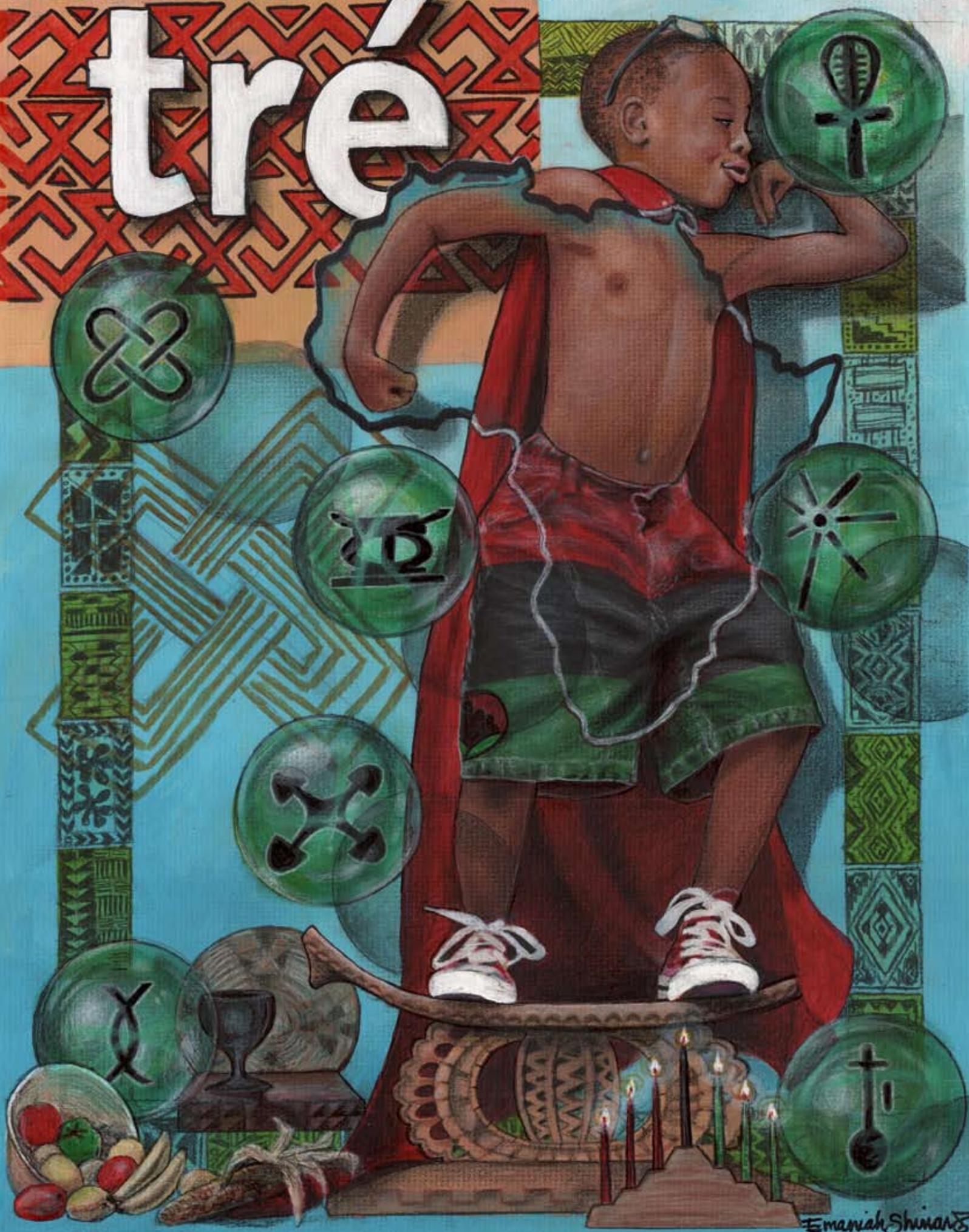
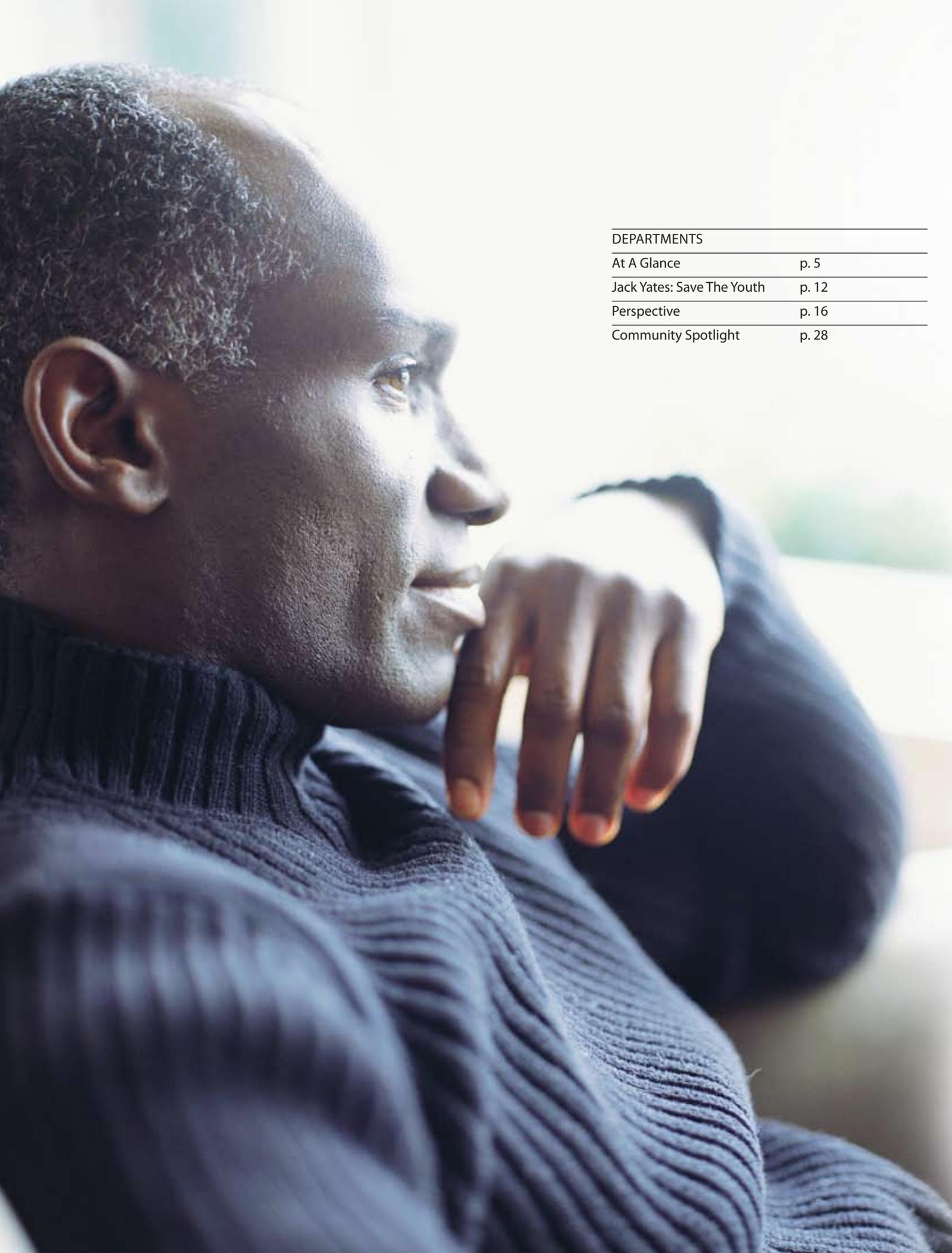


The Definitive Voice of ... Houston's Third Ward

tré



Emaniah Shinar



DEPARTMENTS

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Jack Yates: Save The Youth p. 12

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8 | A Dedicated Public Servant

Mae Walker is not only a trailblazer in a male-dominated field, she is also Harris County's first African-American and woman Constable. Her perserverance, character and dedication to the community reflect the values, professionalism and commitment needed to lead the most complex and expansive Precinct in the County.

8 | Educatioin and Our Community

With the on-going challenges in public education, Teach for America seeks to effectively educate our students despite the excuses of geography, ethnicity, budgets cuts and personal economics. Does the recruitment system ensure social and academic success in our urban schools?

19 | Wide Angle Lens

TSU has the privilege of showcasing an exhibition of wearable art entitled "Converging Voices, Transforming Dialogue" until August. This incredible exhibit is both a product of the Civil Rights and Women's Movement and is a worthwhile trip.

24 | Juneteenth: It's Not Just A Holiday

Juneteenth is the oldest know celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the United States. It symbolizes freedom and opportunity; but have we traded it's historical value for just another day for a picnic in the park?

32 | Tré Magazine: Remix

Oh yeah, we are saying it again! Thank you for all your support on this journey and unique experience. Our first year has been amazing and we look forward to exceeding our outreach, community engagement and social impact.

Join us on June 18 at S.H.A.P.E. Community Center on Live Oak to unite as one family and celebrate the future growth and betterment of the Tré community.

Comments & Letters*



INTEGRATION WITHOUT EQUALITY

I am both a long-time resident of Third Ward and a Yates graduate and remember when many schools in this community catered to "Whites Only".

Yet, decades later, I still wonder; 'Can HISD ever truly serve our community without bias?' I have heard rumors that Yates is being purposely and systematically dismantled in order that it will be relocated to it's original address. As there are no high schools to serve the new 'Midtown' students, this is a way to justify the transition. Our kids may be underserved now, but after *Yates Integration Part II*, I'm sure our kids will get books, computers, a great education and all the resources they desire.

Although a hurtful and a painfully slow process to Third Ward students and tax-payers, it explains all the backroom committees, relocation of alumni off campus and the seemingly random decisions of leadership. I would hope this was wrong, but it makes sense and is the most logical explanation I have heard. It has been effective as a smokescreen for the hidden agendas and displacement of the community. Gentrification with no regard for the human lives that it impacts is a destruction of history and families. Look at Fourth Ward, it pays no homage to the freed slaves that built it by hand and left no place for the culture, community and the people it displaced. — Tired of the Okey-Doke. ■

THE MAGAZINE LOOKS GREAT!

Great diversity of articles. When and where can I pick up my copy?

—Aswad Walker ■

"I love your magazine about all things Third Ward, Houston. I want your readers to know about Overture's summer music literacy camp for young children. It's in your zone, at the Midtown Arts Center on LaBranch. In

fact, when we bought our first djembe years ago it was from Third Ward music educator Sam Dinkins at Dinky Drums!"
—Ekanem Ebinne ■

"I must agree [...], that not only was it an effective short meeting, but it also was very inspiring. I shared with my closest friend that I was blessed to have been among such intelligent and giving people. I look forward to building this powerful relationship with the Tré while we help advance and educate our community. Thank you for allowing me to contribute."
— Karla A. Robinson ■



Happy One Year Anniversary!!! This year has gone by at lightning speed. It seems like just yesterday that we were hand distributing our first issue of Tré Magazine in the hot Texas sun on Juneteenth. Now we have come full circle and ready for another fun filled year of rewarding and uplifting experiences. On behalf of

Tré Magazine, I would like to invite you to our One Year Anniversary and 2011 Juneteenth Celebration. I am honored to be in the midst of so many residents and community partners whose commitment is without equal, whose excellence is unparalleled, and whose influence, endurance and passion are the bedrock for the Historic Third Ward Village and this resilient community that we call 'home'.

The Tré is unlike any other and together we can rebuild and 'Reclaim the Village.'

We hope that you will be able to join us for a FREE Anniversary event organized especially for you at Our Park (S.H.A.P.E. 3815 Live Oak) including: the food co-op, a health and wellness expo, a musical experience featuring a line-up of amazing musicians, vocalist and spoken word artist (2-8pm) and a fantastic after party at the Tour De Hood Compound at 2305 Wheeler (7-11pm) where musicians and vocalist of all ages are encouraged to perform and jam the night away (see page 5).

We have all been made better by the tireless efforts of Deloyd Parker and he deserves our support and loyalty. Yet, he should not carry it alone. Simple gestures such as creating a tip/change jar and donating it to SHAPE or attending his fundraising events go a long way. Help him enhance and beautify 'Our Park' or donate supplies, resources or even a little bit of your time. You may not be able to do a lot, but you can do something. Let's begin on June 18th!

Come home to 'S.H.A.P.E.' You do make the difference!

At Tré Magazine, we believe that the overall success of our publication is dependent, in large measure, on our relationship with you our readers, friends and family. We thank you for all your prayers and encouragement. As we enter our second year, we will continue our service and support of the Third Ward Village and we remain committed to ensuring its strength.

In the Spirit of Unity and Prosperity,

Jeannie

Jeannie Coleman-Wilson
Co-Founder & Publisher

"My oldest son wants to be a teacher! I've had the opportunity to work with Mr. Mumphrey briefly during summer school years back. He's been doing a fine job of shaping minds, character and keeping our students safe for a long time. The issue should not just be focused on bringing

him back, but also bring others of the same talent, passion and discipline forward! We need more people that care enough and aspire to do great things for and with our youth... GREAT Educators are in need now!" – Ej

SEE LETTER TO EDITOR PAGE 10

* Disclaimer: Tré magazine is a community vehicle for discussion. Although published, the views expressed are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the positions or policies of Tré magazine, its Publisher or Staff. The magazine presents research topics by the authors and is issued to elicit comments and further discussion.

Tré welcomes your submissions via email or snail mail. The deadline for events is the 10th of each month for consideration in the upcoming issue. It is understood that any information (photos, questions, scenario suggestions, functional requests, etc.) you may submit will become the sole property of Tré. No information submitted will be subject to any

confidentiality agreement. We highly recommend writer proofread BEFORE sending. All submissions will become the exclusive property of Tré without any compensation accruing to individual. Tré may republish the information provided without attribution and reserves the right to edit, modify or alter material without consent.

Third Ward & The Community

Ikea + Project Row House = Community Partner



Residents Yvette Chapman, Jordyn Fulton, Peregrine and Mason Chapman entered the newly designed Ikea Community House with surprise, pride and delight.

UPCOMING ISSUE There is a powerful and meaningful synergy that is created when community needs are addressed, by not just a sponsor, but a partner. Ikea and Project Row Houses is a beautiful example of the value of such collaboration. Established by African-American artist and community activist in Third Ward, Project Row Houses, is located in the famous row houses that inspired artist John Biggers (2521 Holman at Live Oak) and has created housing for young mothers, artist residencies, office spaces and much more.

Founder, Rick Lowe has created something truly sustainable that not only addresses the objects, infrastructure and history of our community, but the spirit and needs of the people as well. In our next issue, join us as we chat with Assata Richards, PRH's Young Mothers Residential Program Coordinator and former "graduate" of the program, as well as Margaret Kollen, the designer from IKEA Houston who worked on the Community Kitchen.



MOLLIE STEVENSON PRESENTS: GRAND MARKET PLACE AND FARMERS MARKET

Come back to your roots! Enjoy fresh

produce, BBQ, Vegan dishes, snow cones, petting zoo, pony rides, face painting, jewelry, crafts and more. Located at 11822 Alameda Road, The Taylor-Stevenson Ranch is our way to connect back to a simpler time. Come and support this Free event. Proceeds benefit the ranch as they work to develop an American Cowboy Museum & Historical Touring Exhibit. Sat. June 25 from 8am-6pm. For vendor info or questions, contact Jackie Miller 713-523-1616, or Mollie Stevenson at 713-478-9677. ■

KHEPERA BOOKS AND AFRIKAN ART NOW OPEN!!!!

