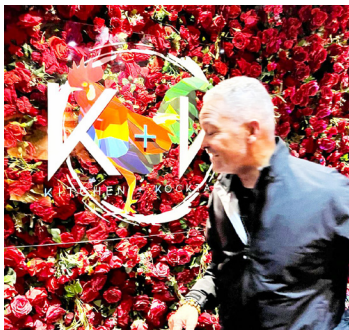




**MY TRUTH**  
By Cheryl Smith  
PUBLISHER

## Thanks Kitchen+Kocktails



Former NNPA Chair Cloves Campbell enjoys decor.

I am so proud of Kitchen+Kocktails By Kevin Kelley.

I was celebrating Black Press Week in the nation's capital, with the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) last week.



Current NNPA Chair, Bobby R. Henry, Sr shares food at Kitchen+Kocktails

What an exciting time. It was on March 16, 1827 when the first issue of Freedom's Journal was published — the first African American owned and operated newspaper in this country. The owners were John Brown Russworm and Samuel Cornish.

See MY TRUTH, page 9

# Taking care of Grandmother!

Texas Capital, Trinity Habitat for Humanity and History Maker Homes join Forces to Rebuild Home of Dr. Opal Lee, Grandmother of Juneteenth



Dr. Opal Lee  
Photo: DFW Video

**Special to Texas Metro News**

FORT WORTH, TX, - Texas Capital, Trinity Habitat for Humanity and HistoryMaker Homes have joined forces to rebuild the home of Dr. Opal Lee, the "Grandmother of Juneteenth."

The official Wall Raising Ceremony for her new home took place on Thursday, March 21, 2024, in Fort Worth, TX and is made possible through contributions from the Texas Capital

Foundation; the philanthropic arm of Texas Capital, HistoryMaker Homes and Trinity Habitat for Humanity.

As a young girl in 1939, Dr. Lee watched her family home burn to the ground. Never losing hope of someday owning her family's lot, Dr. Lee inquired about purchasing the lot from Trinity Habitat for Humanity, who generously gave it to her for \$10.

Texas Capital learned of the need to build Dr. Lee a new home and reached out to His-

toryMaker Homes, its longtime residential homebuilding partner, to propose involvement in this historic project.

To Dr. Lee's excitement, HistoryMaker Homes generously offered to build the home at no cost to Dr. Lee. Recently, she visited the HistoryMaker Homes design center where she selected all of the flooring, fixtures and lighting for her planned home.

Texas Capital Foundation is

See GRANDMOTHER!, page 6

## Maiden named Comerica Team Manager

**From Staff Reports**

Comerica Bank has named Tim Maiden Senior Vice President, Group Manager for its Southern Dallas Business Banking Team. He will report to Corey Bailey, Executive Vice President, Executive Director, Middle Market & Business Banking.

Maiden will lead a team of commercial bankers that deliver tailored solutions to middle-market and business banking clients across various industries. He will serve the southern sector of Dallas by cultivating key local relationships, finding access to capital solutions for underserved entrepreneurs and offer-

ing customized lending solutions that meet clients' specific needs.

"Tim is highly regarded in the banking industry and the Southern Dallas community," Bailey said. "He has fostered robust relationships in this largely underserved market, and his expertise in the footprint will be instrumental in leading Comerica as we continue to heighten our support for customers in the southern sector."

Maiden brings more than two decades of banking industry experience to Comerica. He has a proven



Tim Maiden

track record of driving sales, credit analysis, business banking, commercial real estate, and nonprofit lending. Previously, Maiden was a Senior Vice President, Director of Market Development for Simmons Bank. Prior to that, he was a Senior Vice President, Community Leader for Frost Bank.

He received his bachelor's degree in sociology and master's in economics and communications from Texas Christian University. He has been named a D Magazine "2020 Leadership Excellence: Small Non-

profit" honoree, Dallas Business Journal "2019 Minority Business Leader Award" honoree, and NAACP "President's Award Recipient" for the Dallas chapter, among many other achievements.

Additionally, Maiden has taught courses on credit analysis and business ethics at the University of North Texas - Dallas as an adjunct professor.

He co-founded the Maiden Foundation with his twin brother and serves as a board member and mentor for several nonprofit organizations that support youth empowerment, entrepreneurship and social services.

## Tommy's Girl opens couture hair house

Bold, beautiful and sophisticated....that's a Tommy's Girl! Luxurious hair enhancements, fashion and couture collide at Tommy's Girl Hair Co.

The first of its kind boutique celebrated its Grand Opening at the flagship location 6111 Greenville, Avenue, Dallas, TX, 75206.

Born out of the desire for the same high-end retail experience shoppers receive at top fashion houses like Ver-

sace, Chanel and Louis Vuitton, Tommy's Girl provides upper echelon customer service that aligns with the clients' investments in looking their absolute best!

Quality human hair enhancements can cost thousands of dollars to achieve a natural and effortlessly beautiful appearance.

Tommy's Girl expert stylists work with clients to ensure their expectations are exceeded with each visit and

deliver unique hair experiences tailored to each clients' needs, fashion sense and personal style.

"Tommy's Girl is an elevated hair shopping experience," says model and social media influencer Anita Hawkins. "They have raised the standards and completely redefined the industry. The diversity in their products creates the opportunity for every



Anita Hawkins, Tommy's Girl Spokesmodel

See TOMMY'S GIRL, page 11

# DLCC Unveils Ambitious “Multi-Cycle” Strategy for Long-Term Democratic Dominance

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire

The Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee (DLCC) on Monday, Feb. 26, revealed an expansive strategy memo, charting a multifaceted plan to venture into historically Republican strongholds and solidify Democratic power over the next decade. Departing from the typical focus on immediate elections, Democrats are now adopting a forward-thinking approach to counter the historical trend of losing gains in subsequent cycles.

Distinguishing itself as the sole party committee investing in multi-cycle victories, the DLCC said it aims to tackle this challenge head-on. Officials said the strategy is to secure immediate electoral triumphs and establish a lasting infrastructure that will fortify Democratic influence for years to come. Investments made in 2024 will lay the foundation to claim the majority in state legislatures throughout the decade, officials declared.

The DLCC stressed the urgency of countering the Republicans’ successful long-term game, citing underhanded tactics, gerryman-

dering, and substantial financial investments that have consistently allowed them to dominate state legislatures. To thwart these efforts, the DLCC advocates for significant resources, investments, and a clear strategy for sustained power.

The DLCC also asserted its capability to secure immediate electoral gains while strategically building Democratic power over multiple election cycles. Officials pointed to recent elections reflecting this approach’s success, with state Democrats now controlling 41 of the 99 state legislative chambers, marking a significant shift in political power.

As the DLCC gears up for the 2024 cycle with its largest-ever \$60 million budget, officials outlined a bold, evidence-based plan to achieve majority control in 50 chambers by 2030. The multifaceted strategy includes:

- Breaking Republican supermajorities.
- Expanding into traditionally Republican territory.
- Setting the stage for new Democratic trifectas.
- Combating gerrymandering.
- Tracking other races that influence power balances.

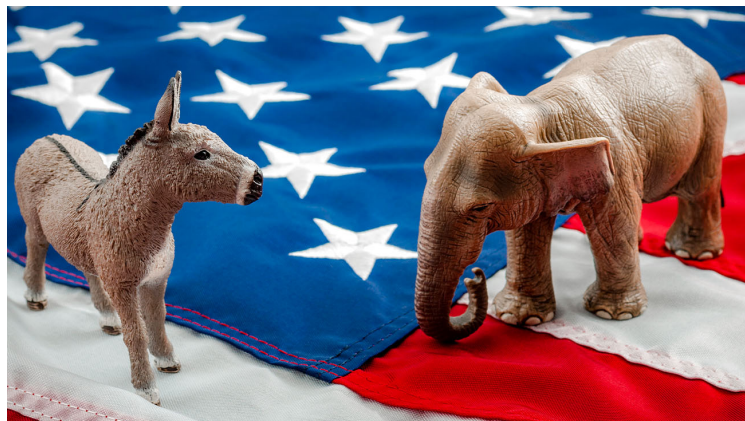


Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA

- Taking advantage of special elections.

