public input, and he

got it. He says he was surprised about the amount of input that he got. He should not have been. Both women and men were passionate about changing symbols of supremacy, ridding the currency of Andrew Jackson whose role in the oppression of Native Americans was shameful, including women on the currency. Perhaps this passion of symbolism can be converted in passion for substance. Perhaps we can use currency change to trigger a substantive movement for economic justice.

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist in Washington DC. Her latest book Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy is available at www.amazon.com and www.juliannemalveaux.com.

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BETHEL BIBLE FELLOWSHIP, CARROLLTON (A PLACE TO **BELONG**)

May 1, 9:45 a.m.

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

May 1, 12 Noon

How do you impact others? Join us Sunday at noon in Bible Study; Pastor Larry Gardner will teach a series on "Design for Discipleship, Book 2, Chapter 5."

Learn how to introduce others to Christ and make Him known to them; to help others know and grow in God's word; and to give others clarity and direction.

May 4, 7 p.m.

Join us in Wednesday's Prayer and Bible Study Class with Pastor Larry teaching a series on "Design for Discipleship, Book 2, Chapter 5." Spiritual maturity is God's desire for you. It's Time to Grow; Ephesians 4:12 & 13.

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

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH IN RICHARDSON

May 1, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. You're invited to join us for morning worship as we praise and worship God for His blessings.

May 4

Join us at 12 Noon with Rev. Viveca Potter teaching on the Word of God; come back at 6:45 p.m. for Corporate Prayer and stay for Senior Pastor Autry at 7:30 p.m. teaching on the Word of God. Our youth will come for Food and Fellowship at 7 p.m. followed by

Bible Study at 7:30 p.m.

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

FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH IN ALLEN "THE SHIP"

May 1

You're invited to our main campus at 200 West Belmont Drive; followed by our Sunday Worship Services at Bolin Elementary School in Allen, Texas 75002 and bring someone with you, you will be blessed.

May 4, 12 p.m.

Join us in 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 the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall, 200 West 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 5705 Cheyenne Drive at Bolin Elementary School in Allen 75002 for Sunday Morning Worship and the Admin. Building Address is 200 W. Belmont Drive Allen, TX 75013 972-359-9956 www.theship3c.org

INSPIRING BODY OF CHRIST CHURCH, Let's Go Fishing! **MATTHEW 4:19**

May 1, 7:30 and/or 11:30 a.m.

You're invited this Sunday as we praise, worship, honor and magnify God's Holy name.

May 4, 7 p.m.

Join us in Monday School as we grow in God's Word and learn what God has to say to us.

May 6, 7 p.m.

All men, you're welcome to our Men's Friday Night Service for fellowship and learning what God requires of men as leaders of households and in the community.

Pastor Rickie Rush

7701 S Westmoreland Road Dallas, TX 75237 972-372-4262 www.Ibocchurch.org

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

May 1, 10 a.m.

Join us for Sunday Worship Service as we praise and worship God for His Honor and His glory; and don't forget to comeback at 7 p.m. for our Brazilian Church. Call the church for details.

May 4, 7 p.m.

You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study class; 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 and Pastor Gloria Fenceroy 300 Chisholm Place Plano, TX 75075 972-633-5511 www.mocop.org

> MT. PISGAH **MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

May 1, 10 a.m.

You're invited to join us in our Worship Service at our new home, 1020 Sherman Street in Richardson, Texas. Call the church for details.

May 2, 9 p.m.

Join us for our Intercessory Prayer Ministry and our Monday's Conference calls.

R. W. Townsend, Senior Pastor 1020 Sherman Street Richardson, TX 75081 972-241-6151 www.dallasmtpisgah.org

NEW MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

May 1

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

May 4, 7 p.m.

Join us each week, our Bible Study sessions are designed to be encouraged by God's good plan for your maturity and His glory. Dr. Tommy L. Brown Senior Pastor 9550 Shepherd Road Dallas, Texas 75243 214-341-6459 www.nmzb.org

See CHURCHES, Page 16

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In the valleys I grow



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

This column is to encourage Christians or anyone to never give up on their dream or goal.

Sometimes life seems hard to bear, full of trouble, sorrow and woe. It's then I have to remember that it's "In the Valleys I Grow." Because I remember, it takes two mountains to make one valley.

If I always stayed on the mountaintop and never experienced pain, I would never appreciate God's love and would be living in vain.

I do not always understand why things happen as they do, but I'm very sure of one thing, the Lord will see me through.

My valleys are nothing when I picture Christ on the cross; He went through the valley of death, His victory is

Satan's loss and our gain.

Forgive me Lord for complaining when I'm feeling so very low. Just give me a gentle reminder that's it's "In the Valleys I Grow."

Continue to strengthen me, Lord and use my life each day to share Your love with others and help them find their way.

Thank you Lord for the Valleys, for this one thing I know, the mountaintops are glorious, but "It's In the Vallevs I Grow."

Forgetting Your Past: "God has made me forget all my troubles . . ." Genesis 41:51 (KJV). Have you been hurt? Are you struggling to get back on your feet? If so, begin taking these steps.

First, pray to communicate with God.

Second, refuse to be or live like a victim. When you decide to stop looking for sympathy and start looking for solutions, you'll begin to find them. God opens new doors, but when He does, walk through them and accept responsibility for your

Third, isolate the problem, not the person. Everybody's not the same. Don't let what one or two people did to you affect all your other relationships! Once you are able to isolate the event, you can stop the adversary from using your past to contaminate your future.