Support and visit this wonderful community bookstore located at 4822 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. We hope to feature the store owner in an upcoming issue of Tré, but for now you can visit him Mon-Sat. 10am-7pm, Sun 1-6pm. The store sells Books/DVD's (new & used), Shea Butter, Incense, Soaps, Candles, Oils (Body, Fragrance, Essentials) as well as Art, Artifacts and Crafts. ■



YATES HOST SAVE THE YOUTH CELEBRITY BASKETBALL GAME

Global Arm/T.E.E.S. and Houston Community Education Council (HCEC), in conjunction with the Jack Yates Magnet School of Communications will be hosting

its 1st Annual Back 2 School-Save The Youth Celebrity Basketball Game on Sat., Aug. 20, 2011 at Jack Yates from 2pm-5pm. For more info, contact Nikki Kancey (281) 347-1926, www.wix.com/globalarm/tees ■

WHIDBY HOST CURRICULUM CARNIVAL



Held on March 23, 2011 from 5:30 - 8pm., the Curriculum Carnival was a Carnival Themed information session for parents to receive information to help their

students be successful on the Stanford 10 and TAKS test. Parents had the opportunity to get resources and learn activities that they could implement at home. The Carnival was a huge success and had entertainment, food, prizes, Health Science Showcase, Vendors, Lupita Hinijosa, the superintendent of School Choice, and guest speakers from HISD. Vendors included HI-Tech Science, ABC Dental (Free Dental Screening), Precinct 7, HISD Parental Engagement, and TRE Magazine.

The Entertainment/Showcase was provided by Whidby Wildcat Band, and Whidby Students Health Science Projects. ■



RECLAIMING THE VILLAGE!

JUNE 18th, 2-8PM Let's get healthy together and build a physically, spiritually and mentally strong Tré. Free Health Screenings for adults and kids. Enjoy food, spoken

word, music, vendors, fitness activities, prizes, games and lots of fun! Join us for this historic event at Our Park (Live Oak/Alabama). Let's S.H.A.P.E. the Tré together. Donations support local events and S.H.A.P.E. Community Center. FREE. ■

'THE SET' A MUSICAL CELEBRATION

JUNE 18th, 7-12PM Sisterhood Creations Children's Association, Tour de Hood and the Tré Magazine present: "The Set" A Musical Celebration. This musical event will feature local performing artist at the Tour De Hood Compound. The event is the official after party for the Tré magazine's one year anniversary celebration and partial proceeds benefit Tour de Hood and Sisterhood Creations Children's Assoc.

Celebrate Tré magazine's accomplishments by joining "The Set"; bring your musical instrument and join the celebration. The event will feature local musicians including young artists from the Dinky Drum Company and will feature original artwork from The Compound's local artist, Mr. Charles Washington. The Compound Art Gallery will host an evening of art and poetry with the "If These Doors Could Speak" project.

The evening will feature a tribute to Gil Scott Heron's great work. The event will take place at the Tour de Hood Compound located in the historic Third Ward at 2305 Wheeler. The event is a fundraiser for Sisterhood and Tour de Hood. Admission is \$5.00 or get in free with your instrument and join THE SET. ■

CONTROVERSY OF THE MONTH

ARE YOU PREPARED? IF NOT NOW, THEN WHEN?

The Trouble: It is inevitable that in our lifetime a series of man-made and/or natural disasters either has and/or will occur; the relevant question is what have you done to prepare? Can one even 'prepare' for Hurricanes such as Katrina and Ike? Where would you go? When would you leave? What would you bring? What route would you take? Who would you pick-up or call? When is it safe to return?

The Truth: Until the moment of crisis, many of us don't seriously resolve these life-saving questions. Has new construction compounded the traffic/flooding challenges; is the previously 'good' route still the best option? Will you take I-45? Can City and County evacuation plans aid, alter or cancel your safety route? How will they convey those plans to you? Rain aside, what is the plan for a heatwave? Power Outage? Terrorist attack? Wildfire? Refinery/Chemical incident? Oil spills? or mass vaccinations?

The Tragedy: Being prepared does not mean you are entertaining negative thoughts... it is simply being aware of your environment and your options. Is there a city-wide plan for both infrastructure and area residents... are we included? ...are you included? Do you know what it is? During a disaster, what supplies are provided and what is the role of your local City Officials? County Offices? Red Cross? Fire Station? Church? or School? It is essential that you know your rights and resources, especially, how, why, when and – most importantly – IF these provisions are allocated to service you? ■



Lightning Hopkins

Sam John Hopkins (March 15, 1912 – January 30, 1982), better known as Lightnin’ Hopkins, was an American country blues singer, songwriter and guitarist, from Houston, Texas. Rolling Stone magazine included Hopkins at number 71 on their list of the 100 greatest guitarist of all time and his historical marker resides in the Tré (3337 Dowling Street).

LIFE

Born Sam John Hopkins in Centerville, Texas, Hopkins’ childhood was immersed in the sounds of the blues and he developed a deeper appreciation at the age of 8 when he met Blind Lemon Jefferson at a church picnic in Buffalo, Texas. That day, Hopkins felt the blues was “in him” and went on to learn from his older (somewhat distant) cousin, country blues singer Alger “Texas” Alexander. (Hopkins had another cousin, Texas electric blues guitarist, Frankie Lee Sims with whom he later recorded.^[4]) Hopkins began accompanying Blind Lemon Jefferson on guitar in informal church gatherings. Jefferson supposedly never let anyone play with him except for young Hopkins, who learned much from and was influenced greatly by Blind Lemon Jefferson thanks to these gatherings. In the mid 1930s, Hopkins was sent to Houston County Prison Farm for an unknown offense. In the late 1930s

Hopkins moved to Houston with Alexander in an unsuccessful attempt to break into the music scene there. By the early 1940s he was back in Centerville working as a farm hand.

Hopkins took a second shot at Houston in 1946. While singing on Dowling St. in Houston’s Third Ward (which would become his home base) he was discovered by Lola Anne Cullum from the Los Angeles based record label, Aladdin Records. She convinced Hopkins to travel to L.A. where he accompanied pianist Wilson Smith. The duo recorded twelve tracks in their first sessions in 1946. An Aladdin Records executive decided the pair needed more dynamism in their names and dubbed Hopkins “Lightnin’” and Wilson “Thunder”.

Hopkins recorded more sides for Aladdin in 1947 but soon grew homesick. He returned to Houston and began recording for the Gold Star Records label. During the late 40s and 1950s Hopkins rarely performed outside Texas. However, he recorded prolifically. It has been estimated that he recorded between 800 and 1000 songs during his career. He performed regularly at clubs in and around Houston, particularly in Dowling St. where he had first been discovered. He recorded his hits “T-Model Blues” and “Tim Moore’s Farm” at

SEE LIGHTNIN’ PAGE 26

tré

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ON THE COVER

Thanks to cover artist

EMANIAH SHINAR.

Posters will soon be available to purchase.

Proceeds will support S.H.A.P.E. community center.

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DIAMOND H. RANCH UNITES COMMUNITY IN A LOCAL URBAN FOOD RIDE

Derrick H. and Theresa Hall organized a wonderful Urban Trailride to support the outreach efforts of Michael P. William, of Joy Tabernacle and Rudy & Juanita Rasmus, of St. John's Downtown. The canned goods were delivered to Bread of Life, Inc. Additional support was provided by Yates alumni George Coleman, Jr. and Jasmine Coleman Quinerly of G.K. Coleman and Son's Realty and the insurance agency was also a Yates Alumnus— Reggie Mhoon of State Farm Insurance. Many thanks to –May Walker, the staff and officers of Precinct 7, PABA, the University of Houston, In-Cert, the Special Events Department at the City of Houston, S.H.A.P.E. Center and the local residents. It was a wonderful event and a worthy cause. Look for pictures online and in upcoming

HOUSTON REGION ECCLESIA (CHURCH) GATHERS IN PRAYER IN THIRD WARD

On Wednesday May 11th at 7pm, beloved friends and the community joined in one accord for a citywide gathering which began in 3rd Ward on Nov. 10, 2010. The one year campaign with the focus of worship and prayer is committed to join together to seek after God whole-heartedly and will be held at CRM City Fellowship (3230 Hadley St.). For info, 281-940-7277, info@almsnet.org. ■

HCC-SOUTHEAST AND THE HONEY BROWN HOPE FOUNDATION LAUNCH MULTICULTURAL GALLERY

On May 26, 2011, the Grand Opening of the Campus' Art Gallery (located at Learning Hub, 6815 Rustic St.) featured a Cultural Explosion Celebration and included artwork from Doyle Burley, Rosalyn Grimes, West African Dance Performance (Second Generation Dance Company), an exhibit of Multicultural Art and sampling of Multicultural Food.

EAST SIDE UNIVERSITY VILLAGE COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER

MANSON B. JOHNSONS, EXEC. DIRECTOR
The East Side University Village Community Learning Center offers the following classes: Adult Basic Education (ABE)/GED Preparation, Spanish (basic & Intermediate), English as a Second Language (ESL), Basic Computer Skills (Internet, MS Word, Email), Microsoft Office (MS Word, Excel, Access & Powerpoint), Financial Literacy (Budget, Saving & Spending). Enrollment begins NOW! Register Mon-Thur 9am-9pm. All Classes are FREE!!! To register bring, Social Security card and Government issued photo ID. Tuition Grants provided by community partner sponsors make it possible for each student to attend **all classes free of charge**. 3614 Holman Street at Scott, 713-747-9255 or email esuvclc@esuvclc.org. www.esuvclc.org. ■

REDISTRICTING: IMMEDIATE ACTIONS!!



A US Congressional redistricting map has been proposed which brings a Hispanic District to Harris County.

The State Director of LULAC, Mario Gallegos, and other Texas elected officials have called us to action. The map will not pass without our support. We have been asked to get as many Houston area citizens, influential leaders and organization speaking at the public hearing as possible.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT. We have an opportunity to have our voices heard and make a huge difference in Texas and National politics Whether or not you can attend the hearing in Austin, PLEASE SIGN THE ONLINE PETITION! Also, please send the link to the online petition to your colleagues! <http://www.change.org/petitions/bring-a-hispanic-congressional-seat-to-harris-county-texas-2>

To make a difference, contact Reynaldo Guerra, PhD, Greater Houston Civic Coalition at 281-850-3363. ■



VIA COLORI PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST WINNER

Congratulations to our very own contributing photographer, Nicole A. Thomas. Her photo "Sun-Kissed Butterfly" was selected as a Via Colori Winner. Via Colori is a street painting festival that transforms the streets of downtown Houston into a massive unconventional

art gallery and canvas. During the two-day festival, more than 15,000 attendees witnessed 250 talented artists sitting, kneeling and lying down with pastels in hand bringing the asphalt to life.

The photo will be framed and auctioned this fall, with the proceeds benefiting The Center for Hearing and Speech, a non-profit organization that exists to provide hearing-impaired children with the listening, speaking and literacy skills needed to succeed in the mainstream hearing world. ■



METRO SEEKS YOUR INPUT ON STATION NAMES FOR LIGHT RAIL: What's in a name?

The New METRO Board of Directors aims to find out as it invites you to help name the new light-rail stations. The public can begin providing suggestions today with the first round of submissions due by June 30th. The public will then have an opportunity to review the successfully submitted entries before the METRO Board gives final approval later this summer. For more info, visit the GoMETRORail.org. ■



This month we welcome Constable May Walker to the Tré. Constable Walker is a not only a dedicated public servant, with over two decades of service to the City of Houston, as a Houston Police Officer, but also the first female Constable of Harris County. She is a proud graduate of Texas Southern University and Sam Houston State University Law Enforcement Management Institute. She is a former Executive Assistant to Mayor Lee Brown and holds membership to several organizations, as well as the distinguished honor of being the founding member of the Women in Policing Conference and co-founder of the Adopt A Black Child organizations. Yet, these notables of a honorable career do not begin to explain the character and dedication of Constable May Walker.

This interview seeks to dig deeper into the Constable Walker story that is told in her words. What we find is a woman that refused to let anybody or any governmental body define her based purely on her gender or her race. She fought back by suing the City of Houston for what many wrongly exclaimed were unnecessary losing battles for employment equality for minorities and women. Yet, those lawsuits she filed not only helped even the playing field for her, in particular, as a black women officer, employed by the City of Houston, but her actions also benefited generations of minorities and women officers that followed in her footsteps. Thus, from the essence of our search, we find Constable Walker to be a proud dedicated public servant, whose values and character remain unchanged. Yet, the irony of this her story is that those same principles which she lived by, also changed her community for its own betterment.

A Conversation with Constable May Walker

No Matter the Odds

INTERVIEW BY DWAYNE SIMPSON

Tré: What led, or most influenced your decision to seek law enforcement as a career?

Constable Walker Well, I was in another career. I was in education. When I went to college, my degree was in business administration. But, I decided that I wanted to try teaching. So, I attempted to do that. But, you must have that passion for what you do. And at the time I was in the system the kids were kind of aggressive and they didn't have a lot of respect for teachers. And so, I left that job and I went to an engineering company.

Although, I was still in college an engineering firm had an opening because this company did contracts. But, the government wouldn't allow them to have any more state contracts unless they employed minorities. And this particular company had no minorities. They had four companies; they had one in Houston, Victoria, Corpus Christi, and one somewhere else. But, at none of their companies did they employ any minorities. So, the government said they had to hire minorities and they went to Texas Southern to recruit someone. Well, I worked at Texas Southern, in the library and I worked [in the department on-campus] where they found jobs for students. So, that job came across

and they asked did I want it. And, I thought, 'you know that sounds like a good job.' It was for filing and writing specifications. So, I took the job.

Of course, it was a nice job for that time. And you got to understand that was in the 60's. And thought that this is really something. I had my own office. I was the only Black and they catered to me. The presidents of the company catered to me, because they wanted contracts. They had just built part of the University of Houston. They were trying to get some contracts with Texas Southern and other entities here in Houston.

But, to make a long story short, I stayed there for ten years. And, I knew the situation when I got there. I had no friends. Nobody talked to me. Everybody at the company was from [Texas] A&M, because all the owners at that company (the company is Lockwood, Andrews and Newnam, which is still a viable company) hired no one but A&M students. When you're young like that you don't really think about it. I had the janitor to talk to. So, when I wanted to eat lunch, I ate with the janitor. When I wanted to do anything, I did it with the janitor.

Well, one day I was listening to the radio in my office, and I heard this advertisement that the police department was looking for some minorities. That's how I got to the police department. At that time they were only hiring minorities to work in [the] juvenile [division], because women didn't patrol. Women didn't do what they do today. And, I thought to myself, 'if I could make a difference in one child that would be worth it,' because children and seniors have always been my center - the people that nobody cares about sometimes. So I thought I would like to join the police department, and so I went down and put in an application.

Afterwards, I did not hear from them for a year or so. Then, I got a call from them to come in to do an interview. And, I didn't hear from them for quite some time after I did all of that. Then, next thing I knew, they called, because I had left Lockwood, Andrews and Newnam. I had gotten an administrative position at The Lighthouse For The Blind on West Dallas Street. Well, they called about a year or two later, and I joined the Houston Police Department.

And, it (police work) became my passion. It wasn't something that I was drawn to, because I didn't even like police officers. I was a speeder, and I will admit it. I used to get caught [speeding] all of the time. I was constantly going to court [because of these speeding violations]. I used to drive the same way every time and I think they (the police officers) just kept looking for me. Nevertheless, some of the time, I was wrong, but, anyway, I ended up being a police officer. That's how it all happened.