Specifically, the DLCC’s multi-cycle strategy targets states like Kansas, North Carolina, and Wisconsin to break or prevent Republican supermajorities. The committee has already invested in Wisconsin and North Carolina as part of its battleground initiatives. Additionally, the DLCC aims to gradually chip away at Republican trifectas in states like Georgia, which is identified as a prime location for political change in 2024.

The DLCC stressed the importance of holding key seats in states that don’t align gubernatorial and legislative elections in the same year. This strategic move allows Demo-

crats to establish governing trifectas over multiple cycles. With half of its Senate seats up for election in 2024, Pennsylvania serves as a crucial target for the DLCC, aiming to secure a trifecta in 2026 alongside a competitive gubernatorial race.

Moreover, the DLCC underscored its commitment to combating Republican gerrymandering by supporting efforts for representative maps that accurately reflect the diversity of districts and states. The committee also expanded its focus to include races that impact the balance of power in state legislatures, such as state supreme court seats, lieutenant governorships, and ballot initiatives.

The DLCC highlighted the sig-

nificance of its multi-cycle strategy, emphasizing that it goes beyond single election cycles. Special elections, offering critical opportunities to expand Democratic power incrementally, were highlighted as a key aspect of the strategy.

“With new redistricting maps decided by 2030 elections and in order to fundamentally transform the balance of power in states, we need a long-term strategy to break into territory that Republicans have long dominated,” DLCC President Heather Williams said in an email. “That’s exactly what this plan does. The DLCC is the only party committee tasked with working cycle over cycle to build Democratic power in state legislatures. Our 2024 target map includes states like Kansas, North Carolina, Georgia, and Wisconsin – states where we must build infrastructure and position Democrats to gradually chip away at Republican power. 2024 is the year of the states, and what happens this year will shape the arc of Democratic power in the states for the decade. Today, Republicans have been put on notice that the DLCC has the plan to win not only the year, but also the decade and decades to come.”

## Under the Biden-Harris Save Plan \$138 Billion Loan Debt Canceled



The Biden-Harris administration on February 21, 2024, announced the cancellation of more than \$1 billion in student loans debt for over 150,000 additional borrowers across the country. This move brings the debt relief total to \$138 billion for nearly 4 million Americans.

Delivering on his promises, the president on day one has taken action on the student loan crisis. The Supreme Court has done everything to stop and prevent student borrowers from receiving loan forgiveness, but Biden refused to take no for an answer.

There is a crisis in America and many residents were not able to buy a home or take a vacation. President Biden and Vice President Harris are focused on working to alleviate the crushing burden of student loans to rob Peter to pay Paul. As the interest rates continue to grow, you take one step forward and two backward. With the new SAVE plan from Biden’s administration lives are being changed, and some Americans are able to breathe again.

The Biden-Harris Administration believes that education beyond high school will unlock doors to opportunity. Biden and Harris have been working to fix the broken student loan system, and make college more affordable. On August 22, 2023, the administration announced the official launch of, “The Saving on a Valuable Education (SAVE) plan.”

This is the most affordable repayment plan ever created for college/university students. The SAVE plan is an income-driven repayment (IDR) plan that calculates payments based on a borrower’s income and family size. The SAVE plan will cut many borrowers’ monthly payments to zero and will save other borrowers around \$1,000 per year. It will also prevent balances from growing because of unpaid interest and will get more borrowers closer to forgiveness faster.

The Administration estimates that over 20 million borrowers could benefit from the SAVE plan. “Today I’m proud to announce a new program called the SAVE plan. It’s the most affordable student loan plan ever. Borrowers can sign up by visiting StudentAid.gov/Save,” says President Biden.

The SAVE plan will cut payments on undergraduate loans in

half. Borrowers with undergraduate loans will have their payments reduced from 10% to 5% of their discretionary income. Those who have undergraduate and graduate loans will pay a weighted average between 5% and 10% of their income based upon the original principal balances of their loan.

This is very complicated and many Americans and especially Black people don’t know the SAVE program exist. The Biden-Harris administration has done a poor job, getting the information to the masses of undergraduate, graduate students.

Many Americans don’t know that the Biden team across the country has brought the debt relief to a total of \$138 billion for nearly 4 million students. This should be a major news story for the news media, and the SAVE plan and cancel student debt should be one of Biden’s ma-

major accomplishments. Millions of Americans are free from student loan debt, because of President Biden.

Many of these people took out loans less than \$12,000 and have been paying them back for more than a decade. No one making less than about \$15.00 per hour should be required to make a student loan payment, and if you find yourself struggling to make a payment, communicate with your loan service.

Remember there are 43.6 million borrowers who owe a collective \$1.77 trillion, for money they borrowed to go to school. Stay ahead and create a plan that works for you, your family and your budget.

**Roger Caldwell, On Point Media Group, a marketing and public relations firm. Graduate of Howard University, author, political writer, businessman.**

# What Dallas' \$1.25 billion bond program covers

*Early voting starts April 22 for the May 4 election. The city hasn't yet released a final list of projects planned to be paid for with the bond money.*

By **Everton Bailey Jr.**

Almost a month before Dallas voters can begin casting early ballots for or against a \$1.25 billion bond program, they still don't have a final list of projects the bond money could cover.

Dallas city officials had said they planned to make the full project list available by the end of February. But it remains unknown when the itemized list of streets, parks, housing projects and other infrastructure upgrades will be made public. Early voting is April 22-30, and election day is May 4.

Jennifer Nicewander, director of the city's bond and construction management office, and Robert Perez, an assistant city manager who oversees the bond office and other city infrastructure and transportation-related departments, didn't respond to requests for comment Monday about when the list would be public. Perez told the City Council in February that the goal was to have the list finalized by the end of that month.

City officials had planned to host town hall meetings to educate voters about the bond plans ahead of the election, but they have scrapped those plans.

In a March 8 memo to the City Council, Perez said the city-sanctioned meetings were being canceled after hearing from the city attorney's office. The office did not order that the meetings to be canceled, but said state law prohibits public money from being used for political advertising or

for communications that could likely influence a voter's decision.

"Any informational townhall meetings would be restricted to the ballot language, proposition description, proposition amount and the payback amount for that proposition with no reference to individual projects," Perez's memo said. "As a result of the project listing discussion restriction, the informational town halls for the 2024 bond program have been cancelled."

City Attorney Tammy Palomino explained in a Feb. 14 memo to the City Council and other officials that state law bans public resources from being used to advocate for the passage or failure of a ballot measure. She said the law was not intended to prevent city councils from discussing whether to place a bond measure on the ballot, but does not make clear what other types of uses are allowed beyond that.

"And, because the election code is silent as to when use of public resources to advocate on behalf of a measure, or a potential measure, are impermissible, our office cautions against any use of public resources at any time to advocate on behalf of or in opposition to an item that could become a measure on an upcoming ballot," Palomino's memo said.

The brunt of educating voters about the \$1.25 billion bond program could fall to a privately-funded campaign launched in support of the propositions. A political action committee called 2024 Dallas Bond Campaign has



An aerial view of downtown Dallas

Photo: Smiley N. Pool / Staff Photographer

registered with the Texas Ethics Commission but has not yet reported details about its funding or donors.