Fourth, let God's 'perfect love' heal your scars. His love for you is the only love that is perfect enough to cast all your fears away; 1 John 4:18 (KJV). Fear of what you say? Perhaps it's the fear of trusting anyone else, or even yourself! Perhaps

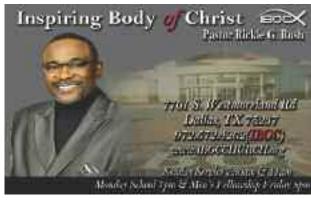
even the fear of being known and rejected. Only in the classroom of God's love can you build your self-worth and learn to make healthy choices.

Fifth, don't stop with God. God's love and acceptance is the prescription that will carry you through so that you can help others too. You can keep it only if you give it away! Listen: 'Joseph named his first born "Manasseh" and said, "It is because God had made me forget all my trouble . . . " The second son he named Ephraim and said, "It is because God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering." Genesis 41:51-52 (KJV). And what God did for Joseph, He'll do for you!

Most people love to identify with a dream or a goal in life and contributing to something worthwhile. If a dream or goal is worthwhile and the belief in it is strong enough, the strength of the dream or goal will take over and keep a person moving forward even when they become physically exhausted. An individual may give out, but he/she should never give



Christina and Chance Jones, center with their Pastor and First Lady, Elder Larry and Sister Doris Willis, Morse Street Baptist Church in Denton, celebrating Christina being inducted into the National Society of Leadership and Success at TWU

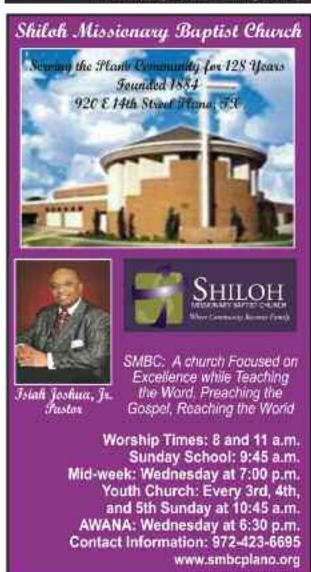












NDG Book Review: The Blackbirds will have loyal fans crowing

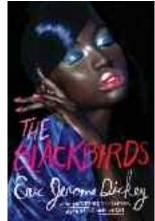
By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You and your girls are birds of a feather.

You flock together, preen together, share your nest when needed and, while you happily sing one another's praises, you'd never open your beak to spill their secrets. Then again, as in the new book "The Blackbirds" by Eric Jerome Dickey, you'd never crow about all the details of your own life, either.

A mere birthday wasn't good enough for Indigo Abdulrahaman. Oh, no - she got a birth month.

She decreed it, planned it, and made her friends follow



along with her wishes. A strong-willed woman born to Nigerian parents, Indigo was the tallest of the four women, dark-skinned, with a hunger for the finer things – including men, of which she had two. And when a

woman caught Indigo's eye, she wasn't above giving that a go, too.

Kwanzaa Browne spent the weeks before her birthday crying over a man: she caught her fiancé cheating with a Brazilian woman, which was the last straw for Kwanzaa. It would take a lot for her to forget her ex. A lot – including, perhaps, a romance with a handsome man she'd been watching for months.

Kwanzaa snagged him three weeks before Destiny Jones' birthday, which didn't matter to Destiny; she had nothing to celebrate. The man she loved didn't know an important truth about her, and she didn't know how to tell him - but before she could figure it out, he learned of her famenot-fame, and it threatened to ruin everything.

As for Ericka Stockwell, some things were already in ruins by the time her birthday arrived: her once-abusive mother was around again, as was cancer for the second time. Even so, grateful for life, Ericka's bucket list was full that anniversary of her birth, and it included finding the Love of Her Life. Unfortunately, once she found him, she knew she could never share the good news with friends...

Aside from the gorgeous cover, size is likely the first thing you'll notice about "The Blackbirds." At just over 500 pages, it's a brick – and I daresay it's an unnecessary one, at that.

Don't get me wrong: there's a decent plot here; Oh-My-Goodness twists; and characters that are gorgeous, loyal, and cheated-upon every few pages. Since I love a good scandal, wow, that was fun - until those characters launched into mattress gymnastics and cutesy raunch-code, both of which become tiresome in short order. Cut half the ubiquitous (and rather humdrum) bedroom

scenes and most of the silly faux sex-words, and I'd have been just fine. Even so, I would've missed the action usually found in more recent Eric Jerome Dickey novels. Sigh.

Much as I gleefully anticipate author Dickey's novels, I didn't think this wordy one was his best – but it's not the worst, either. It's not as good as his thrillers, not as good as "One Night," but better than his more-erotic novels. So cautiously, I guess I'd say don't discount "The Blackbirds."

It has issues, yes, but diehard fans may still crow about it.

CHURCHES, continued from Page 12

SHILOH MBC IN PLANO (WHERE COMMUNITY BECOMES FAMILY)

May 1, 10 a.m.

Join us as we praise and worship God in our Morning Worship Services. You will be blessed.

ntinued from Page 12 May 4, 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; it's all for His glory and His honor.

May 7, 10 a.m.

You're encouraged to attend

our FREE Faith & Finances Housing Workshop to discuss Federal, State of Texas and City of Plano programs to increase new home ownership. Call the church for details.

May 9-15

Celebrate with us our Annual Women's Day Program all week, ladies are asked to wear white with hot pink scarves that will be

available for purchase after Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall. Call the church for details.

Our church ministries offer opportunities for motivation and growth; join us and see.

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

WESTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH, LEWISVILLE

May 1, 7:45 and 10:45 a.m.

You're invited to join us for Sunday Morning Worship Service, as we praise and worship God for His many blessings.

May 4, 12 Noon

Join us for Prayer and Bible Study with Pastor Bessix teaching on the word of God and praying for the sick

Minister Thomas Bessix Senior Pastor 900 Bellaire Blvd. Lewisville, TX 75067 972-221-5668 www.wbcchurch.org