Tré: After deciding to enter law enforcement, what would be your most important advice for young adults that may, either currently or in the near future, be starting their officer training, as cadets, in the police academy?
Constable Walker:

Well, for one thing, they've got to be committed, because policing is not an easy job. And, what I would say to those that I would try to encourage is that everybody has a mixed conception of policemen. Everybody thinks that policing is just putting somebody in jail and fighting and all that. That's not

what policing is about. Policing is really about helping people. If you have the desire and you want to help someone, if you want to do something for someone else, make a difference in somebody else's life, policing is one of the careers you want to choose.

But also, what most people don't know about law enforcement is that law enforcement is a career within a career. You go to the police department. You can work in the academy. You can teach. You don't have to be on the street. You can go and work in the iTech Unit that deals with computers. There are just so many areas. If you're sporting and adventurous, you ride motorcycles, and you take care of horses. If you are the type of person that would like to move up the ladder, you can take promotional exams, and maybe one day you can be Chief of Police. The police department is a career within a career and it is a stepping stone, if that's is what you want it to be.

The police department has quite a few divisions that you can pursue. When you first start with the police department they are going to require you to work in patrol, because they want you learn what policing is about - the bottom line of policing. But then, you can apply, just as you would apply for a job, you can apply to work in the academy, to work in intelligence, and apply to work in any of the police department's divisions. And you can go and work in any of those divisions if you are chosen and you apply yourself right.

So, I would tell them that they must decide if they want to help someone. If you are not interested in helping someone, then you are not going to last at the police department. You've got to be a fair person. I would say to someone that when you do things at the police department, whether you are on the street or wherever, you've got to think of things in terms of yourself and your family. Treat the public the way you would want someone to treat your family, and you will become a good officer.

Tré: And, since law enforcement has been traditionally a male dominated field, is there any particular advice you would give to young women and girls, who may be considering law enforcement as a career?

Constable Walker: Well, when I joined the Houston Police Department it was a male-dominated field, and women at the Houston Police Department only worked as secretaries (I mean police officers) or they worked in the juvenile division. But now, it's totally different. If you go to the police department, you just have to know who you are, know what you want and go to get it. You can do anything one of those males can do. Now, if you go there feeling no I can't do that, you're not going to

last at the Houston Police Department. Police officers are not female officers or male officers, they are police officers. So, you have to be able to hold your own ground. Because when you go to the academy they don't care just because you are a female you can't jump that eight foot fence. They are going to eliminate you from the academy. If you can't pull a one hundred fifty pound weight, you won't make in the academy. If you can't qualify and shoot, you are not going to make it. If you can't run a mile in so many minutes, you are not going to make it. They don't care if you are male or female.

A long time ago, there were some discrepancies between males and females. But because of lawsuits - the majority of which I filed - it has changed now. I don't care which profession you get into, there will always be some discrimination. You just have to make up your mind that this is what you want to do and go for it. Plenty of us did it, so it's not hard to do. It just takes some commitment and it takes some hard work.

Tré: What are the five (5) most successful, or impactful, programs that your precinct instituted during your time as Constable?

Constable Walker: Well, one of the things (not a program) that we instituted, which is so important to me, is that we brought some integrity to this department. If you read anything about Precinct 7 in the past, it was corrupt. This was the worst Precinct, I think, in the State. It was very corrupt and they had all kinds of serious problems. When I came in, that was one of my commitments that we're going to bring in accountability and integrity. And, we do have that. And since I've been here, we have not had anything that the Department was accused of doing come up. We have changed the whole complexion of this Department.

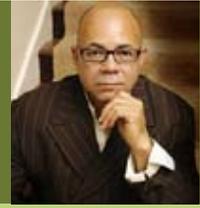
And we have so many programs, because when I came here we had no programs. We have one of the best programs - the Victim's Assistance Program, in which we help victims of crime. It's never been in this area, because victim's assistance is one of the wealthiest State programs, but they don't have Victim's assistance programs in minority communities and I brought it to Houston 7!

And one of the programs I started, which I am still passionate about, is that I started a scholarship of my own, where I pay for two young people to go to college for four years and graduate. Every four years I pick two people, I pay for everything for them to go to college.

And we have all kinds of other programs. We have drug programs. We've implemented sex

Straight Talk

SUBMITTED BY LLOYD GITE



20 QUESTIONS FOR YATES/HISD OFFICIALS

1. Why do officials at HISD insist on micromanaging Jack Yates?
2. Why is John Allen still working for HISD and trying to run area high schools when he failed miserably as a principal at Sharpstown High School?
3. Please address the concerns that Allen always talks down to African-American professionals.
4. What is the truth behind Sam Coleman's resignation?
5. Why did Aaron Spence/ John Allen fire three top administrators at Yates when that was not there responsibility?
6. Would Allen and Spence try and control Bellaire and Lamar High Schools?
7. What is being done to improve scores at Yates?
8. When Sam Coleman asked the district for additional funds to help failing students, why was he told no monies were available?
9. Why does the term "transparency" not register at HISD headquarters?
- 10. Why has there been a total media blackout as it relates to Yates?**
11. Why is it that School Board President Paula Harris never met with Sam Coleman?
12. How can overzealous parents/alumni be dealt with? Especially those who want to run the school themselves. A good example is Arva Neal Howard who has been accused of hitting a female student with a police issued two-foot flash light. Parts of that incident were captured on camera. It is alleged that Howard, Paula Harris and John Allen worked together to coverup the incident. The media never got wind of that story. Some parents/alumni seek to do only harm to Jack Yates and its administrators.
13. Yates is in desperate need of physical repairs. When it rains, the building leaks. Nothing has been done to repair the buildings. Why?
14. Does it leak at Bellaire of Lamar?
15. What can be done to get more parental involvement?
16. Why are school officials asking outside people to help them buy paper/computers and the like?
17. Can't the district provide such badly needed items for the "Magnet" School of Communication?
18. What are the plans of the new principal and why wasn't she vetted by members of the community?
19. Where is Terry Grier in this whole mess surrounding Jack Yates?
20. Why has the teacher's Union been silent about the situation at Yates and other African-American Schools?

Lloyd Gite is an independent voice and an award-winning journalist. He currently hosts Straight Talk (Tv) and Straight Talk (radio)

The views stated in this piece do not necessarily reflect those of Tré magazine or its staff, but were submitted without solicitation for consideration and community discussion and is a continuation of the 'Letter to the Editor' series.

BEATING THE ODDS CONT...

offender programs. We even have a terrorist program that nobody has ever had, because I didn't get it through the county. I went through the Legislators and I got Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee and Congressman Al Green to give me some money and we implemented many of our current programs. We got a lot of new things that have never been done in Precinct 7.

Tré: What are some of the policies or programs that you feel have the potential of being more beneficial for the Precinct 7 community, but need to be revamped?

Constable Walker: We have several new things, as I've said. The sex offender program is a grant. The terrorist program is a grant. We used to have some school programs to help with truancy. They are all grants. What I think would be beneficial for the Precinct 7 community is these programs, because these programs have done a lot. With the schools, we've brought the kids back to school.

And when you bring kids back to the school that draws money back to the schools. And we have identified every sex offender in Precinct 7. I don't mean that we have just pulled them up from probation. We monitor them. And, with the terrorist program, we have been working with the Homeland Security and the FBI. And we have identified every terrorist site in Precinct 7. These programs, come August, will all end because they were all grants. And I'm not going to get them back, because they were given to me by the Congresswoman and Congressman. And you probably heard in the news that they (Congressional Members) are giving out no more earmarks. So, I am not going to be able to renew them. It's just lost, after doing all that work for two years. It was a one-year grant, but I split them into two years so that we could do more. Those things I would like to get back here, because they are helpful to our community in this day and age. You need to know where the terrorist areas are, and we need to monitor sex offenders –

those preying on other individuals. So, we're going to keep looking for something and hopefully we can do some things with them. And you know we need more (police) patrols and you know what they're doing now – they're cutting our people (the number of police officers on patrol).

Tré What kind of impact will the proposed budget cuts by the Harris County Commissioner's Court have on Precinct 7, and the type of service it provides to its residents?

Constable Walker: Well, we are not going to let it affect our services. But what I did, instead of laying-off people, I studied and figured out a way in which not to eliminate people. What I have done is, I cut people down and I cut my civil people, all of my civil division, which is one of the largest divisions I have, I cut them down to thirty-two hours so that those deputies won't lose their jobs and they will still have their insurance. I don't have a large patrol area. I have a large contract patrol. Contract patrol is where

the community pays for those deputies. So I was able to reduce my civil division to a thirty-two hour work week and these guys, I think, they're appreciative and they are [now] doing what they were doing in forty hours. It's going to be hard on some of them, but they are of going to work at it, and we are going to do the best we can.

Tré For over six (6) years (and many more years forthcoming) you have served Third Ward, in particular, and Precinct 7, in general, as our Precinct 7 Constable. What would you want the Third Ward residents, to remember most regarding your office's law enforcement work within their community?

Constable Walker: Well, I want them to know that we were there when they had problems and we were there when they didn't have problems. And, I think that is what you will hear from them, because I not only cover the Third Ward, I cover South Park, I cover Sunnyside, the Hermann Park area and the West Belfort area. And they all will tell you that since I've been

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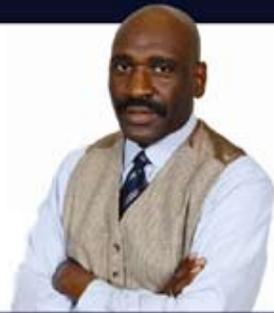


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Yates Lion: Save The Youth

Global Arm/T.E.E.S. and Houston Community Education Council (HCEC), in conjunction with the Jack Yates Magnet School of Communications will be hosting its 1st Annual Back-2-School-Save-The-Youth Celebrity Basketball Game on Saturday, August 20, 2011, at Jack Yates High School in Houston's Historic Third Ward Village.

ENGAGE THE JACK YATES MAGNET SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATIONS

The School of Communication s a one-of-a-kind program, formed over 30 years ago and focuses on four areas: journalism, photography, television and radio production.

How unique is the program? Well it is the only one in the HISD (the largest school district in the State of Texas and seventh largest in the U.S.) Some of the graduates from this program have gone on and had a major impact in the world of television and radio, such as Roland Martin, Debbie Allen, Garnet Coleman, Conrad O. Johnson, Michael Young, Kevin Cooper, Phylcia Rashaad and many others.

ENCOURAGE T.E.E.S. (TEENS EXERCISING EXTRAORDINARY SUCCESS)

T.E.E.S. sponsors weekly Table Talk Sessions for Middle School and High School Students. "Our prime focus is placed on personal worth,

a belief system resting on absolute truth, exercising judgment based on evidence, clear decision making, understanding consequences, accountability for one's actions and choices, and discussion of society's mixed messages." states current Yates student and founder Nikki Kancey.

Topic examples include: Self-Esteem, Decision Making, Peer Pressure, Bullying, Communication, Media Influence & the Internet, Diseases and Myths, Responsibility and Accountability.

ATTEND 1ST ANNUAL BACK 2 SCHOOL SAVE THE YOUTH CELEBRITY BASKETBALL GAME

Please join these dedicated students as they strive to raise awareness and promote academic success for a program that prepares students for the future, while enjoying a high-energy full court 5-0n-5-basketball competition between Houston Celebrities and the Mighty F.O.I. of MM#45.

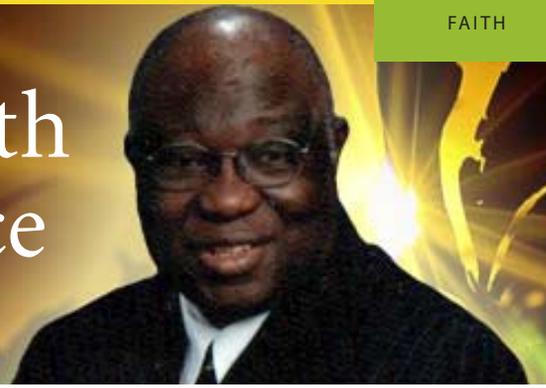


Other highlights include: halftime festivities, surprise video presentation, autograph signings, door prizes, and an awards ceremony at the conclusion of the game.

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Tickets are \$10.00 and advanced purchases are encouraged. Tickets go on sale beginning in July. For More Info, please visit www.wix.com/globalarm/tees or contact Nikki Kancey at globalarm@aol.com.



A Dedicated Leader With Integrity and Experience



Dr. Theophilus A. Natter is a world-traveled member of the ministerial staff of Bethel A.M.E. Church, Accra Ghana and has over 25 years experience in Clinical Psychology, Family and Group Counseling.

“I believe we must endow our people with a stronger foundation in the Truth of God’s Love. This lofty goal can only be accomplished through a comprehensive program of Christian Education and living. It is for this reason that our people suffer and perish. By creating a strong education initiative and academic focus, we can develop the foundation upon which our great nations can be made strong.”

—Reverend Dr. Theophilus Natter

A Servant of God

Spiritually, the Word of God states that we are our brother’s keeper. Since we are our brother’s keeper, it is up to each and everyone of us to be able to reach out in various ways to offer support for one another with regard to whatever the situation might be. Dr. Natter’s position as Leader is to serve the people and to pray fully allow the Spirit of God to lead and guide him in many ways. Through much Prayer and God’s guidance, he certainly intend to be a good steward of God’s people.

Moving Our People Forward

Dr. Natter strives to educate our people in reference to the word of God. “Too many people perish for lack of knowledge, states Dr. Natter. With the complexities of the world his goal is to bring a full range of programs to educate through evangelism, outreach, and Christian education, from daily life skills through computer training. Natter who is currently a candidate for Bishop of the AME Church, hopes to utilize his expanded outreach to bring the 14th district proudly into the World Community

and the church to the people that need to hear the word of God.

A Family Dedicated to Service



Reverend Natter is not in this alone, together with his beautiful wife Gladys Natter (pictured, above right) they are committed to being available and helpful to all that are in need of his services and astute counsel as a Man of God and Professional. They have built schools, and provided supplies to underserved communities in Ghana and throughout the world.

Health and Education

Health issues are at the forefront of all these issues. Dr. Natter is worried that “Our people will physically perish for lack of proper health and education. The AID’s epidemic threatens to decimate our population as the world does little to stem the tide. It is up to us



to do this work. We must step up; roll up our sleeves to change not only our own life styles, but those of the generations to come.

Fail in this mission and those generations will not scorn us, they will not curse our memory – because those generations will not exist. Moreover, all of our rich traditions and valued culture will disappear with them.” Dr. Natter is determined to take a stand and feels we must collectively look honestly at social illnesses like drug and alcohol addition, domestic violence, teen pregnancy and sexual abuse as well as a wide range of other social issues.

Dr. Natter encourages all: “Be not afraid! Be not timid! Those who can help are already here! We are the ones who have the solutions to these problems! ■



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Teach for America in Our Community

BY TONI I. FISHER-MONAMODI, M.ED.



Teach for America is a popular alternative-teaching certification program. According to a recent study conducted by Laczko-Kerr and Berliner, The Teach for American mission calls for placing energetic, bright, but unqualified teachers into poor, urban school districts (Darling-Hammond, 1994). The instructional effectiveness of under-certified teachers in general and the TFA teachers in particular is of considerable interest to our community. As an alternatively certified teacher myself, I understand firsthand the challenges of being placed in a teaching assignment with little or no prior teaching experience. The effect of alternatively certified teachers continues to be a hot topic. Recently I had the pleasure of interviewing the current Executive Director of Teach for America. Mr. Terry Bruner is a proud alumnus of Howard University and has been the executive director since November 2009.