Attorney Tim Powers, a former chair of the city's ethics advisory commission who now co-chairs the bond campaign, said the group is planning a public outreach effort that will include mailers, social media posts, yard signage and a website. He said he believes the group will have a "broad coalition of supporters," will aim to raise about \$1 million for the campaign and has raised about half that amount.

"We have a very narrow window of time, but we think we have an appropriate window of time to get the message out that we need to get out," Powers said. "We're not aware that there's any organized opposition. But we hope we're clear enough with what we're able to communicate to convince everybody to support this for the long-term best interest of Dallas."

Dallas voters will be asked to approve 10 propositions in the election that would allow the city to borrow a total of \$1.25 billion for improvements to roads, parks and libraries, as well as other projects focused on housing infrastructure, homelessness, public safety and cultural arts facilities, flood protection and storm draining, economic development and city information technology.

The biggest chunk of bond money, more than \$521 million, will go to street- and transportation-related projects, followed by almost \$346 million for park and recreation projects and \$90 million for police and fire facilities.

Powers said he believed the full project list will be available by next week. He said the campaign is working with several civic organizations and has the endorsements of Mayor Eric Johnson and four past mayors: Mike Rawlings, Tom Leppert, Laura Miller and Ron Kirk.

"I think if we do a real concentrated effort in the three to three and a half weeks before people start voting, we should be able to get a reasonably good turnout," Powers said. "Of course, we do have that concern that it will be a low turnout. We don't have a concern that each of the ten propositions will pass."

Arun Agarwal, who chaired the community bond task force, as well as the park and recreation board, said he doesn't think the public is missing out without the city-run informational bond sessions. He said the bond task force did community outreach last year about the bond program.

"It would be redundant and only bring people who are not agreeing, and there'll always be some people who don't agree," he said.

The May 4 election will be the fourth time that Dallas voters have weighed in on a city bond election over the last two decades. Voters have approved the last three capital bond programs — \$1.35 billion in 2006, \$642 million in 2012 and \$1.05 billion in 2017.

*Everton Bailey Jr. covers Dallas city government. He joined The Dallas Morning News in November 2020 after previously working for The Oregonian and The Associated Press in Hartford, Conn.*

This story, originally published in *The Dallas Morning News*, is reprinted as part of a collaborative partnership between *The Dallas Morning News* and *Texas Metro News*. The partnership seeks to boost coverage of Dallas' communities of color, particularly in southern Dallas.

## Boys & Girls Clubs of Collin County, Comerica Bank to Host Prom Dress Shopping Event

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Collin County in partnership with Comerica Bank will host a prom dress shopping event from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday, March 23 at the Boys & Girls Clubs' Plano branch (1111 H Avenue; Plano, Texas 75074).

All Collin County area teens, who need assistance attending prom, are welcome.

Six Dallas-area Comerica banking centers collected 380 new or gently used, formal

dresses as well as accessories from fellow colleagues, customers and the community last month, benefiting new partner the Boys & Girls Club of Collin County, Dallas CASA and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Dallas.

Overall, Comerica has donated 6,590 dresses to these organizations and other community partners in the last nine years.

This year's prom dress drive season will conclude with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Collin

County's prom shopping event.

Members of Comerica's North Texas Women's Forum will assist with the event, helping club members and other Collin County area teens make their prom dreams come true.

In honor of Comerica's 175th anniversary, the bank has partnered with Project Beauty to provide one teen from each benefitting nonprofit with a complimentary makeover (full hair and makeup), a \$175 value/per teen, on the night of

their respective proms.

Project Beauty also donated 60 dresses to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Collin County from its annual prom dress drive in partners Legacy West.

In addition, Project Beauty also is providing Thrive Causemetics swag bags to teens at next Saturday's event.

Project Beauty's mission is to spread empowerment through the universal language of beauty by helping women build confidence, hope and provide

support and encouragement for each other.

**WHO:** Collin County Area Teens, including Boys & Girls Clubs of Collin County Members

**WHAT:** Boys & Girls Clubs of Collin County Prom Dress Shopping Event

**WHEN:** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, March 23

**WHERE:** Boys & Girls Clubs of Collin County - Plano Branch 1111 H Avenue; Plano, Texas 75074

# Killing God Ain't Funny!

**QUIT  
PLAYIN'**


By Vincent L. Hall

The Dallas Morning News headline that waylaid me wasn't funny at all. It read: "Defeated Republican calls Texas state government 'the most corrupt ever! He calls Gov. Greg Abbott a liar and blames two billionaires who, he says, control the state.'"

It was a revelation from an unexpected source that threw me. Suddenly, all I could think about was Pastor Joel Osteen of Houston.

So, let me introduce this thesis the way Osteen jump-starts a sermon. "I like to start off with something funny."

It works so well for him that I decided to try the artful mechanism.

Like Joel's jokes, you have probably heard it, but humor me anyway. Laugh with me, because the state of the State of Texas is bad enough to make God cry. (Remember John 11:35 Jesus wept?)

"Three preachers were driving down the road when they missed a turn and went into the ditch. As they pulled themselves together,

a drunk pulled up and asked if they were all right.

"Oh, yes, Jesus is with us," one replied.

The drunk thought that over for a minute. He looked around and said, "Well, you'd better let him get in with me; you're going to kill him!"

God is still alive, but the national Republican Party is trying its best to kill him, and Texas leads the nation in attempts.

Listen to the News' opening.

"After his stunning defeat in the recent Republican primary, State Rep. Glenn Rogers, R-Graford unloaded on the corruption of Texas government that reaches, he says, to "the highest level."

In a post-election column, he submitted to newspapers in his House district, Rogers, headlined it with an obscure quote from Davy Crockett — "I'll wear no man's collar."

History will prove Gov. Abbott is a liar," wrote the man who represents Palo Pinto, Parker, and Stephens counties.

He continued, "Our current state government is the most corrupt ever and is bought by a few radical billionaires seeking to destroy public education" and also "create a theocracy."

Bebe Moore Campbell wrote a bestselling book in 1995 entitled "Your Blues ain't like Mine." A "di-



vine" extrapolation of her thesis could imply that "Your God ain't like Mine."

Sadly, Texas Republicans and Trump acolytes talking about God today, but it doesn't sound like the God I know.

Far too many of our parents are oblivious to the influx of money and a barrage of lies and innuendos targeting the public school

system as we know it. Rogers exposed the fact that it was being bankrolled by two Texas billionaires, but that's not all of it.

The whole idea of "school choice and vouchers" are veiled but virulent attempts at a "hostile takeover." There are trillions of dollars in profit to be made by wresting power from the public-school districts as we know them today.

The bloated, bigoted, and bottomless 1%ers have little shame and even less interest in educating your children.

One of the question-and-answer exchanges should attract your attention and engage your curiosity.

**Q:** You wrote that aside from privatizing public schools, the billionaires want to turn America into a theocracy.

**A:** Rogers: Lord knows we need God today with all the problems we have. But we don't need these radical Christian nationalists' beliefs that are really dangerous

to democracy and religious freedom.

You could make the conjecture that the Christian nationals want to return to the homogenous, segregated schools of the old South, and that is partly true. You could also argue that they want to erase all the signs and sins of "White" history, and that is reasonable.

The big-business billionaires who showed their hand during the Trump administration are no less determined to "privatize" education and cash in on the windfall.

Former U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos didn't just stop leading the charge for these bloodsuckers when she left office. This group of educational carpetbaggers and "White Jesus" pimps are still at it.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Glenn Rogers for pointing toward the filth that Texas Republicans try to keep swept under the capitol rug.

I'm not sure who their God is, but they are going to kill our God if we don't stop them.

Y'all better Quit Playin'! Not even Joel Osteen can find a joke for this crowd!

*A long-time Texas Metro News columnist, Dallas native Vincent L. Hall is an author, writer, award-winning writer, and a lifelong Drapetomaniac.*


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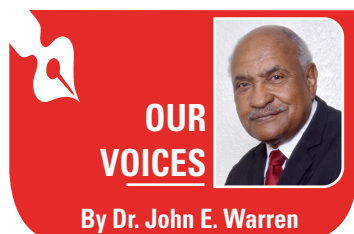
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## An Opportunity to Stop the Hate: Lent and Ramadan



By Dr. John E. Warren

We, the citizens of the United States of America, as well as our fellow citizens of the world, are living in a period of unprecedented conflict. While the word "hatred" is rarely used or mentioned, it is the source of the worst among us toward others. In this country, founded upon the melting pot idea that there is room for everyone, we find people continuing to be attacked based on their race, color, religion, nationality and appearance. It is timely that two of the world's greatest religions would intersect this month with a shared idea that for ages has been the solution to hate and its destruction.

The Christian observance of Lent and the Muslim observance of Ramadan are intersecting with a shared religious practice known as "fasting". The Christian observance calls for giving up certain foods or practices for a 40 day period as a symbolic sharing with Christ in his suffering. Lent is calculated based on the spring equinox.

Ramadan falls on the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, which follows a lunar cycle. As a result, the dates for Ramadan change every year, and the period of fasting is for one month. Muslims fast from dawn until sunset for the entire month. The fast is broken each evening with a meal called "iftar". Fasting is one of the five Pillars of Islam, which are the foundations of Muslim life. Christian fasting in contrast, as established by the Catholic Church, leads up to Easter which celebrates the Crucifixion

and Resurrection of Christ.

The importance of this discussion rests with the fact that the concept of fasting in both religions is to bring one closer to God. For the Christian, prayer and self denial during this period seeks to draw one closer to God by reflecting on one's life and conduct in regards to others. Muslims believe that Ramadan is a time of heightened spirituality during which they can purify their souls and seek forgiveness for their sins.

It sounds like this is a good time for all of America to engage in some prayer and fasting for a nation at odds with itself and for a people engaged in hatred and violence against others. What greater way to stop the hate than through prayer and fasting, regardless as to whether one is Christian or Muslim or any other faith. The concept of fasting with both religions appears to be in line with the scripture

from the Bible in 2 Chronicles 7:14

We as a nation have an opportunity during this period to set in motion the healing we all so desperately need. Prayer and Fasting have changed the course of individuals, people and nations and it is not too late for us. Let's get about the business of Stopping The Hate.

This resource is supported in whole or in part by funding provided by the State of California, administered by the California State Library in partnership with the California Department of Social Services and the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs as part of the Stop the Hate program. To report a hate incident or hate crime and get support, go to <https://www.cavshate.org/>

*Dr. John E. Warren is publisher of The San Diego Voice and Viewpoint.*

# Using Dynamite has Consequences



When I was a child, my mom would always warn me about blowing up bridges that I may need to cross later. I didn't quite understand what she meant but as an adult, I get it. In a nutshell, these quotes were life lessons, they are nuggets of wisdom. I interpret this one to mean that if you treat relationships poorly, you may need them later and can't go back.

Some bridges are not meant to be utilized. If you decide to take a route you were never supposed to take, it's not fair to leave damage behind either. You made a decision that didn't work for you but you've now made it difficult for the next person who may need that route to their destiny. The next

person is suffering the consequences of a bad decision made by someone else.

Some bridges may not be a part of your journey now because you may believe they can not support you. You believe you deserve to take a much more established route. Yet, as that bridge is fortified, it becomes stronger and sturdier. There will come a time when you may need that support and the bridge has become a thoroughfare for others but has no room for you.

Relationships are a form of currency. So many people are not mindful of how relationships are like a bank account. You must make deposits by the way you care for and grow relationships. It's work. You can also deplete your account with others by making too many withdrawals. So many of us are dealing with collateral damage by others because of previous relationships that did not care for the person's heart well.

You don't have to like everyone but treat people the way you want to be treated. "Here is a simple, rule-of-thumb guide for behavior: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you, then grab the initiative and do it for them. Add up God's Law and Prophets and this is what you get." (Matthew 7:12 MSG)

Bridges connect to expressways. You could be delaying your progress due to traveling life's roads haphazardly. It's important to make sure that you steward relationships well. You never know when you might need assistance. You could be missing your destiny helpers because you have dismissed or ignored them.

We spend so much time focusing on money but it does not exist in isolation. Money and resources are connected to relationships. You don't have a money problem—you have a relationship problem because you are not in a community with individuals who can give

you information or connections to help you.

We often equate blessings with financial rewards but that's a narrow perspective. People can be a blessing to our lives and we can miss so many opportunities to change our trajectory if we only treat people with kindness and respect. God doesn't just expect us to steward money. God expects us to care for people well. We want the financial blessing but we don't realize that if we are not faithful in our dealings with others, we limit our possibilities.

This scripture is often applied to money but I believe it is applicable in our relationships. Matthew 25:23 says, "His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'" How can God bless us with more people to help us along the way to reach our destiny when we do not value the

ones currently on our path? We are missing the joy of the Lord and the increase because we have not been faithful in what we've been given.

Remember, your destiny is connected to others. We need to treat people well if they are CEOs or custodians. The Bible is clear: "God plays no favorites! It makes no difference who you are or where you're from." (Acts 10:34-36 MSG) We need to adopt this mindset as well in our interactions.

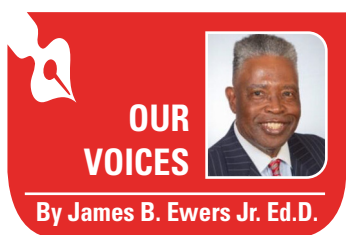
This African proverb sums it up: If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.

People need People.

Blowing up bridges can create a lot of damage.

*Dr. Froswa' Booker-Drew is the President of Soulstice Consultancy, LLC and the Founder of the Reconciliation and Restoration (r2fdn.org) Foundation. The author of 4 books including Empowering Charity: A New Narrative of Philanthropy, Dr. Booker-Drew is also the host of the Tapestry Podcast.*

# Get Ready for Presidential Showdown



Some years back, there was a popular R&B group, Archie Bell and The Drells from Houston, TX. One of their hit songs was, "Gonna be A Showdown."

The lyrics were, "hey, hey there's gonna be a showdown. Hey, hey there's gonna be a showdown, showdown, oh yeah."

If you are in the 4th quarter of your life, you danced to this record.

In a strange, yet telling way, we may be hearing this tune a lot in the coming weeks and months. It won't be in a club, but it might be a part of a political commercial.

Simply put, there is going to be a showdown for the presidency of the United States of America.

The primary campaigning for the Democrats and the Republicans is over. Independents are

still trying to find their way. How they influence election results is going to be a major issue in November.

We know with certainty that President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump will be the candidates for the Democratic Party and the Republican Party respectively.

Super Tuesday unfortunately sealed the fate of Nikki Haley. Money and time were her enemies, so she suspended her campaign on Wednesday, March 6th.

From the onset, former South Carolina Governor Haley was running an uphill race. Her message was anti-Trump however it did not resonate with most Republican voters. The miracle win that she needed never happened. The handwriting on the wall became clearer as she was defeated in her home state.

She did win the state of Vermont, however it was too little, too late. As her supporters cheered for her as she made her exit speech, she did not endorse Mr. Trump.