TRE: How long have you been with Teach for America and what is your fondest memory of TFA?

BRUNER: I have been the executive director since November 2009. I have two fondest memories of TFA: 1) my first few days as a corps member (teacher) when I met the woman who would become my wife; and 2) when I was a 4th grade teacher/ corps member at the TSU Lab School in Third Ward I wrote a play on Texas history that my students performed and directed.

TRE: What is the connection between TFA core members and

KIPP schools? Is there a high number of TFA core members at KIPP charter schools? If not, where are most TFA core members placed?

BRUNER: KIPP was founded by two Houston corps members, Mike Feinberg and Dave Levin. It's grown to be one of the most effective charter school networks in the country and is one of our placement partners. Teach For America does provide a significant talent pipeline to KIPP - 65% of KIPP principals and a significant number of KIPP's total teaching faculty are either Teach For America corps members or alumni.

TRE: What strategies are in place to encourage TFA core members to commit to more than the two year standard commitment?

BRUNER: Our theory of change says that long after corps members complete their commitment, they will make decisions about the ways in which they can achieve the best impact to help solve this problem. We believe that you need a critical mass of people working full-time in education to achieve this. We are constantly exploring opportunities with districts and partner schools to further the tenure of our alumni. We also believe that those who choose to go into other fields can be incredibly influential, as well. We need everyone in our city, in the whole of our communities, to engage in public education, whether as teachers, school administrators, or concerned community citizens, who understand the complexities of public education.

TRE: Does race matter, does TFA have any current research on whether the race of the core member matters in regards to student achievement in the classroom?

BRUNER: Teach For America seeks to enlist our nation's most promising future leaders in the movement to eliminate educational inequity, and we know these leaders will be diverse in ethnicity, race, and socioeconomic background. Maximizing the diversity of our organization is important so that we can benefit from the talent and energy of all those who can contribute to our effort, and also to increase the opportunity for engagement in the circles of influence in our tremendously diverse society. Moreover, we strive to be diverse because we aspire to serve as a model of the fairness and equality of opportunity we envision for our nation.

At the same time that we value each individual who commits to our cause, we also place a particular focus on attracting and fostering the leadership of individuals who share the racial or socioeconomic backgrounds of the students underserved by public schools to enhance our impact. We have seen that our most effective corps members – those who have led students in the greatest academic progress – represent all races, ethnicities and socioeconomic backgrounds. When these teachers are themselves from historically under-represented racial backgrounds or low-income families, however, they have the potential to have a profound additional impact because they can be particularly persuasive with students demonstrating the potential for success in education and in life.

TRE: The Tre magazine is an inner city publication that focuses on the community of third ward The feeder pattern schools are Blackshear ES, Ryan MS, and Yates HS, all three are low performing schools. What do you think is the problem in low performing inner city schools and what kinds of solutions does TFA offer?

BRUNER: Schools in the Third Ward face the challenges of poverty that schools in low-income communities across the country are up against. Despite these challenges, we're seeing proof-points here in Houston and across the country in successful classrooms and schools that are demonstrating that children can achieve at the highest level no matter what their zip code or family income. These schools are showing us how to provide students with a transformational



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TASTE THIS—FOOD FOR THOUGHT

BY RUNYARARO FANA



Well Spring has sprung and we are deep into the life planting season. Let me explain, every season brings an aspect of the Spiritual life cycle into the forefront. The Spring is the time for planting new seeds for your growth and development (aka-Personal Perfection).

This is the time when new ideas awthen old friends will resurface, love gets refreshed (for those who are in love) and for the rest of us love will appear and manifest.

Spring is just what it sounds like a time to jump, leap, actualize and go forth into the unknown, unseen, untraveled or simply put-The New. Yes it is your time! But there is an obstacle, a major hurdle, a serious block standing in the way of you living your Spring. What is this proverbial "Elephant in the Room" that can not be ignored--western euro-centric thought and action (masquerading as culture) coming at you in 3D. This --- western euro-centric thought is teletronically being blasted into your world, your conscious and unconscious moments, your awake or sleep time—western euro-centric thought is being lasered into your Being.

Via computers, television, radios, high tech games, cartoons, sitcoms, i-pods, droids, blackberries, a 24/7 365 bombardment coming at you and in your Face (Book). Oh let me not forget in your books, magazines, library, school, and the big and small screen.

What is the....western euro-centric thought monster hitting you with, I will briefly give you the short list, you can supply your own examples and testimonies. The List selfishness, greed, white male superiority, non-white inferiority, god-less-ness, women hating, women bashing, gay bashing, black-folk bashing, murdering, stealing, taking folks lands, taking folks stuff, coldness indifference, shallowness, sarcasm, individualism, meism, dis-respect for elders, blond blue eyed beauty standards, bullying, sexual insanity on any and every level, the list goes on and on. How do we overcome this mental, physical, spiritual war in our existence?

The Ancient African Wise ones, our ancestors, have left us/blessed us with a road map, a path to travel, to lift us, and grant us victory in this cultural war. Let me share a few of these "gems of wisdom". Music, music, music every opportunity you get, be in the space of Real Music, played by Real Musicians, for Real People. Old school is the Best School, R&B, Jazz, Gospel, Blues, Hip-Hop, Zydeco, Reggae, High Life, etc. Catch-it-live, Bump it on your box in the house or car. Sing in the shower, pump up some James Brown to clean by, wash dishes to Earth, Wind, & Fire, straighten up to some Bob Marley, awake to some Aretha Franklin, heal your soul (if you're been aching) to some B.B. King or Bobby Bland, chill during the day with some Quincy James, ease out your day with Miles Davis or John Coltrane, you kinda see where I'm going here. Exposing our youth to all of the classical forms of Black Music, live when you can, recorded when you must, is step one.

Opps, I just got the signal that this month's column must conclude, I promise to return next month with more of "The Gems" from the Ancient Ones. Smile often, laugh regularly live life. Peace & Blessings. Know Your Roots, and Your Tree will Grow Strong.



Runyararo Fana "Conversations in African History"
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An Indictment Against Ourselves, A Prosecution of the System – Graves' Injustice

BY BISHOP FRANK A. RUSH

Introduction and transcription by Dwayne J. Simpson, Photography and Video by Sir Nemesis Truth

"Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." – Romans 5: 1-5



Bishop Frank Rush is a noted Attorney, a respected community leader and Sr. Pastor of Houston Praise and Worship Center located at 3802 Live Oak in Houston's Historic Third Ward Village.



Nicole Casarez is an attorney and a professor at the University of St. Thomas, where she teaches journalism, media law, public relations and media ethics. Nicole and her investigative journalism students have participated in the Texas Innocence Network since the fall of 2001. They have investigated many capital and non-capital cases, including the case of Texas death row inmate Anthony Graves. Their Graves investigation has attracted state-wide and national attention.

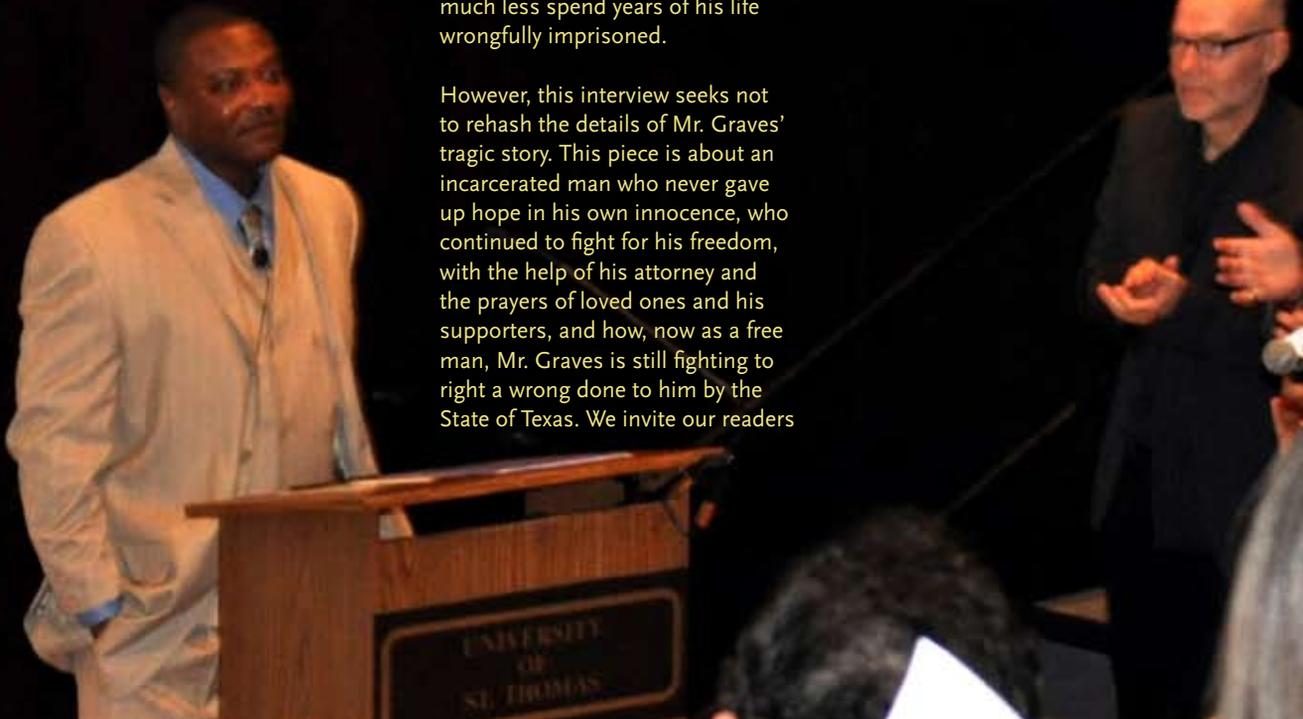
I first learned of the Anthony Graves story, when I read it in the Houston Chronicle last year. When I examined more closely the injustices that the State of Texas dealt Mr. Graves, I was filled with anger, disappointment, and contempt for a criminal justice system that could sentence a human being to death, with no evidence except the uncorroborated testimony of one individual that was fraught with holes and contradictions. Regarding our criminal justice system, indeed all Texans hope that it is fair, reflective of the values of its people, consistent with the United States and Texas Constitutions, espouses an objective of safety and security to its people and, to some degree, provides closure for the victims and/or the victim's loved ones.

The irony and the tragedy of the Anthony Graves story is that Mr. Graves is also a victim who was created entirely by the Texas Criminal Justice System, which carries, for right or wrong, a reputation of being one of the harshest in the nation. And due to the wrongful conviction of Mr. Graves, the murders that took place on August 18, 1992, remain unsolved. The community, and the loved ones of those murdered, still have no closure after almost twenty years, since those murders took place. All of us want our family and loved ones to be safe from crime, in general and the violent actions of criminals, in particular. Yet, we should be just as vigilant in applying more pressure upon our leaders to ensure that the Texas Justice System is more cognizant of its own imperfections, so that no innocent person has to be wrongfully convicted, much less spend years of his life wrongfully imprisoned.

However, this interview seeks not to rehash the details of Mr. Graves' tragic story. This piece is about an incarcerated man who never gave up hope in his own innocence, who continued to fight for his freedom, with the help of his attorney and the prayers of loved ones and his supporters, and how, now as a free man, Mr. Graves is still fighting to right a wrong done to him by the State of Texas. We invite our readers

to pay special attention to this piece and hope they may find inspiration. The tragedy of the Anthony Graves' imprisonment could have led to the death of an innocent man. But through Mr. Graves' continued faith in a merciful, everlasting, unchanging and supreme God, Mr. Graves' prayers for justice to be found through an upholding of his innocence and renewal of his life were finally answered, after eighteen years of wrongful imprisonment.

During this interview, we are thankful that Mr. Anthony Graves and his attorney, Nicole Casarez, were able to take the time to meet with Tré Magazine. We pray that Mr. Graves' freedom is an inspiration for him, just as much as it is an inspiration for all of his supporters. Most important, we pray that the State of Texas may correct itself so that this kind of tragedy is never repeated. If there are any additional individuals wrongfully imprisoned, we pray that they may also be freed.



Tré: My name is Bishop Frank Rush. And I am here with Mr. Anthony Graves and Nicole Casarez. And Anthony, I am going to take you back just a few years. We are so grateful that God has opened a door for you to be released. But, if I recall correctly, you were charged with killing someone. Is that correct?

Mr. Anthony Graves: Correct.

Tré: And who were those people you were charged with killing?

Mr. Graves: The people were from Somerville, Texas. It was a family of six I think.

Tré: And they allegedly had a co-defendant. Is that correct?

Mr. Graves: Correct.

Tré: And you recall that gentleman as Robert Earl Carter. Is that correct?

Mr. Graves: Yes. That's his name.

Tré: But, you didn't know him?

Mr. Graves: No, I didn't know him.

Tré: Do you have an opinion why he would lie about you at all?

Mr. Graves: After everything that happen to me... The only thing I can say is that the walls that were there during his thirteen or fourteen hours of interrogation... only they [the walls] know, and the people that interrogated him. I do not know.

Tré: We're just so thankful that you had a competent attorney that helped you get released. Can you (Attorney Nicole Casarez) tell us a little bit about how that case went and what you and the University of St. Thomas and others on this project were able to do?

Attorney Nicole Casarez: Well, I started looking into Anthony's case eight years ago in 2002, and Anthony was already in the appeal's process then. My students and I investigated the case and came to the same conclusion, that anyone who had looked carefully at the case, would come to the conclusion that there was no evidence at all of his guilt. In fact he had substantial evidence that he was innocent. After his conviction was overturned, in 2006, he asked me to serve on his legal team.

So we have been fighting for him and the State elected to retry him and kept him in jail for another four years, before a courageous prosecutor, Kelly Siegler, looked at the case and said, what we had all been saying, which was "this man is innocent, this has been a nightmare."

Tré: Mr. Graves, can you tell how you managed to stay so positive during this time of wrongful incarceration?

Mr. Graves: Well, I think, most importantly because I knew I was God's child, first and foremost. And that he wasn't going to put no more upon me than I could bear. I believed in that, okay? And, just the fact that I knew that I was innocent; I wasn't going to allow that to define me. They had put me on death row, but I was still trying to live. So, I had to be of a positive mind in order to accomplish that.

Tré: And I want you to know that you are also talking to someone who knew that you were innocent. And also went to the D.A. and told him personally that from Mr. Carter, whom I represented at that time, that you were innocent and Mr. Carter had lied. So I want you to know, from me to you, that there were those speaking up for you way before now. And we wish you well.

I want to ask you a couple more things. What, if anything, would you say that you've learned, that you've gathered, or that you've gained from this process, this experience?

Mr. Graves: Wow. First of all, I learned so much about myself, which has caused me to have evolved into the man I am today. But, I also learned that we have a system that is not perfect. And, guys that are out there saying that they're innocent, back there (that are on death row), saying they're innocent, they're innocent, we should pay attention. Now, all of them may not be innocent, but out of twenty, if one of them is innocent, we have an obligation, a

duty, to see that he gets his justice.

Tré: What more do you think could be done, if you could guarantee that process? If you've given that some thought, I'm not trying to put you on the spot, but have you thought about it? Should there more attorneys like yours (Attorney Casarez), helping supposedly innocent people prove their innocence? What would you suggest should be done?