Reports say that 79% of Haley's voters say they would be dissatisfied if Trump was the nominee.

So, it begs the question, what will become of those voters who chose Nikki Haley?

***The November election will be one for the history books.  
Grover Cleveland is the only US president to lose an election  
and then return to the office four years later.***

The Biden campaign says there is a place for them in his campaign. It is my thinking there will be some who vote for President Biden while others may vote for Mr. Trump.

There are critics and pundits lining up to say that the former president is not as popular with independent voters.

In a recent Quinnipiac University poll, it showed Biden with a small lead over Trump.

People of color and women will also play a pivotal role in who becomes the next president. A group of undecided Black voters in North Carolina said they

were not happy with either candidate.

A resident of the state said, "I feel like it's a lesser of two evils. It's either a politician who is making attempts to do things for the entire country, or someone

that the Republican Party is now his party.

However, there are some factors that may derail his bid to become president. Voters will have to decide how his legal problems will impact his bid to become president.

Being in and out of court is a clear and present danger. Can he run the country and be in court at the same time?

The November election will be one for the history books. Grover Cleveland is the only US president to lose an election and then return to the office four years later.

*Dr. James B. Ewers, Jr. is a long-time educator who hails from Winston Salem, N.C. One of the top tennis players in the state, he was inducted into the Black Tennis Hall of Fame in January 2021. A graduate of Johnson C. Smith University, he received his M. A. degree in Education from Catholic University in Washington, DC, and Ed. D. degree in Education from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, MA. He has also done post-doctoral studies at Harvard University and Ewers is a life member of the NAACP and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.*

# Biden's Walk Can Beat Trump's Talk



Spoiler alert! Donald Trump will be allowed to remain on the ballot this fall.

One way or another, the Supreme Court is going to decide that a state cannot remove Trump from ballots based on the 14th Amendment's ban on insurrectionists holding elected office. Trump is an insurrectionist. But that is not the question currently before the Court. The decision will likely be joined by some of the Court's moderates. It could even be unanimous.

Regardless of the reasoning behind or the narrowness of the ultimate decision, another barrier will be removed for Trump. His base will be further energized.

Increasingly, the question on many people's minds is this: with the Trump train picking up speed again, what can President Biden really do to stop it?

The first step is to recognize what we're dealing with. Yes, many Americans are depressed about this election, and depressed about it being a rematch between the same people who were on the ballot last

time. However, turnout will still be high.

It is still a presidential year. The media coverage will not let any of us escape constantly hearing about the election. And people know there is a ton at stake.

Each side sees a lot to fight against. Each side sees a lot to fight for. This election is likely to go to the side that working-class America believes is fighting for them.

In order to understand working-class America today, we have to understand a huge swath of working-class America generally has the same address. It is the place where the factory shut down and opiate addiction, meth addiction and suicides shot up.

The economic and social struggles of this broad base of American society define the political moment that we are in. It is a populist one. This has allowed Donald Trump to speak to Americans' anxieties with no intention of following through, and in completely dishonest ways.

Trump has been stealing Bernie Sanders' talking points since back in 2016. Remember before the all the "rigged election" rhetoric, Trump spoke of the "rigged economy." He truthfully told voters our healthcare system is broken but dishonestly said he would give us a better

one. And, of course he lambasted NAFTA as the disaster it was. It was all empty rhetoric. Trump lacked the conviction, knowledge and genuine desire to do anything about these issues.

Take the issue of trade. All of Trump's tough "America first" talk about trade belies the fact that his policies would do nothing to ensure American competitiveness. Despite China being a favorite target from the



President Joe Biden

Photo: Gage Skidmore via Wikimedia Commons

stump, Trump would allow China to dominate the emerging global economy by preventing the domestic growth of the industries at its center.

The irony is that what working-class America is demanding, Joe Biden is delivering. He is just not talking about it.

Biden's landmark Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) is reopening American factories, rebuilding American manufacturing,

and creating jobs. Our current president is backing up industrial unions like the United Auto Workers when they find themselves in a real fight. And he is ensuring that America seizes the moment to lead the world economy in this century like we did the last one.

In a world where Donald Trump talks the talk and Joe Biden walks the walk, we should assume that the talker has the advantage. The only way to bridge that gap is for President Biden to start talking the talk, too. As a guy from Scranton, he knows how to do it and it is authentically in his heart.

President Biden does not need to sound more like Trump. Trump is all bluster and aims only to foment anger. What President Biden needs to do is make it clear that when it comes to cars and energy, there is only one future: electric vehicles and renewable sources like solar and wind.

He needs to speak plainly about how if America does not seize these markets and support the manufacturing sectors behind these industries, China will. China already controls more than 80 percent of the world's solar manufacturing capacity and the Chinese electric car industry is growing rapidly.

To be sure, there are many, many factors at play in this year's election. But many of the

big ones tie back to the working class. For instance, the gender gap has grown — but not necessarily in Biden's favor. Women skew more heavily towards Biden in polls that follow public displays of Trump's misogyny or news of his sexual assaults. But in general, recent polls are showing Biden's base advantage with women has shrunk. Meanwhile, the gender gap for men skews more and more heavily towards Trump. That is driven by the trend among working-class men of all races — including growing numbers of Black men.

Democratic politicians need to get over their default inclination to disregard working-class white men in their messaging. It ultimately leads to disregarding working-class people across the board.

We all grew up hearing that actions speak louder words. But talking the talk is becoming more and more important in our politics. This is not a case against action. Rather, where President Biden is already showing great leadership with his actions, he needs to also make sure the American people hear about it.

*Ben Jealous serves as president of People For the American Way and Professor of Practice in the Africana Studies Department at the University of Pennsylvania, where he teaches leadership.*

## Taking care of Grandmother! cont. from page 1

providing funding for furnishings for the home, and both Texas Capital and HistoryMaker Homes employees will volunteer at the wall-raising. Jon Larson, Texas Capital's Head of Homebuilder and Community Finance, Nelson Mitchell, CEO of HistoryMaker Homes, and Gage Yager, CEO of Trinity Habitat for Humanity gave remarks at the ceremony.

When reflecting on history, Yager, CEO of Trinity Habitat for Humanity said, "We're here to partner with a friend to build a home and in a little way erase a big negative from all those years ago."

This project is made possible by the giving hearts of many.

The collaboration between Trinity Habitat for Humanity, Texas Capital and HistoryMaker Homes is a testament to the collective commitment to giving back and supporting meaningful projects in the Fort Worth metroplex.

"Dr. Opal Lee has given so much to our community and our nation, and has been a tireless, lifelong advocate for racial equity and justice. We are proud to be able to give something back to her to honor her life's work," said Effie Dennison, Texas Capital's head of Community Development and president of the Texas Capital Foundation.

No ribbon cuttings here!



Dr. Opal Lee with her dream team.

Photo: DFW Video

Trinity Habitat for Humanity, Texas Capital and HistoryMaker Homes celebrated the wall raising of Opal Lee's new home by cutting a 2x6 wood stud with a miter saw.

"Our goal with every home we build is to create a place where owners can feel a sense of pride,

and we are deeply honored to be part of such a meaningful project," said Nelson Mitchell, CEO of HistoryMaker Homes. "Dr. Lee represents the very best of our community and our nation in her determination for racial justice, and there is no better way to express our pro-

found gratitude than through her new home.

"Alongside our more than 50 partners and trades, our entire team at HistoryMaker is proud to work together on this momentous home build."

A member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Dr. Lee dedicated decades of her life to educating people about the significance of Juneteenth, which commemorates the end of slavery in the United States and marks the day that enslaved Texans learned of their freedom.

Dr. Lee worked to ensure Juneteenth's national recognition, culminating in its designation as a federal holiday in 2021.