Mr. Graves: Well, first of all, I would suggest that we clone Nicole. And continue to clone her, because this woman went above and beyond her call to duty, to help save my life. But I also think that, when it comes to the system, talking about you telling the district attorney about my innocence, there needs to be accountability. The people we entrust with our system of justice need to be held accountable, and I think with that a lot of things that would shape-up in the right way. Because right now we are giving too much power to one individual, without any checks and balances. And this individual may have his own agenda, which I think the individual that sent me to death row had his own agenda. So, if we are holding these people accountable, then I think they will be more cautious.

Tré: Do you think that's more like some kind of review board? Is that what you say?

Mr. Graves: Yeah, I just think there need to be some checks and balances. Look, the death penalty is serious, the death penalty is final. You don't get a do-over. You don't get to say we made a mistake, let him go. You killed him. So, therefore, you need to take it seriously. You're out here,

everyone is pro-life, pro-life, then take this whole death penalty thing the way you feel about being pro-life. Because if you don't start putting checks and balances in place, then you're going to be talking to somebody else from death row.

Tré: Attorney Casarez, what are your thoughts on that? What do you think can be done? Should there be, obviously, more clones of yourself; what I mean by that is those who stand up for righteousness and justice? Or should there be some additional layer of protection through the structure? May be there should be some kind of review board? What are your thoughts on that?

Attorney Casarez: You know the number one cause of wrongful conviction in murder cases is prosecutorial misconduct. In rape cases, it's wrongful eye witness identification. So, for wrongful eye witness identification, we need to have better identification procedures. The police need to follow better procedures and we know what those procedures are. And, in murder cases, frankly, I think that when a prosecutor asks—with willful bad intent—to convict, rather than to seek justice, I think a prosecutor needs to be held accountable. Right now, a prosecutor has absolute immunity from those acts. I understand that is a delicate balance, but when the prosecutor acts willfully to violate someone's constitutional rights and get a conviction, at the cost of justice, then they should lose that immunity.

Tré: And what do you think should happen in this particular case? In fact, what is happening right now in reference to addressing the issue to the previous District Attorney, who I believe is named Charlie Sebesta? What is going on with that now?

Attorney Casarez: Well, several years ago, when it was clear that the prosecutor had withheld evidence that he should have provided to Anthony's defense counsel, a grievance was filed against him at the State Bar, but the State Bar did nothing. The State Bar did not do anything. I mean, I think that's unfortunate

Tré: I also feel as though maybe you can help others to understand how to avoid being bitter, how to avoid being resentful and how to have hope. Because, to me, the main thing that I observed about you is that you kept your hope. You kept something positive on the inside, and with that hope you didn't give up. And that hope may have triggered something else. What would you say about that to those that are perhaps wrongfully incarcerated now? How would you encourage them?

Mr. Graves: Well, the first thing I would say is to know yourself and to love the person that you get to know. That's the first thing. Because out of love is born all that positive spirit. I knew who I was. I did not have any reason to be bitter, because some man done me wrong. God continued to do me right. I was waking up every morning. So, I was blessed every morning my eyes popped open. That was enough to be positive about because every morning that you wake up, there is another opportunity to right a wrong. And I just took it one day at a time. They took my physical freedom, but I learned what freedom was really all about. And I refused to allow them to touch that.

Tré: And where is that?

Mr. Graves: That is inside. That is what dwells in me - my Godly spirit. And, I just took it one day at a time.

Tré: So there is an emotional freedom, a spiritual freedom, that even whether you are a Martin Luther King, or Gandhi, or Anthony Graves, you just won't give that up because you don't let any man own any part of you. Am I right?

Mr. Graves: Correct. He doesn't own that.

Tré: I want to go to one final area. I have read that even the State still isn't doing you right. And they are not releasing to you moneys, and I am not sure of the exact amount, but I think I heard something like a million dollars, or over a million dollars, that you should get. I would like two

responses. The legal response, what you (Attorney Casarez) feel is going on, and what should be going on. And, I would like your (Mr. Graves) response and we will close from there.

Attorney Casarez: Under the Tim Cole Compensation Act, Anthony is entitled to compensation for being wrongly incarcerated. But there is a difference between the letter of the law and the spirit of the law. The letter of the law (or the Texas Comptroller) is saying that because the dismissal order does not include that word "actual" innocence that Anthony isn't entitled to the compensation. In this instance, everyone connected with the case has agreed that Anthony is actually innocent and that is just not what the paper work says. So that is the legal problem, but we're working and we hope that we will be able to get him what he deserves under the statute. What he gets under the statute can't compensate him for what he has lost. But, he certainly, at least, deserves what the statute would give him.

Tré: And how much is it that he is supposed to get?

Attorney Casarez: It is eighty thousand dollars for each year that he was wrongfully incarcerated.

Tré: Did they come up with a final figure?

Attorney Casarez: That lump-sum figure is one million four [dollars].

Mr. Graves: Well, when I first found out that the Comptroller Office's had refused to pay me compensation, I was a little disheartened and disappointed, because I had been fighting for eighteen years and I thought the fight was finally over after I walked out of those doors; only to realize that another one had begun. But me, being the positive person that I am, I feel like it's going to get resolved. I think that they will go back and look at it and they will realize that we (the Texas Comptroller's Office) should do what's right, instead of holding on to technicalities that are allowing us to make bad decisions.

Tré: I think your attorney spoke well in reference to that it is the letter of the law verses the spirit and intent of the law. And I thought, what a strange ally, but I want you to speak to this. I believe I saw where the Governor said he's going to support you, and this is someone who had been pretty strong for the death penalty. So to see him come out supporting that, I want to get your thoughts on his support for you on this issue.

Mr. Graves: Well, first of all, thank you Governor Perry for standing on the side of what's right. I'm not going to say that I was surprised, because Governor Perry is a man, and he probably has children. But I know that anytime something is done that is blatantly wrong; there is no other side that you can stand on, but the right side – especially when you are an elected official. So, I thank Governor Perry for speaking out and speaking out for what's right.

Tré: But the D.A. knew that it was blatantly wrong not to put the word "actual" innocence on there. Am I correct? And the D.A. chose not to do that. Am I right?

Attorney Casarez: Honestly, I think that it was a crazy day or two, that that was not what any of us were thinking about. I think all of us were just thinking about getting Anthony his freedom. And I don't think that he (the D.A. on that case, that day in court) intentionally left those words off the order. I think that it just happened that way.

Tré: Can it be rescinded and resubmitted with the right, correct, words on it?

Attorney Casarez: Well, it's actually more complicated than I had thought at first, but I feel as though we will come up with some way that we can get that corrected.

Tré: I thank you for this opportunity, for Tré Magazine to do this interview. ■

Wide Angle Lens

BY APPLE GIDLEY

I recently attended an Annie's List luncheon. Yes it was political. But that dirty 'p' word is prevalent in all our lives: think school closures, redistricting, sonogram laws, guns on college campuses, to name a few. Rather than Government being less intrusive those in the top seats of the Texas legislative are eating into the very heart of our homes, and wombs.

Annie's List was started in 2003 – a direct result of redistricting which ensured the Texas House lost 5 Democratic women and numbers in the Texas Senate remained stagnant. The aim of the organisation is to recruit, encourage, support and train women for high office in Texas, and possibly beyond. Mayor Anise Parker is a success story due in part to the support of Annie's List.

The luncheon was a grand affair and the energy emanating from a room full of women, of all colors, was intense and promising in large

part due to the dynamism of the keynote speaker, Donna Brazille. Her enthusiasm was palpable and her message direct in urging everyone to become involved in changing the face of Texas politics by saying, "Tomorrow is not soon enough. It needs to be now."

Now, in the midst of the Third Ward is an incredible exhibitions *Converging Voices, Transforming Dialogue*. It is a selection from the collection of 20th and 21st century art amassed by Elliot and Kimberly Perry, and seen for the first time outside Memphis. The collection is on loan to the University Museum at TSU until August 21st and it tells a strong and moving message of hope.

Donna Brazille told her audience, "I am a product of both the civil rights and the women's movement – we're going to have to stand up for what we believe in." The exhibition says the same thing, visually.

The night after the official opening, the University Museum

held their first fundraiser since opening eleven years ago. Called *For the Sake of Art: Wearable Art* it highlighted the artistic and historic importance of the murals on the walls of many of the buildings on campus. Designers were challenged to choose one of the murals as inspiration for a piece of wearable art. The top fifteen were modelled for about 150 patrons and three jurors: Chloe Dao, winner of Project Runway Season 2; Cesar Galindo, New York designer, and Anita Smith, philanthropist and interior designer from Houston, all under the capable coordination of Toni Whitaker. The winner, Joan Bristow, also won the People's Choice Award with her flowing gown inspired by Elliot Turner's mural.

It was an evening of hope. Hope that funds raised would start the process of restoring and conserving the murals. Hope that awareness of the cultural gem, the University Museum, right here in the Third Ward becomes

better known and supported by the community, and Houston in general. Hope that the powers that be in Austin realise the importance of education, and that the arts play a major role in producing well-rounded young men and women.

And hope that from that pool of well-rounded women some will, in Donna Brazille's words, "take your courage, find the tools, the discipline to enter the arena.... all the while remembering there is no place in politics for mean-spirited men and women."

And finally, hope that we all realise that tomorrow is not soon enough!

With cultural experience gained from spending her entire life as a nomad, living and working in twelve countries, Apple Gidley writes on intercultural issues from a global perspective. She has chosen to settle in Houston and is actively involved with the Volunteer Circle and the Advisory Board of the University Museum at Texas Southern University ■

Think About It *Helpless?*



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Ever didn't know which way to turn or how you were going to get out of, or deal with, some overwhelming circumstances? I have. And they were devastating! Not only that, they were simultaneously perplexing and embarrassing! Looking within and looking back, I tried to analyze the *cause*. What had I done? What had I *not* done? Where had I "missed it": Through ignorance of God's Word, through wrong decisions, through failure to hear God's voice or follow His leading? In the end, I learned to stop "wondering" and leave the "Why's" to the Lord, to "let go and let God", and "wait on Him" as He instructs us to do. I did, and trusted and "rested in Him", and my deliverance came on time and in His way. I got out of His way, and as usual, He "doeth all things well"! He's "no respecter of persons", so you *can* BE ENCOURAGED!

HELPLESS?
Feeling trapped?
No way out?

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Not *having* the answer, but **THE** answer
And seeing us **DOing** all that we can
He faithfully responds with His amazing, awe-inspiring, delivering **POWER!**

by Sandra Wilson Wilson, CEO, *Jay's Legacy Publications*, retired journalism/English teacher, Motivational Career-based Writing Consultant, col umnist, free-lance designer, Parent In volvement Motivational Speaker, ordained evangelist, former 700 Club Counsellor and Prison Minister



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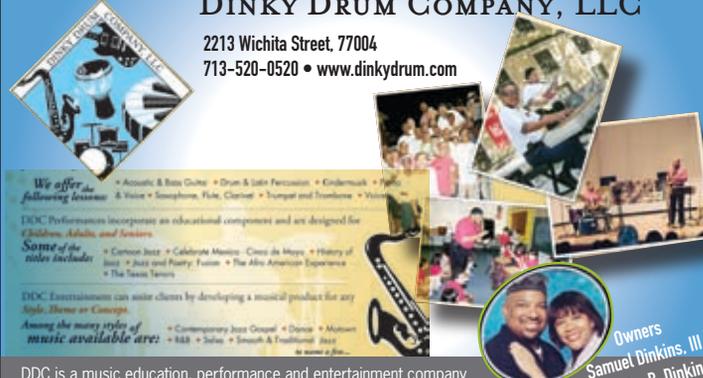
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Father's Day Fashion

BY ALYSIA BEBEL



We all do it! Father's Day rolls around and among the gifts we purchase, somewhere in there is a random sweater or a button up shirt. This year why not take a little more time to analyze these special men in our lives to give them something they can't wait to wear! So take a second to think of your unique father.



What are some of his hobbies or favorite activities? That is the inspiration that you will use to pick out a fashionable Father's Day present. It is time to think outside the box, beyond ties, socks and wallets! Let's give these special men something they will enjoy wearing for years to come.



Do you have the laid back, all American jeans and T-shirt dad?

Typically this father is stuck in his ways when it comes to his wardrobe. This dad has his favorite pair of broken in jeans, t-shirts and sports team jerseys. Instead of going to an expensive department store for collared shirts or a button up, try something simple and basic like The Gap. This store offers a variety of soft cotton shirts and worn in and gently distressed jeans. This will offer the best of both worlds in that the items will be brand new; however they will have your Pop feeling like they've always been a part of his simple wardrobe. A solid colored v-neck and classic blue denim

jeans are clothing pieces any dad can appreciate! Throw in some Converse sneakers and your look is complete. Converse's are a classic pair of kicks that showcase style and vintage appeal as they age. The fact that they are so inexpensive starting at \$25.00 makes them a great buy.



Now let's switch to the polar opposite of the laid back father. These

style tips are going to be for the edgy, up to date, fashion-forward fathers. This person might be someone who enjoys shopping and staying up with the latest trends in men's fashion. For this dad, stores such as Express and 21 Men online would be some options to consider. Layering is something that these fathers' typically would enjoy. So some colorful v-neck shirts coordinated with a knit sweater or zip up hooded jacket would be something that they like. Stick to a classy dark wash non-distressed pair of jeans and a pair of sneakers in their favorite color. If you want to be on the dressier side purchase a pair of sophisticated oxford

lace ups. If it's in the budget some sunglasses or scarves would be hip accessories that a fashion forward dad would know how to handle.



Now of course there's always the inexpensive, meaningful Father's Day

gift which is hand made, making it heartfelt and priceless. If your father adores those hand made gifts skip the malls—Michael's and Hobby Lobby are the stores for you. Buy an inexpensive solid colored cotton shirt in his favorite color and go crazy with T-shirt paint and glitter. Maybe put an out line of each child's handprint on the back with their names written inside, priceless! He will be beaming with delight.

Mother's and son's and daughter's, I ask you to think above and beyond your average Father's Day gift this year. All of these men are unique and special in their own right. Try your hardest to purchase items this year that are truly catered to your specific father or husband that will be sure to have them all smiles on Father's Day!

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How We Started the Vegan Café

CO-FOUNDERS ALI AND CYNTHIA 'CC' SHARE THEIR INDEPENDANT JOURNEY AND JOINT VENTURE, THE VEGAN CAFÉ

ALI'S STORY

About 1989 my good friend, Akbar Harrison, introduced me to Vegetarianism. After that I married and started back eating meat and I had digestive problems, my eyesight started deteriorating, and I was plagued with fatigue. These conditions were a direct result of eating animal flesh.

In about year 2000 I began to eliminate foods from my dietary lifestyle. First, I eliminated Beef, then Chicken, Fish, then any animal products, refined sugars and refined flours. I didn't mention Pork because I had stopped consuming it long before my journey to Vegetarianism.

In 2001 I started volunteering at a local Black Owned Health Food Store to learn more about Vegetarianism and to learn how to prepare Vegetarian Foods. As time went on I became a member of the International Iridology Practitioners Association studying under Dr. Ellen T. Jensen, one of the leading Iridologists in the country. (Iridology is the study of the iris of the eye that can determine systemic conditions of the human body). At the same time I evolved into what is called a Vegan - a person who doesn't consume any animal products or animal by-products including honey.

Jack Yates Sr. High School is my Alma Mater and where I was employed through Communities In Schools which was housed inside of Jack Yates Sr. High School. In December 2008 I was falsely arrested by the HISD Police Department. Although I received notification in writing and all charges were eventually dropped by the District Attorney's Office of Harris County because of NO Evidence and NO probable cause, the damage had been done. I worked for Communities In Schools for over 10 years with a Masters Degree in Social Work (MSW). The Executive Director

of Communities In Schools, Cynthia Briggs, released me from employment in January 2009 and the charges were dropped in the Summer of 2009.

I took my severance pay as well as our refund money and my Wife and I started The Vegan Café in April 2009. We never looked back because we knew I was innocent and we kept going strong.

CYNTHIA "CC" 'S STORY



About 1992 and at 25 years of age I went to my Ob/GYN because my cycle lasted 11 days versus the "normal" 5 days and it didn't seem to be slowing down. My doctor told me to get back on my birth control pills and take 5 pills per day for 3 days to stop the bleeding. He also told me, in a matter-of-fact fashion, that I had the start of Cervical Cancer and would probably not have any children. That day I took the 5 birth control pills and immediately my whole left arm went numb. Now this happened periodically when I was taking birth control pills consistently for years, but the feeling was never as strong (it was never immediate that I can remember, and I never associated the two). Of course I didn't take any more of the birth control pills after taking the first 5.

The next day I went to see a local Iridologist/Herbalist that I had seen previously for my "Allergy" conditions and he prescribed certain herbs and the next day the bleeding stopped. He told me

that I needed to eat 100% Raw (Live) Foods for at least 30 days so that when my cycle came again, it would let me know if I needed to continue with the Raw Foods or not. At the same time my Mother decided she would do 30 days of Raw Foods with me because she wanted to rid herself naturally of Cysts that were in her Breast. We actually did about 45 days instead of just 30 days because we felt so good. We had a tremendous amount of energy, vision and brain clarity just to name a few positives of eating raw fruits and vegetables. We were also able to rid ourselves from the conditions that we had without surgery. After the 45 days I tried to eat certain animal products because I did not have enough recipes/knowledge to keep myself on the Raw Foods or to at least be Vegetarian. I also thought that I missed eating some of the animal product foods like Chicken, Turkey & Seafood so I did try to eat those foods and my symptoms of excess mucus, running nose, coughing and lack of bowel movements just to name a few came back immediately. I knew then that my body was much better off without the animal foods and that's when I started my journey of learning/cooking/eating as a Vegetarian.

My plan wasn't to become a Vegetarian it was only until I cleansed my body and then tried to put back in the foods that I was familiar with that I realized that those were the same foods that kept me "sick and tired of being sick and tired"! I have always liked to cook and bake so I was ready to experiment on doing just that without any eggs, butter, milk, cheese, refined sugars, Fish/Seafood, Chicken & Turkey. I had already stopped eating Pork about 1-2 years before and I rarely ate beef. We learned to put more focus on the foods we could eat instead of focusing on the short list of foods we couldn't eat. I read books and became more educated

about what animal foods do to the body like "Back to Eden" by Jethro Kloss, "Prescription for Healing" and a very small but powerful book called "What's Wrong With Eating Meat?", which is no longer in print. African American Authors like "Heal Thyself" by Queen Afua, "African Holistic Health" by Dr. Llaila Afrika were books that I read and referred back to over and over. Dr. Paul Goss is the founder of New Body Products, Author of books - The Natural Way Pamphlet (that describes the different herbs in the product line), Forever Young and Rebirth of Gods, was the most instrumental in my life at changing my eating habits. Raw Foods & New Body Products are the line of Herbs that helped rid me of Allergy problems and Cervical Cancer as well as the Cysts in my Mother's breast.

In 1992 I became a certified Iridologist and in June of 1994, I had a healthy baby boy. Later in 1994 I started working with the local Iridologist/Herbalist that studied under Dr. Goss, named Vergis Bourgeois. We started with a store with the New Body Products line, some health related books and conducting Wednesday Night Meetings. The meetings provided information on how to change eating habits in order to change the conditions of their bodies; A support group for some who may have been the only person in their families that ate as a Vegetarian especially having a group of people who looked like you made it very important to have the support of one another. The next year Debra Hunter started working at the store and we learned how to prepare other raw foods, about herbs of the New Body Product line and we started studying on our own about other herbs that were not part of the New Body Product line while Vergis worked his 9 to 5 job. In 1996 I had a healthy baby girl and

SEE VEGAN CAFÉ PAGE 25

Juneteenth On June 19, 1865, the Union General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, to inform inhabitants of the Civil War's end two months earlier. Two and a half years after Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, Granger's General Order Number 3 finally freed the last 250,000 slaves whose bondage. Due to the minimal Union troops to enforce it, the Order had little impact in Texas. However with the surrender of General Lee (April 1865) and Granger's regiment, the forces were able to overcome the resistance. And so, we celebrate June 19th or 'Juneteenth'.

DID YOU KNOW?

Nowhere in the annals of history has a people experienced such a long and traumatic ordeal as Africans during the Atlantic slave trade. Over the nearly four centuries of the slave—which continued until the end of Civil War—millions of African men, women, and children were savagely torn from their homeland, herded onto ships and dispersed all over the world. It has been estimated that between thirty and sixty million Africans were subjected to this horrendous triangular trade system and that only one third – if that – of those people survived...



DID YOU KNOW?

The average voyage took from five to twelve weeks, in sub-human conditions, without proper hygiene, adequate food and chained to others in close quarters.

Ironically, in nearly 150 years, it appears that little has change. Be it school closures, redistricting, Emancipation Park construction, elections, the MetroRail expansion, disaster preparedness plans, or modification of community resources, we don't find out until the moment is long gone and way after the point where our opinion and ability to impact the process is relevant. Freedom given is second to freedom earned; but it is freedom still the same. What should we do with physical freedom and how can we mentally be engaged and build—as did Jack Yates—meaningful legacies, institutions and resources that we can leave for future generations.

Juneteenth has become the African-American addendum to our national Independence Day, for, as Juneteenth jubilees remind us, the Emancipation Proclamation did not bring about emancipation, and the prevailing portrayal of Independence Day ignores the ignominious incidence of slavery entirely.

1980 EXPANSION + AL EDWARDS

On January 1, 1980, Juneteenth became an official state holiday through the dedicated efforts of State Legislator, Al Edwards. The successful passage of this bill marked Juneteenth as the first emancipation celebration granted official state recognition. Edwards has since actively sought to spread the observance of Juneteenth all across America—to the extent that Milwaukee and Minneapolis now host two of the largest Juneteenth celebrations in the nation.

HISTORY + EDUCATION
Juneteenth almost always focused on education and self improvement. Thus, prayer services, guest speakers and the elders are called upon to recount the events of the past.

FESTIVITIES + FOOD
Everyone prepared a special dish and certain foods became synonymous with Juneteenth celebrations such as strawberry

"I freed a thousand slaves, I could have freed a thousand more, if only they knew they were slaves." —Harriet Tubman

soda-pop and barbecuing. Hence, the barbecue pit is often the center of attention at celebrations.

A DAY TO CELEBRATE
Dress was important in early customs. During slavery there were laws on the books that prohibited or limited the dressing of the enslaved. During the initial days of the emancipation celebrations, there are accounts of former slaves tossing their ragged garments into the creeks and rivers to adorn clothing taken from the plantations belonging to their former 'masters'.

TRADITION + SOCIETY
In the early years, use of public property for the festivities was often barred. Most of the festivities found themselves either on Church grounds or out in rural areas around rivers and creeks that could provide for additional activities such as fishing, rodeos, baseball and horseback riding. Eventually, as African Americans became land owners, land was donated and dedicated for these festivities. One of the earliest documented land purchases in the name of Juneteenth was organized

by Rev. Jack Yates. This fund-raising effort yielded \$1000 and the purchase of Emancipation Park.

CELEBRATIONS DECLINE
Classroom and textbook education in lieu of traditional home and family-taught practices stifled the interest of the youth due to less emphasis and detail on the activities of former slaves. Textbooks proclaimed Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863 as the date signaling the ending of slavery - and little or nothing on the impact of General Granger's arrival on June 19th.

Additionally, the Depression forced many people off the farms and into the cities to find work. In these urban environments, employers were less eager to grant leaves to celebrate this date. Thus, unless June 19th fell on a weekend or holiday, there were very few participants available. July 4th was the already established Independence holiday and a rise in patriotism steered more toward this celebration.





By the President of the United States of America.

Whereas, On the Twenty-second day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, a Proclamation was issued by the President of the United States, containing, among other things the following, to wit:

"That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as Slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforth, and **FOREVER FREE**, and the EXECUTIVE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES, including the military and naval authorities thereof, will RECOGNIZE AND MAINTAIN THE FREEDOM of such persons, and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any effects they may make for their actual freedom.

"That the Executive will, on the first day of January aforesaid, by proclamation, designate the States and parts of States, if any, in which the people thereof respectively shall then be in rebellion against the United States, and the fact that any State, or the people thereof shall on that day be in good faith represented in the Congress of the United States by members chosen thereto at elections wherein a majority of the qualified voters of such State shall have participated, shall, in the absence of strong countervailing testimony be deemed conclusive evidence that such State and the people thereof are not then in rebellion against the United States."

Now, therefore, I, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, by virtue of the power in me vested as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States in time of actual armed Rebellion against the authority and government of the United States, and as a fit and necessary war measure for suppressing said Rebellion, do, on this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and in accordance with my purpose as to do, publicly proclaim for the full period of one hundred days from the day of the first above-mentioned order, and designate, as the States and parts of States wherein the people thereof respectively are this day in rebellion against the United States, the following, to wit: ARKANSAS, TEXAS, LOUISIANA (except the Parishes of St. Bernard, Plaquemine, Jefferson, St. John, St. Charles, St. James, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Martin, and Orleans, including the City of Orleans), MISSISSIPPI, ALABAMA, FLORIDA, GEORGIA, SOUTH CAROLINA, NORTH CAROLINA, AND VIRGINIA (except the forty-eight counties designated as West Virginia, and also the counties of Berkeley, Accomac, Northampton, Elizabeth City, York, Princess Ann, and Norfolk, including the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth), and which excepted parts are for the present left precisely as if this Proclamation were not issued.

And by virtue of the power and for the purpose aforesaid, I do order and declare that **ALL PERSONS HELD AS SLAVES** within said designated States and parts of States ARE, AND HENCEFORWARD **SHALL BE FREE!** and that the Executive Government of the United States, including the Military and Naval Authorities thereof, will RECOGNIZE AND MAINTAIN THE FREEDOM of said persons.

And I hereby enjoin upon the people so declared to be free, to abstain from all violence, UNLESS IN NECESSARY SELF-DEFENCE, and I recommend to them that in all cases, when allowed, they LABOR FAITHFULLY FOR REASONABLE WAGES.

And I further declare and make known that such persons of suitable condition will be received into the armed service of the United States, to garrison forts, positions, stations, and other places, and to man vessels of all sorts in said service.

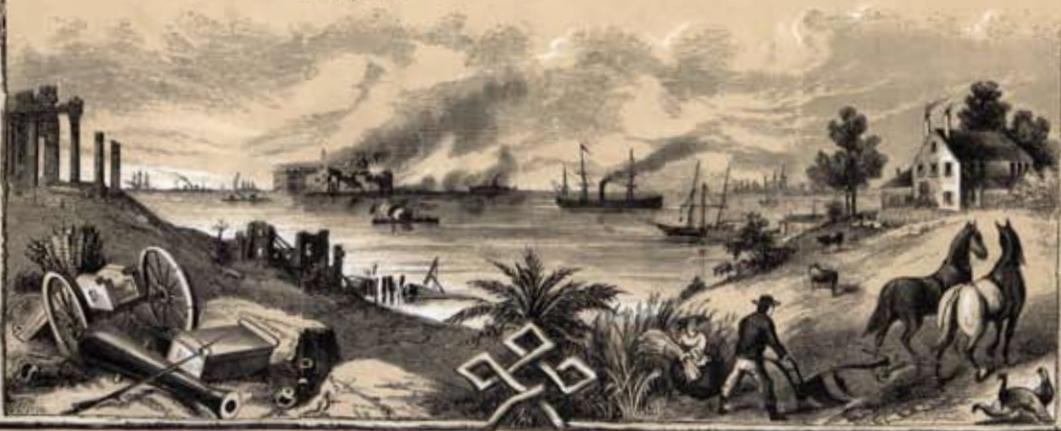
And upon this act, SINCERELY BELIEVED TO BE AN ACT OF JUSTICE, warranted by the Constitution, upon military necessity, I invoke the consideration of mankind, and the gracious favor of ALMIGHTY GOD.

In testimony whereof, I have caused my name, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed

[L. S.] Done at the CITY OF WASHINGTON, this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the eightieth.

By the President
William B. Sevens
 Secretary of State.

A. Lincoln



Like Father Like Son

**Fathers! Did you hear?
Did you know? Do you remember when?**

BY MICHAEL "BEAU" WILLIAMS

DID YOU HEAR?

The Justice Dept. says that 32% of black males born in 2001 can expect to spend time in prison over the course of their lifetime, 17.2% of Hispanics and 5.9% of whites born in 2001 are likely to end up in prison.

HYPERLINK "http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/piusp01.pdf"

Do you have kids? Do you have sons? Are your sons going to college, the streets, or prison? If you have sons and you have been incarcerated, the chances are greater that at least one of your sons will follow your footsteps into prison. If you graduated high school, the probability of your son graduating will increase. If you graduated with a degree, your son is likely to follow. Like Father Like Son. No, I do not have researchable proof. It just stands to reason.

DID YOU KNOW.....

that you can buy stock in the prison system? When our sons go to prison, somebody makes money. How ironic can America be? Land of the free, I doubt it. Any country that makes locking someone in prison profitable for the public has a sick way of thinking. When counties or states build prisons, they anticipate filling those cells to capacity. Empty cells mean less profit. The object of the process is to keep those cells full. Who is the most likely candidate to go to prison? See answer in a paragraph above.

DID YOU KNOW.....

that the prison system can predict how many cells they will need ten years from today? Well,



third graders tell them. If a third grader cannot read by the time he finishes third grade, he has a higher probability of dropping out of high school. And if your young man drops out of high school, he has a higher probability of being unemployed, committing a crime, and going through the prison system. And once he goes through the prison system, getting a job will be undeniably tough.

DO YOU REMEMBER....

ever hearing: History always repeats itself. Whether you have heard it before or not, read the book by Leo Baron Hicks--The New Cotton. You will have a better understanding of the words, history always repeats itself.

Slavery was shipped to America in chains, pains, and loss of life. African Americans today are being cuffed, locked up, and forgotten. Slavery as it was over 100 years ago has gone, but is history repeating itself today in America? America has only 5% of the world's population, but 25% of the world's prison population. Oh, one more statistic, African Americans make up only 12% America's population, however, African Americans make about 50% of the prison population.

History can bring a person, a race, or a country down to its knees. Education can bring a person, a race, or a country to its feet. An old African proverb says that it takes a village to raise a child. It takes a father to set a good example for a son. Fathers, get off of your knees, stand up and lead by example!



Michael 'Beau' Williams is an author and motivational speaker who believes that dressing for success is essential for young men and

women seeking to achieve their professional goals. Visit www.tiesrequired.com or 281-630-1487.

FREEDOM CONT...

RESURGENCE

The Civil Rights movement of the 50's and 60's yielded both positive and negative results for the Juneteenth celebrations. While it pulled many of the African American youth away and into the struggle for racial equality, many linked these struggles to the historical struggles of their ancestors. This was evidenced by student demonstrators involved in the Atlanta civil rights campaign in the early 1960's, whom wore Juneteenth freedom buttons. Again in 1968, Juneteenth received another strong resurgence through Poor Peoples March to Washington D.C.. Rev. Ralph Abernathy's call for people of all races, creeds, economic levels and professions to come to Washington to show support for the poor. Many of these attendees returned home and initiated Juneteenth celebrations in areas previously absent of such activity.