# Six years after Dallas approved monument to racial violence victims, it's finally happened

*Next to downtown's Grassy Knoll, new public artwork provides another vital history lesson about our city's ugly past.*

By Sharon Grigsby

Adjacent to the Sixth Floor Museum and the Grassy Knoll sits another patch of sacred ground with its own historically consequential story.

It took Dallas decades to fully face President John F. Kennedy's assassination. It's taken far longer to acknowledge the murders that occurred about 100 years earlier — just on the other side of where the Triple Underpass would eventually stand.

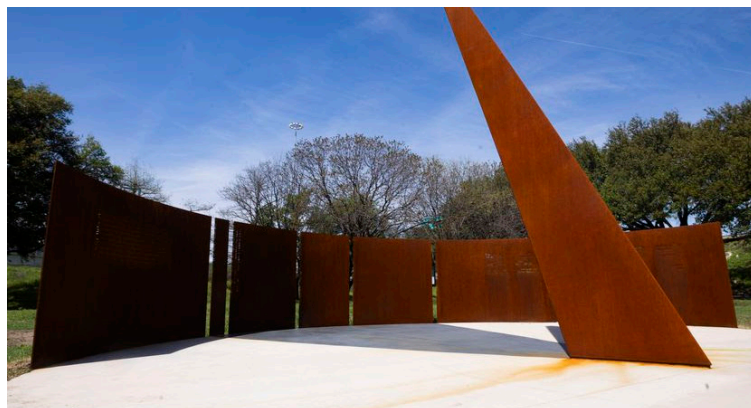
In 1860, three enslaved Black men — Patrick Jenkins, Cato Miller and the Rev. Samuel Smith — were lynched at this site, alongside the original path of the Trinity River. They were hanged after specious accusations concerning their part in setting a downtown fire, and their deaths became part of an infamous reign of terror led by white businessmen during which enslaved individuals were rounded up and tortured.

At long last, Dallas will formally dedicate a sculpture on the site next Tuesday that honors these three men and all other local victims of lynching and racial violence between 1853 and 1920.

"Shadow Lines," the sundial-inspired weathering steel sculpture, is the work of artists Shane Allbritton and Norman Lee. At one end of its semicircular wall is a poem written by former Dallas resident and poet laureate of Virginia Tim Seibles about this spot and its brutal history.

In early 2018, in the midst of the debate over removal of Confederate statues, City Council members expressed interest in a memorial to victims of racial violence. George Keaton Jr., founder of Remembering Black Dallas, persevered until his death in December 2022 to turn the idea into action. The Dallas County Justice Initiative, with Ed Gray at the helm, and Remembering Black Dallas finished the job.

The sculpture sits in a pocket of city land known as Martyrs



The public artwork "Shadow Lines," by artists Shane Allbritton and Norman Lee, will be dedicated March 26 at Martyrs Park, located just west of the Sixth Floor Museum in downtown Dallas.

Photo: Juan Figueroa / Staff Photographer

Park. It's not an ideal place for a contemplative green space, trapped between the Triple Underpass and the access ramp to Interstate 35E and deafened by highway traffic and the Trinity Railway Express rumbling overhead.

It's no mystery why the dedication ceremony is taking place at the Sixth Floor Museum before the ribbon-cutting at the sculpture site. Hearing the speeches would be impossible at Martyrs Park.

But Gray, like Keaton before him, is steadfast about this being the right location.

"To the people who ask, 'Why did we build this here?' This is where it occurred," Gray told me. "We can't change what's there now, but it remains historic and sacred."

I took my first close look at the sculpture Saturday and was pleasantly surprised to find a more welcoming feel at Martyrs Park, a raw space full of trash and tents on my several previous visits.

Accessibility remains a challenge. Your best bet is to park in the Sixth Floor Museum area and walk along the Elm Street sidewalk and through the pedestrian tunnel. Once you emerge, you are only steps from the park.

The most important upgrades have taken place in the tunnel. Never before had I walked through this long dark corridor when it didn't smell like a urinal — and looked even worse. It's now been repaired, painted,

scrubbed and lighted. On order is vandal-resistant permanent lighting.

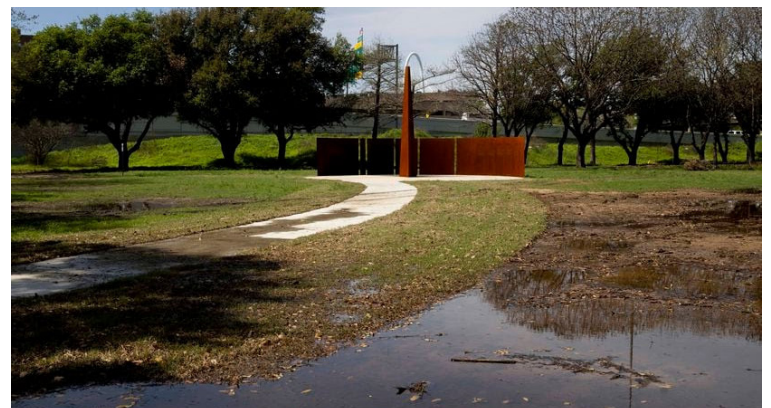
The park department has cleaned out decades of trash, underbrush and scraggly bushes that once encircled much of Martyrs Park. The lower limbs of the stately trees along the street and in the background have been trimmed to allow for better viewing. A new sidewalk is in place, and lights illuminate the sculpture at night.

Let me be clear — the place didn't look great. Recent heavy rains had left deep puddles throughout the park and threatened to wash away newly planted grass. The railroad-owned embankment remained unsightly. A man lay tucked up against the sculpture's front wall — his sleep only disturbed when I began reading the inscriptions aloud.

But if you squint a little, you actually see a park, not a dumping ground. It's a minimalist landscape that keeps the focus on the piece of stark public art, just as Keaton wanted.

Still to be added are two Texas Historical Commission markers, one honoring Jenkins, Miller and Smith and the other commemorating Jane Elkins, an enslaved woman hanged in 1853 after her conviction for killing her white owner as he attempted to rape her. Elkins' name is also inscribed on "Shadow Lines."

With the dedication of the sculpture, Gray said, Martyrs Park provides a homecoming



Recent heavy rains have left much of Martyrs Park muddy and full of deep puddles. Park department officials hope newly planted grass will take hold before the dedication of the "Shadow Lines" artwork.

Photo: Juan Figueroa / Staff Photographer

for all local victims of racial violence. "It gives them a sense of all being put together in one spot and further sanctifying that ground."

The "Shadow Lines" dedication will mark the last of three high-profile events in Dallas' reckoning with the violence wrought by racism.

To secure the markers for two other victims, the Dallas County Justice Initiative worked for years to meet the requirements of the Equal Justice Initiative, whose National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Ala., is a shrine to the victims of lynching.

The marker for Allen Brooks, who was abducted, killed and hanged downtown in front of a large crowd in 1910, was dedicated at Pegasus Plaza in November 2021. The marker for William Allen Taylor, lynched by vigilantes in 1884 near the Trinity River, was dedicated last November at Trinity Overlook Park. The names of Brooks and Taylor are also among those on the Martyrs Park sculpture.

Gray had many kind words about how hard City Hall, especially the Equity and Inclusion, Arts and Culture, and Park and Recreation departments, has worked to get the commemorations done right.

He said it was important, in contrast, to note Mayor Eric Johnson has not attended any of the events. "His reluctance to be a part of these is troublesome and disturbing," Gray said.

Johnson's chief of staff, Al-

heli Garza, told me the mayor "regrettably has a preexisting immovable conflict" with Tuesday's event. She said his office is "coordinating a private visit for Mayor Johnson to view the installation and meet the artists on a future date."