Today, institutions such as the Smithsonian, the Henry Ford Museum and others have begun sponsoring Juneteenth-centered activities. Respect and appreciation for all of our differences grow out of exposure and working together. Getting involved and supporting Juneteenth creates new bonds of friendship and understanding among us. This indeed, brightens our future - and that is the Spirit of Juneteenth.

Visit www.juneteenth.com or your local Houston Public Library to learn more.

*Intro by Caitlin Helfich (modified).
Editorial © Juneteenth.com ■*





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Why are we always late?

BY KARLA A. ROBINSON Independent Investment Advisor

In the midst of these huge statewide budget cuts, many educators and school employees are finding themselves in a huge dilemma, and my question is “why are we always late?” The writing has been on the wall for quite some time that our country would have to pay the piper and that means cutbacks, downsizing and less job opportunities, nationwide. This catastrophe was certainly avoidable, but because of greed on one party's part, and contentment, lack of education and participation from the other party, we find ourselves on the brink of losing our status as the Power Nation we once were. And Heaven forbid that we become a second or third world nation, which I personally don't believe we will, by the grace of God, what will become of us, our state jobs, pensions, and citizen services, not to mention the private markets? The Government and Wall Street can only do to us what we allow them to.

It is time for us to stop being late. You may ask your self “late for what?” Well, I'll tell you... we are late to find out and/or determine what information and actions are best for us. For example, we should scrutinize and hold our elected officials to higher standards, so that they can and will work for us and against any who oppose enforcing our rights. We did not show up at all in the mid-term elections, while those who are directly responsible for creating this mess showed up and showed out. Should someone's Lone Star card suddenly stop working and/or the recipient receives less than normal, due to the choices of our elected officials and our debt crisis, I can assure you that they will not be late for that appointment at the welfare office. Should someone's TRS check take more time to clear or reach their direct deposit, I'll bet you they won't be late calling and/or going to Austin to inquire “why and what's going on?” We need to become

more proactive than reactive. As a community of people who should love and care for one another, we should encourage everyone to keep up with and participate in issues that impact our lives, both now and for whatever amount of time our Heavenly Father allows us to exist on earth as we are.

I've had the honor of speaking with several teachers about how the changes within HISD have influenced their lives, and I'd like to share some of their dispositions in an effort of helping anyone who hears what we are saying.

Let's look at a school nurse who has 16 years of service with HISD and now her school has closed and no other schools are hiring. Furthermore, she never once took advantage of her TSA or tax sheltered annuities, thus there are no retirement or emergency funds there. She realizes that it's not smart for her to withdraw and/or rollover her funds built within her TRS, or Texas Retirement Systems pension account, because hopefully she'll find work with another organization who participates with TRS, and continue to build her future glorious retirement income and medical benefits. Keep in mind, she's been making at least \$50,000 a year for the last 5 to 6 years, but she felt quite secure with her expertise and employment status and has been spending every pretty penny. Even had she began saving just a few years ago when we saw that Governor Perry wasn't accepting any assistance from our President Barack Obama and the economy was beginning to pay the price for George W. Bush's administration's terrible choices, she could have had a nice financial cushion. We should have had some things on our minds when they brought in this new superintendent. We should have been

SEE FINANCIAL PREPAREDNESS PAGE 30

we soon after started getting packaged health foods in the store. We started shipping out herbs throughout the State of Texas and as well as other States and in 1999 I had another healthy baby boy. Debra and I managed the store when Vergis retired from his job while he traveled for seminars. We added a Vegetarian Deli and had packaged health food shipped in by a major health food distributor as well as many health related black owned products.

Fast forward to 2008, I had another healthy baby boy and my husband was laid off not too long after. We decided then that this was the perfect time to do what we like to do and what we had done before, prepare Vegetarian food for the community. As you can see throughout my story I have 4 children, had them cancer-free without surgery or toxic medicine. I had natural births and with my first he was born in a small hospital, the other three children I had Midwives - my 2nd and 3rd was born at home and my 4th was born at home in a birthing pool.

The Vegan Café was started April 13, 2009 inside of SHAPE Community Center that is located in the historical Third Ward District of Houston, Texas by husband and wife team Ali & Cynthia easier known as “CC” Muhammad. It was started because we as African American people need more healthy options when it comes to eating in our community.

The Vegan Café hours started off as being open only on Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays . In January 2010 we added Breakfast/Lunch 2 Saturdays per month. Then the fall of last year we added Tuesdays and Thursdays. We have seen our business grow through word-of-mouth. When we are able to afford major advertising we know that we will have to add staff and we welcome that opportunity.

Our hours are now MWF 11am-7pm; TU & TH 3pm-7pm; 2nd & 3rd SAT 12pm-4pm. At The Vegan Café we have the best Vegan Burgers and Vegan Desserts. We also have Homemade

SEE VEGAN CAFE PAGE 26

BEATING THE ODDS CONT.

here (and it's not May Walker, it's really not), it's these officers. I have some tremendous officers. People send in letters everyday saying that before you came in we didn't see any police.

And my jurisdiction overlaps with the Houston Police Department, and we have such a wonderful relationship. And the Houston

Police Department covers the entire area of the City of Houston. When they can't get to something, we get there right away. My area is smaller and I have a better response time than HPD, because HPD is so big. And we have a wonderful working relationship and the people are appreciative of it.

Tré: In closing, with some concluding remarks, as detailed in your biography, on your Precinct 7 Constable webpage, you walked many thorny

paths in the past, as you endured racial and gender discrimination, in hope that the next generation of minority and women officers would not have to suffer those same pains and injustices. Thank you for your service to Harris County, in general, and Third Ward, in particular. And, most important, thank you for never giving up or giving in to those past injustices, even though the odds against you, and those past wrongs upon you, might have appeared insurmountable during that time. ■

SugarHill Recording Studios in Houston. By the mid to late 1950s his prodigious output of quality recordings had gained him a following among African Americans and blues music aficionados.

In 1959 Hopkins was contacted by folklorist Mack McCormick who hoped to bring him to the attention of the broader musical audience which was caught up in the folk revival. McCormick presented Hopkins to integrated audiences first in Houston and then in California. Hopkins debuted at Carnegie Hall on October 14, 1960 appearing alongside Joan Baez and Pete Seeger performing the spiritual *Oh, Mary Don't You Weep*.

By the early 1960s Lightnin' Hopkins reputation as one of the most compelling blues performers was cemented. He had finally earned the success and recognition which were overdue. In 1968, Hopkins recorded the album *Free Form Patterns* backed by the rhythm section of psychedelic rock band the 13th Floor Elevators. Through the 1960s and into the 1970s Hopkins released one or sometimes two albums a year and toured, playing at major folk festivals and at folk clubs and on college campuses in the U.S. and internationally. He travelled widely in the United States, and overcame his fear of flying to join the 1964 American Folk Blues Festival; visit Germany and the Netherlands 13 years later; and play a six-city tour of Japan in 1978.

Filmmaker Les Blank captured the Texas troubadour's informal lifestyle most vividly in his acclaimed 1967 documentary, *The Blues Accordin' to Lightnin' Hopkins*.

Houston's poet-in-residence for 35 years, Hopkins recorded more albums than any other bluesman. Hopkins died of esophageal cancer in Houston in 1982 at the age of 69. A statue of Hopkins sits in Crockett, Texas.

STYLE

Hopkins' style was born from spending many hours playing informally without a backing band. His distinctive fingerstyle playing often included playing, in effect, bass, rhythm, lead, percussion, and vocals, all at the same time. He played both "alternating" and "monotonic" bass styles incorporating imaginative, often chromatic turnarounds and single note lead lines. Tapping or slapping the body of his guitar added rhythmic accompaniment. Much of Hopkins' music follows the standard 12-bar blues template but his phrasing was very free and loose. Many of his songs were in the talking blues style, but he was a powerful and confident singer. Lyrically his songs chronicled the problems of life in the segregated south, bad luck in love and other usual subjects of the blues idiom. He did however deal with these subjects with humor and good nature. Many of his songs are filled with double entendres and he was known for his humorous introductions. ■

VEGAN CAFÉ CONT.

Fresh Cut Fries/Sweet Potato Fries, Assorted Beans/Brown Rice and a revolving menu of other popular items like our Vegan Tacos, Vegan Chili Dogs and Vegan Chicken Salad. On the Saturdays that we are open we have a revolving menu of Vegan Pancakes, Vegan Sweet Potato Pancakes, Scrambled Tofu, Homemade Vegan Biscuits, Organic

Oatmeal, Vegan Sausage and we may even have Vegan Burgers, Vegan Chili Dogs and Soups. We make a Homemade Apple Pie, Vegan Chocolate Cake, Vegan Bean Pie and our Vegan Banana Muffins (with or without nuts) are so popular they're made almost every day! Slices of the treats are available on certain days but you can always order a Homemade Vegan treat with only 48 hours advance

notice and deposit. We make Smoothies as well as Green Smoothies, Dairy-Free Shakes and we will be coming soon with even more Vegan treats.

Our phone number is 832-891-0507 and email thevegancafe@yahoo.com.

The Vegan Café also prepares food for the children in SHAPE'S Afterschool Program and Summer Program. ■

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Calendar

THUR. MAY 26-MAY 29
MOTOWN IN THE PARK
 Miller Outdoor Theater-8pm

SAT. MAY 28
PAN AFRICAN CULTURAL FESTIVAL
 Family fun filled with food, Vendors and live entertainment. For more info 713-521-0641 or shape.org. "The After Party"-Tour Da Hood (Google Sista Creations for info) SHAPE Center, 3815 Live Oak, 10am until 8pm

FRI. JUNE 3
KHEPERA BOOK AND AFRIKAN ART STORE
 Grand Opening. 4822 Martin Luther King Blvd. 5pm-9pm

SAT. JUNE 4, 2011 (tentative)
VEGAN BAKING CLASS
 Cooking Classes and a Vegan Baking Class. Only \$30 per person by June 3rd or \$40 per person on June 4th. Some of the proceeds benefitting SHAPE. The Vegan Café 832-891-0507 thevegancafe@yahoo.com. SHAPE Center, 3815 Live Oak, 5pm-7pm.

SAT. JUNE 11, 2011
THE FIRST ANNUAL VEGFEST
 tentative
 Join The Vegan Café at Pecore Hall St. Stephens Church on Alabama St. (near Shepherd). VegFest is sponsored by The Vegan Society of Peace. For info call 832-3030-VEG or vegansocietyofpeace.org 10am-4pm.

SAT. JUNE 18
RECLAIMING THE VILLAGE
 Juneteenth and 1 Year Celebration of Tre' Magazine (Google Tre' Magazine for more info) SHAPE Center, 3815 Live Oak, 2pm-8pm.



SAT. JUNE 18
THE SET: A MUSICAL CELEBRATION
 Bring your musical instrument to "The Set" and join the tribute to Gil Scott Heron's great work. All are welcomed. Mr. Charles Washington. The Compound Art Gallery will host an evening of art and poetry with the "If These Doors Could Speak" project. Admission is \$5.00 or get in free with your instrument. TDH Compound Center, 2305 Wheeler, 7pm-11pm

JUNE 25, 2011 AT 7PM
EMANIAH SHINAR, HERBAL GODDESS & THE VEGAN CAFÉ
 A 70's Party to help raise funds for SHAPE Community Center. Can you dig it? The community is invited and encouraged to dress in their 70's fashions. There will be a Fashion Show, Vendors, 70's Music, 70's Movie Clips as well as a Costume Contest and more with only a \$5 admission fee with the proceeds benefitting SHAPE. For info call 832-891-0507 or Brandy 832-438-5700

JULY 2ND-JULY 4TH
SISTERHOOD CREATIONS CHILDREN'S ASSOCIATION 8 YEARS OF SERVICE CELEBRATION
 TDH Compound Center, 2305 Wheeler

JULY 2ND
TRUTH RIDE WITH TOUR DE HOOD. Join this community bike ride sponsored by Tour de Hood. The organization provides bicycles, helmets and healthy snacks. Ride departs at 8:30am. TDH Compound Center, 2305 Wheeler, Noon to midnight

ROOTS PARTY: A REGGAE SUMMER SPLASH. Sisterhood Creations Children's Association "Roots Party". Join as we get rooted in some culture at the compound. Enjoy a water play area for children, live musical performance by Wendy M. and Mr. Blaccsheep. Dj Kool Emdee will be playing Reggae all day long. FREE. TDH Compound Center, 2305 Wheeler, Noon to midnight

JULY 3
THE COMPOUND FILM FESTIVAL
 Come out and hear more about sustainability and coming off the grid. The film festival will feature 3 different films. Kick off at 2pm with guided tours with Dr. Reynolds. The movies begin at 9pm. TDH Compound Center, 2305 Wheeler, Noon to midnight

JULY 4TH
THE 4TH OF YOU LIE
 Come together to discuss and debate the lies that continue to plague our community. Discuss in small groups the information and begin to organize an active change within the community. 2-4pm Elders begin the discussion. 4-8pm Semi-open mic format 8-10pm Join a chop it up session 11pm The conversation & dialogue continues with music and poetry. TDH Compound Center, 2305 Wheeler, 2pm-11pm

JULY 23
GRANDE RODA (CAPOEIRA)



Grupo Kalunga N'golo cordially invites you to our third Grande Roda. All capoeiristas of various styles/backgrounds are welcome.

The Grande Roda is a free event meant to bring together capoeiristas in the region to interact through the jogo. It is meant to be a way of playing those you may not come into regular contact with, in an enjoyable atmosphere. For more info, contact Amaumeru at jacare722000@yahoo.com. SHAPE Center, 3815 Live Oak, 2pm-5pm.

EVERY TUE. & THUR.
HEALTHY MEAL FOR THE ELDERS
 Deloyd Parker, Executive Director of SHAPE, as well as volunteers prepare a healthy meal for the Elders that are part of EIW (Elders Institute of Wisdom). For info on EIW call SHAPE at 713-521-0641 or shape.org.

EVERY TUE. & THUR.
ZUMBA FITNESS
 Ade Olujemisi has a class for a small fee at SHAPE Community Center Live Oak Bldg. Call 713-962-0285 or rufit10@gmail.com

WED. & SAT.
CAPOIERA
 Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays call Nick for more information 832-310-5414.

BY APPOINTMENT
ACUPUNCTURE TREATMENTS
 at SHAPE Community Center Live Oak Bldg. at a community price call 832-885-0606 or anjelicabmolina@yahoo.com. Anjelica Benton-Molina

EVERY SATURDAY
YOGA IN THE PARK
 Peggy Park Alameda and Cleburne 10-11:30am

CONVERSATIONS IN AFRIKAN HISTORY
 Khepera Book and Afrikan Art Store (1:30pm-3pm) 1st Half

CONVERSATIONS IN AFRIKAN HISTORY
 Sunshine Health Food Store (3pm-4pm) 2ndHalf

EVERY THURSDAY (+ JUNE30)
RAW FOOD MEETUP AT THE COMPOUND



The purpose of this group is to educate, offer friendship and support, build community and EAT some really great food once a week. Please don't feel intimidated, everyone is welcome, no matter what your diet, health condition or reason for being here. BRING A RAW FOOD DISH (ENOUGH FOR 4-6) AND ENJOY A GREAT RAW MEAL WITH NEW FRIENDS. For more info contact: Imani at 713-894-9578 TDH Compound Center, 2305 Wheeler, 6pm-8pm

SUMMER CAMP WORKSHOP HOUSTON (WSH)
 Summer programs for students entering 6th through 8th grades. All programs are free. 3615 Sauer (btw Holman & Alabama). For more information call 713-807-7911 or contact@workshophouston.org. Online at workshophouston.org. Programs include: Beat Shop: make beats, lyrics & record Chopper Shop: learn welding Style Shop: sewing, printmaking, design Scholar Shop: Group readings, Tutoring and homework help Field Trips: Fridays Bike Shop: Come by and fix your own bike or work in the shop and earn a bike to keep!!!