Most meaningful to me at the memorial site is Seibles' poem, the words of which are punched into the sculpture's steel wall. It's exactly what needed to be written for Dallas, where we've made a lot of progress but still prefer the reconciliation part of racial healing to the hard truth-telling.

Seibles' words are no Kumbaya moment, but rather searing honesty. Please take time to read the full text, which accompanies my column.

Finally, thinking about the 50 or so tourists I passed on the Grassy Knoll Saturday as I walked to Martyrs Park — where I was the sole visitor, not counting the homeless guy — here's a suggestion: The last JFK information placard is only steps from the pedestrian tunnel. Can a sign be added about the historically relevant events visitors can find on the other side of the bridge?

This story, originally published in *The Dallas Morning News*, is reprinted as part of a collaborative partnership between *The Dallas Morning News* and *Texas Metro News*. The partnership seeks to boost coverage of Dallas' communities of color, particularly in southern Dallas.

# SHE IS awards

"SHE IS AWARDS"...97.9 The Beat & Magic 94.5 saluting the Women of DFW -- Outstanding Business Professionals & Trendsetters in Entrepreneurship, Emerging Star, Trailblazer, The Arts & Fashion, Health & Beauty, & Social Advocacy.



Photos: Stew D'Que Curet

Photos: Eva D. Coleman

## SAVE A LIFE! MARK CUBAN HEROES BASKETBALL CENTER AND LIVING FOR ZACHARY TO HOST "SUPERHEART HEALTH & WELLNESS BLOCK PARTY"

**WHAT: SAVE A LIFE!** In an effort to make people of all ages aware of heart conditions that can lead to sudden cardiac arrest, the Mark Cuban Heroes Basketball Center is partnering with local nonprofit Living for Zachary to host the "SuperHeart Health & Wellness Block Party" on Saturday (March 23) from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Mark Cuban Heroes Basketball Center. Free and open to the public, the event kicks off with the SaveStation ribbon-cutting ceremony at 11 a.m., marking the fourth AED installation at the Mark Cuban Heroes Basketball Center.

The SaveStation is part of Living for Zachary's SuperHeart program, as they fulfill their mission to prevent sudden cardiac arrest in youth athletes. Throughout the day, families can learn about the importance of AEDs and how to access and administer if ever needed.

The block party will feature free blood pressure screen-

ings, CPR demos, tug of war, raffle drawings, kids crafts, grilling demos, a deejay and the Mavs Maniacs. Other highlights include paint and plant crafts, gardening, fitness demos, sack races and more, plus basketball enthusiasts can participate in the Red Out basketball games. (Youth will scrimmage on the outdoor courts, and adults will play indoors.)

The family-fun activities will encourage all ages - from students to older adults - to be aware and proactive about their heart health.

**WHY:** Sudden cardiac arrest is the #1 killer of student athletes. With spring activities and sports in full swing, all ages need to be aware and know how to prevent and handle emergencies if they arise. Parents of student athletes will be urged to set up appointments for physicals, which are required by the UIL for participation in school sports.

Living for Zachary was founded in 2009 in honor of

Zachary Schrah, who was only 16 years old when he collapsed without warning during a high school football practice in Plano. After Zachary's death, his mother Karen founded Living for Zachary. Since its inception, the nonprofit has impacted thousands of families and children across Texas through youth heart screenings, AED donations, CPR/AED certifi-

cation classes, scholarships and awareness events.

**WHO:** Representatives from the Mark Cuban Heroes Basketball Center, Living for Zachary, Save a Life, Children's Health, Action First Aid, Texas Department of Public Safety, Dallas Fire-Rescue and the Dallas Police Department will be on site offering CPR demos, activities and a wealth

of information on sudden cardiac arrest and healthy living.

**WHEN:** Saturday (March 23) from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. with a ribbon-cutting ceremony for SaveStation happening at 11 a.m., marking the fourth AED installation at the Center

**WHERE:** The Mark Cuban Heroes Basketball Center is located at 1800 Bonnie View Rd., Dallas, TX 75216.





# My Truth: Thanks Kitchen+Kocktails cont. from page 1

On the front page, the following statement appeared:

“We wish to plead our own cause. Too long have others spoken for us.”

**Which brings me to my truth.**

There are some serious truths about the so-called mainstream press.

If you hear people complaining about inequities or racist coverage in 2024, imagine how it was 197 years ago.

The Black Press had a noble beginning and there were valiant men and women who sacrificed everything to provide Black people with a voice.

I can't help but believe that if they were here today; they would be disappointed that percentage-wise fewer Black people are supportive of the institution they lived, fought and died for.

So as I gathered with other publishers from across the country my heart was full with pride. These soldiers without swords were carrying the torch. They were speaking up and speaking out.

What can I say? I tried to imagine the challenges over the decades, as we march toward 200 years of the Black Press.

The love I feel for the Black Press is so strong, because I so deeply believe in what I am doing; telling the stories of our people from the rooster to the tooter (essentially the beginning to the ending). There was a time when the Black Press covered Black people from the time they were born until they died.



**Publishers Fran Farrar and Cloves Campbell review menu.**

That meant you got to hear about the birth, going to school, events they participated in, graduations, church programs, society programs and organizations, employment, and more.

Someone went off to college, and they graduated, and some were drafted into the military. We read about all of that.

There were the engagements, marriages, baby showers, and anniversaries.

We read about those returning home from the military; and sadly we learned of the death of those who didn't come home.

Still further, the Black Press informed about promotions, and job retirements.

It was especially nice to read about those wonderful family reunions. And then, we also learned through our Black Press, about the deaths.

It was so different from what we read about in other publications.

That's probably why more than 150 years after the birth of the Black Press, the Dallas-Fort

Worth Association of Black Communicators, under the leadership of the group that was affectionately called the “Dallas Mafia,” began holding community forums — “How to get in the news without committing murder!”

It seemed the only way Blacks were covered in the mainstream, for the most part, was if they committed a crime

So every year we come together and we celebrate the founding of the Black Press, and we celebrate the courageous men and women who made sure that today we could look back, and read about the rich history of Black people in America in our Black newspapers.

Now back to Kitchen+Kocktails.

When NNPA was not taking care of business, we had to eat. Folks suggested places. I remembered that while they originated in Dallas, TX, they had a restaurant in Washington DC, so I suggested it to fellow publishers.

I knew it was a stretch, because this place is very popular, and for good reason.

I didn't know if we'd be able to get in so I called a former coworker from our days at Paul Quinn college, who happens to be the mom of Kevin Kelley; the owner of the restaurant. And I called his sister Deanna who, like her brother, was in Sen. Royce West's Dr. Emmett J. Conrad Leadership Program and did the equivalent of throwing a hat in the air.

I was so pleased with Kitchen+Kocktails.

From the time we walked in, they treated us special, but guess what they treated everybody special and that was so heartwarming.

The staff was on point. The food was great.

When they said “catfish” — they served great catfish, not Swai! Our crew really liked the black-eyed peas, lamb chops, and everything placed before them!

One of the publishers, Chairman Bobby Henry, is my classmate from Florida A&M University decided he couldn't eat all of his Bread Pudding so he gifted me.



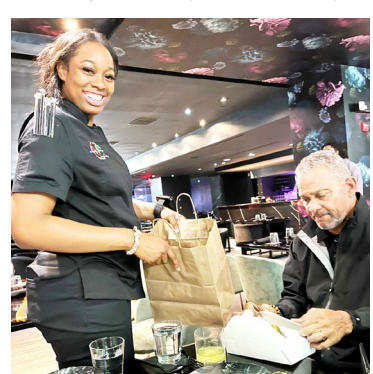
**Top- Above Publishers Bobby Henry Sr. and Stewart Curet enjoy meal. Bottom- Clearly a content group at Kitchen+Kocktails.**

Lo and behold later that night I get a call because he wants his bread pudding.