Youth Camps



THE HOUSTON SUMMER COLLECTIVE COME BACK HOME TO S.H.A.P.E. OUR YOUTH
 The Houston Summer Collective members include four Houston inner city nonprofit organizations, SHAPE Community Center, SEHAH Youth and Fitness, Southside Community Center, and Sisterhood Creations Children's Center.

The Houston Summer Collective seeks to provide quality summer programming to our children through culturally enriching activities that will assist the student academically, physically and socially. Each member of the collective provides a full day summer camp for children and the collective collaborates to ensure that each child experiences a complete and enriching summer experience. The summer camp includes a weekly unity day in the park with all four organizations coming together in the park. The collective provides swimming and weekly swimming lessons. The children participate in art, African dance and drum and storytelling. Children are provided a free lunch provided by the City of Houston, summer lunch program. The organization currently operates the summer transportation for over 300 children with a transportation motor pool of 8 12 passenger vans. Spaces are limited. To sign-up or donate your time, services or other resources, please contact Imani at 713-894-9578 or Baba Shango 713-320-6362.

SUMMER CAMP MUSICAL THEATER & DANCE
 City Wide Center for the Performing and Visual Arts-CCPVA Summer Intensive Musical Theater and Dance Summer Camp June 8 - August 5 2011 Phone 713-521-0900 or cell 832-546-5910 www.ccpvausa.com or go to www.moshows.com. Instructor's include:

Ms. Lauren Anderson former principal dancer of the of the Houston Ballet- Classical Ballet, prima ballerina of the "Nutcracker and Swam Lake"; **Ms. Theara Ward** Principal Dancer of the Dance Theater of Harlem -New York City, Cassical Ballet, and Praise Director of Pastor Donnie McClurkin (Perfecting Faith Church-Long Island, New York); **Ms. Renee Robinson** Principal Dancer of the Alvin Ailey Dance Company, New York City Jazz and Modern; **Ms. Pamela Bouveland**- Children's Director of Dance 3-6 years of age; **Mr. Dwight Baxter** -Musical Theater and Jazz dance /Tap /Hip Hop/ Praise; **Ms. Kijani Wiseman**-Musical Theater-Voice Lessons; **Mr. Ranier** the King of Latin Dance Salsa and Ballroom.

SUMMER MUSICAL THEATER AND DANCE INTENSIVE
 Selected Classes in Ballet, Jazz, Musical Theater, and Salsa during the 5 day week at Texans YMCA MLK and Griggs

AGE GROUPS 3-5, 6-9, 10-14, 15-21. Levels Advance, Intermediate, and Beginners

DANCE AUDITIONS
 will be held for the Professional class in Theater and Dance; College students are welcome. Info. regarding auditions for our professional class for the serious-minded

student please call 713-521-0900.(ask for Ms Wiseman or Mr.Baxter) Classical Ballet, Jazz, Modern, Praise Dance, Hip -Hop, Musical Theater and Voice Lessons, Ballroom and Salsa.

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Summer camp all day Monday through Friday at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 5315 Main Street. Weekly music studio, and you can try it FREE at 10:30 am May 21 at Midtown Arts Center, 3414 LaBranch.

Contact: Ekanem Ebinne, Music Development Specialist Overture - Start the Music! www.overturekids.com 832-390-4010 facebook.com/overturekids



Exude Mystery, Not Suspense



Most people attest to liking challenges and in turn attempt to use that tactic to gain the undivided attention of the person they are dating. It is true that people enjoy being able to provide a pleasant finding

through the chase and enigmatic teasers. We are all unique and embody characteristics that can add joy and excitement to the observing individual we decide to include in our life. It is important to realize what characteristics you have so that you can be aware of what you are revealing as time spent is increased. When you are pleasantly surprising and presenting the unexpected, the person you are dating will stay entertained and intrigued. Both are positive aspects to keep the energy up between the two of you. The mystery of understanding and unfolding someone's personality is both sexy and enticing to one's soul. It is like a serendipitous journey with unexpected tricks and routes in which you never know what may be coming up next. The difference between mystery and suspense is the fear factor involved. Many suspense movies keep you at the edge of your seat with anticipation of the next scene that will unexpectedly appear and catch you off guard. When dating, you do not want suspense to guide your mate's thoughts to a

point where he or she becomes hesitant and uneasy of what you may do to promote the next uncomfortable moment and awkward interaction. Do not change who you are; but be mindful to disclose your rough, and possibly not so pleasant, characteristics subtly and at appropriate moments. (Note: it is for you to discern what is an appropriate moment) We all have quirks that are not necessarily deal breakers but at the same time, such qualities may not be the most desirable. Over time, your comfortableness will naturally allow you to present more of yourself to him or her. Work towards consistently opening up but not all at once. A flower starts as a bud and blossoms; depending on the care tendered to it, the lasting life of the bloom will vary. Similarly, relationships must be handled with care and detailed attention to even have the opportunity to entice with mystery. Allow the person you are dating to appreciate qualities individually, and allow him or her to gain excitement through the anticipation of what is to come in the next phase of dating discovery. Mystery comes in all attitudes and varying behavioral acts with surprising, yet hopefully delightful, revealing facts. You want to leave suspense out of your dating dictionary, and determine ways to slowly but surely unveil the fun facts of your blossoming personality.

Remember: Take your time with dating. Understand what, how, and when you are

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Come Be Fit introduces the 3rd Ward 30[®]

BY ADEPEJU OLUYEMIS

What began as a casual conversation by Jasmine C. Quinerly of G. K. Coleman & Sons Realty has been revolutionized and has become a wonderful way to reconnect, get fit and transform our community. The concept is simple, the impact...we'll you tell us.

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In addition to exercise workshops, measurements, weight goals/plans, below are some of the things that will also be explained, and possible resources to incorporate into your plans.

1. How to take heart rate/pulse. Highs/Lows
2. How to get blood sugar levels. Highs/Lows
3. Acupressure Points & every day use
4. Demo aerobics class

Come Be Fit will give a discount to individuals who sign up for the challenge, and also agree to hold a 1-day/weekly fitness session. We look forward to your participation and will see you at the Tré Anniversary event on June 18. Thank you in advance. ■

SEHAH

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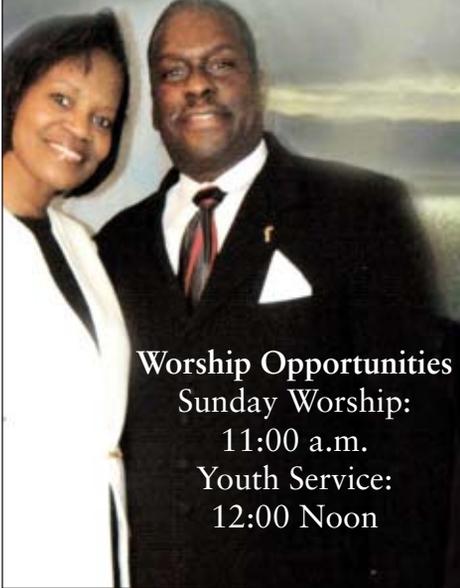
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South Side Breakfast 2011

September 15, 2011

December 1, 2011

South Union Church of Christ

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North Side Breakfast 2011

June 3, 2011

September 29, 2011

October 27, 2011

Greater Northside Baptist Church

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education – an education that changes their academic and life trajectories. Especially important are well-developed systems to recruit, train, and develop talented, diverse teachers and leaders.

Second-year corps member Tonyel Simon's fourth grade math and science classroom at Lockhart Elementary is a great example of strong instruction overcoming the challenges of poverty. Most of the students at Lockhart are people of color and close to 80% are economically disadvantaged. Tonyel is committed to setting high expectations and creating opportunities for students that invest them in their academic success and help them build toward a bright future.

Last year, Tonyel – who grew up here in Houston and graduated from Howard

University – had her students complete what they called the "Future Project." They calculated the cost of the lifestyle they wanted to lead and then determined the average salary for each level of educational attainment from high school dropout to doctorate degree. After seeing the impact a college degree would have on his earning potential, her oldest student in the class, who was nearly 13 in the fourth grade, said, "Man, I wasn't going to go to college at first, but now I have to go!" That same student earned a commended ranking on all of his state tests that spring after a year of very hard work, convincing him that he could accomplish whatever he set his mind to – including graduating from college.

Reference: The Effectiveness of "Teach for America" and Other Under-certified Teachers on Student Achievement: A Case of Harmful Public Policy by: Laczko-Kerr & Berliner (2002) ■

more involved in our local political structure and participating in community affairs that affects our way of life. Because they know that all sorts of information is available via the web and other sources, yet still many of us are choosing not to empower ourselves; they know they can continue to operate in a manner that is not in favor of the majority of Americans.

In the past many times we were late because the information just wasn't available to us. For example, 60 years ago no one came to our communities to discuss different options of saving for retirement, or investing; however, they did come by to sell those small life insurance and burial policies. Now keep in mind, the preponderance to succeed and or to be on time is certainly an individual journey and choice, but I've learned that the more access one has to good information, the more likely it is for one to make wise choices, all things being equal. That being said, now there are a plethora of sources for us to get educated, and obtain sound advice so that we're capacitated. Again I ask, "Why are we always late?"

There is another teacher whom I've had the privilege to speak with and not only was she diligent in taking advantage of the tax sheltered annuities, but she also worked with an advisor to develop a plan that is allowing her to transition from the downsizing of the district to finding employment with a university, who also participates in the TRS system, which allows her to continue to build her future glorious retirement income. She plans to continue to save in every type of account available to her because she realizes that making sacrifices now will enable her

to live well in her retirement years. She will not have to rely totally on her income from TRS, which is always less than what you earned while working. She has also gotten with a good local attorney along with her advisor to create a will, and power of attorney for financial and medical purposes. By the way, she did vote in mid-term elections! My question still remains "why are we always late?" As the events of life continue to unfold, we'd like to continue to educate you and share real life stories from your neighbors, friends, family and colleagues on what's happening and how you can be victorious and make savvy choices for you, your family and our community. Should you have any questions regarding this article, I can be reached at 713-376-9848 or krobinsom@tfamail.com. I host TRS workshops monthly at various locations throughout the city and would be more than happy to address any of your needs or concerns.

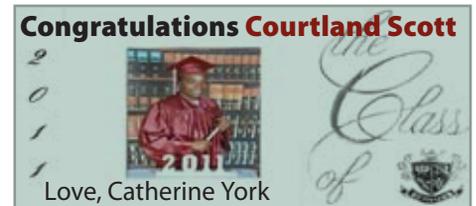
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DIMITRI W. FERRIER, JR.
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Dimitri Ferrier Jr. completed his early education in a number of different school districts before coming to the Hope Academy. He names history and psychology as his favorite subjects, and he plans to attend Texas Southern University and pursue a double major in psychology and Biology (Pre-Med). The Honor Roll student lists some of his favorite pastimes as writing, volunteering, and socializing with friends.

Ferrier has been active in Future Business Leaders of America, the Debate Team, the Theater Club, and marching and concert band activities. He is also a member of the National Honor Society and a mentor for at-risk youth at several community centers across the city. Ferrier was named Youth of the Month by the Stafford Boys & Girls Clubs and an Outstanding History Student at Yates. He has also been recognized for maintaining a perfect attendance record.

In the fall of 2011 I have decided to keep the family legacy alive and attend The Texas Southern University Honors College. I will also be in the J.A.M.P (Joint Admission Medical Program) to ensure I get into a good medical school. Scholarships/Grants: Texas Scholar - \$6,000, Office Depot Scholarship - \$1,000, 99cent Only Stores Scholarship - \$999.99, T.S.U Honors College (pending), Provost Award \$8,000 per Year

Graduation Ceremony was held at:
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 3015 North MacGregor Way ■

AND STILL HE STANDS TALL...

God's grace and peace upon this man is my prayer, and I pray that before the end of his term, people's hearts, minds, and eyes will open. There will never be another like him. May he lead and be guided in the way God would want him to lead and guide. He is not perfect and has never claimed to be. He and this whole country are in need of our prayers. It only takes a spark.

NO President has ever worked this hard for our country. Many wonder, does he ever sleep??

Only God can sustain such energy, knowledge, and person. Please let us form a powerful prayer chain around our President and his family and ask God to secure it with love, protection, mercy and grace. Amen.

Will you please join in this prayer.
Lord, We pray for optimum health, mental clarity and political prosperity for President Barack Obama. We pray that what he lacks in political 'experience' you make up for with supernatural wisdom and power. We also pray that when his enemies come upon him they will stumble and fall; and that your love will fill his heart to the end and that 'Your will' be done through him.
 Amen. ■



A Prayer for Texas

BY: DALLAS S. JONES



This morning I said a prayer for Texas. I honestly didn't know what else I

could do. In fact, it occurred to me that I probably should have started praying months ago, when the legislature started. Maybe it was my hope that reason would prevail, and surely our legislators would decipher what was in the best interests of the people of this state. Perhaps it was my hope that a common sense bi-partisan approach to governance would prevail and Texas would continue to be an example for the rest of the country.

But this morning was different. This morning I opened the newspaper and realized that our extreme ideological differences would bring about the misery of millions of

Texans from every walk of life. The 82nd Texas legislature will have a damaging effect on this state that will last decades. Sanctuary cities were the headline of the day. We decided yesterday to create a state where millions of our citizens could be stopped at a moment's notice and asked if they had the right to be called an American. Sanctuary city policies create an environment powered by racial profiling and a culture of fear. They have no place in this state.

Last week, the Texas Legislature decided to pass a redistricting plan that limited the voting rights of minority communities across the state. We decided to create a state where the voices of the majority of our citizenry would be drowned out by those of the minority. In the Texas House where the super majority lives they limit debate because they don't want to be proven wrong.

They reject intellectual discourse and replace it with an old-west style gun fight approach to law making. In one legislative session, we have found a way to limit or infringe upon the rights of women, the poor, children, ethnic minorities, and anyone that could use a hand up in this state.

We focus on these issues here in Texas to avoid talking about the real problems that we are facing. We would rather examine the idea of letting our children carry guns on their way to class, as opposed to ensuring they have books to read when they get there. We believe it's a bigger emergency to discuss the process by which a woman has an abortion, as opposed to insuring the children that are indigent in our communities can keep the health care they so desperately need.

I said a prayer for Texas because

Texas has lost its way. In the prayer I thanked my creator for sending champions that are fighting day in and out to prevent regressive public policies from driving our state into more of a hole. I prayed the majority of Texans in this state will understand that elections have consequences and unfortunately we will feel the effects of these for years to come. Texans are fighters, from Goliad to the Alamo; we have a tradition of fighting back against anything that would make our state less than Texas. I pray when the time to fight comes we can focus on the real enemies of this state. We can do better. Amen.

Dallas S. Jones is the CEO of Elite Change, LLC a public affairs and political consulting firm with offices in Houston and Washington, DC. He resides in Third Ward with his wife, Angela, and their dog, Ivy. ■

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