I told him it was Black history!

Two days later we returned. One of the publishers, Brian Townsend talked about how he enjoyed the experience and I was just beaming inside. They found the price to be affordable, the food to be wonderful and they really enjoyed themselves, especially when the chef came to greet us!

In 1827 you didn't have a choice, you had to eat Black, but you have one in 2024 and if it was good for you then why is



**Service with a smile.**

it not good for you today?

To the entire Kitchen+Kocktails family, I get choked up even writing about the experience because I am so proud of you all.

Back at the hotel we told the concierge about our experience and how reasonable the meal was for the portions and taste.

NNPA President and CEO, Dr. Ben Chavis, with three other members of our group also enjoyed Kitchen+Kocktails.

It was wonderful! As we go about our lives, we need to understand we need the Black Press and we need Black businesses, like Kitchen+Kocktails.

Please search deep, down deep, and make a commitment to support those who are committed to supporting us!

After all, you shouldn't ask people to do for you what you won't do!

Kitchen+Kocktails completed their assignment with flying colors! Our ancestors would be proud, like I am!



**Publishers enjoy good food, ambiance and people.**

# Art Imitates Life



A men's group therapy session from a screenshot in an episode of "The Chi."

By Genoa Barrow  
 OBSERVER Senior Staff Writer

Hollywood is known for creating fantasies and false narratives, but the entertainment industry does keep it real sometimes, particularly in its efforts to help eliminate the stigma of mental illness. Mental health awareness for African Americans has found its way into popular TV programs with creators and showrunners including storylines that see main characters seeking therapy or having characters be mental health providers. Other shows feature therapy in other ways.

Filmmaker and show creator Lena Waithe deserves kudos for normalizing therapy by incorporating it into series like "Twenties" and "The Chi." In a



Screenshot from an episode of "In Treatment" showcasing Uzo Aduba in her role.

sha's mother and her wife also see a therapist throughout the series' six seasons. The main male characters also participate in a circle discussion, meant to help them support each other.

On "Queen Sugar," the lov-



Screenshot from an episode of "Living Single" showcasing Jasmine Guy, left, and Queen Latifah, right.

"Twenties" episode titled "Happy Place," the main character, a queer Black woman named Hattie, played by Jonica "Jojo" T. Gibbs, seeks therapy to understand her father's absence and its impact on her relationships with men. On "The Chi" after one of the show's main characters, Kiesha Williams, portrayed by actress Birgundi Baker, is abducted and becomes pregnant from the sexual assault, she is seen in multiple episodes visiting a psychologist.

She also encourages her family to work on their issues. Kie-

ingly protective Hollingsworth "Hollywood" Desonier, played by Omar Dorsey, creates and funds a space for men to gather and uplift each other called The Real Spot, after being injured on an oil rig and successfully suing his employer.

Directed by Debbie Allen for most of its six seasons, "A Different World" took on a number of serious issues including apartheid and divestment, domestic violence, date rape, and

Read more at  
[www.texasmetronews.com](http://www.texasmetronews.com)

# National Links Trust Celebrates Black Golfers Screening

By Amber D. Dodd  
 Special to the AFRO

To celebrate Black History Month, The National Links Trust (NLT), a non-profit organization created to protect and promote municipal golf courses, showed the documentary "Uneven Fairways" on Feb. 20. The screening took place at the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill.

"The legends of Black golf have forged for inclusion at the highest levels of golf competition for all people," said Damian Cosby, executive director of NLT.

Released in 2009, Uneven Fairways is narrated by actor Samuel L. Jackson, an avid golfer whose activism and work in Black communities stretches back to being a student at Morehouse College in the 1960s.

The film highlights the pantheon of Blacks—from Pete Brown, the first Black golfer to win a PGA Tour event at the 1965 Waco Open, to Jim Thorpe, a 75-year-old golfer and Morgan State University graduate with 21 professional wins—who reflect the vanguard of Black golfers who were barred from the professional ranks but persisted in the sport until the PGA's racial barriers ceased in 1961.

Peggy White, the daughter of Ted Rhodes appeared in the documentary, too; Rhodes was widely considered to be the greatest Black golf player before Tiger Woods' emergence.

Rhodes did not get a chance to compete on the PGA Tour.

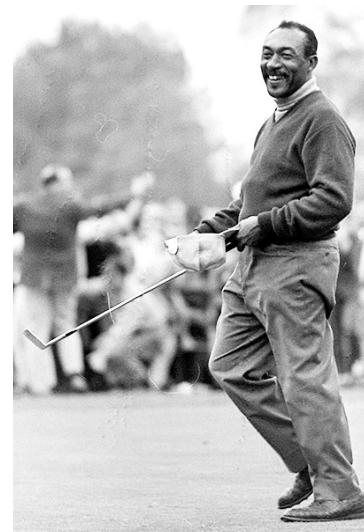
"I don't think my father was aware of the trailblazer he was," White said. "He had a dream that he would be the finest golfer in the world, but I don't think he realized he accomplished that goal."

Throughout the film, golfers detail how the PGA's color barrier was upheld by a longstanding clause in the PGA. From 1929 to 1961, Article III Section I of the PGA's handbook stated that, "Male professional golfers of the Caucasian race, over the age of eighteen (18) years, residing in North or South Amer-

ica, who can qualify under the terms and condition hereinafter specified, shall be eligible for membership."

While the documentary tells the story of the individual experience of being Black in golf, Uneven Fairways also highlights the founding of the United Golf Association, commonly known as the Chitlin Circuit, which provided Black golfers opportunities to compete.

"Black people, being very resourceful, wanted to play, and so in 1925, a group of Black



Golfer Charlie Sifford smiling as he wins the 1969 Los Angeles Open, 13 January 1969.

Photo: Ben Olander, Los Angeles Times / Wikimedia Commons

businessmen met in a YMCA in Washington, D.C. and basically said 'Well, PGA won't let us play on their tour, so we'll start our own tour,'" said Pete McDaniel, author of Uneven Lines: The Heroic Story of African-Americans in Golf.

Later that year, the first National Negro Open was contested.

The Chitlin Circuit served as an incubator for many of golf's first popular Black players and served as fertile ground for future golf giants.

Speaking to the documentary's name, golfers talked about the conditions of golf courses that UGA players conducted golf tournaments on, citing shoddy landscapes and uneven grounds, usually played on municipal golf courses.

"One of the reasons why I love municipal golf is that it brings people together," Cosby

said. "It's the easy way to get a young Black kid who's probably never seen as much green grass on a golf course to keep them out there. That's what I love about it; it connects people to the game and brings people to the game."

Inclusivity was no question for the UGA. Black women were automatically members of the association. Renee Powell, the second Black woman to participate in the LPGA tour, who spoke about her admission into UGA as a teenage golfer, was mentioned in the documentary.

"All the young Black golfers, that's where they played," Albert Green, a UGA/PGA player, explained. "Lee Alder, Charlie Sifford, Calvin Peete, Teddy Rhodes, that's where those guys got their start."

Ron Terry called the Chitlin Circuit a family affair, "It was a tour where you got to know everybody," he said. "It was more like a fraternity than anything."

Many mentioned how players supported one another in efforts on and off the course.

"We all traveled together anyway, so we helped each other... if you were hungry, we're going to feed you, we weren't going to let go around hungry," Leonard James explained.

Members often paid for and provided their own resources, which they were happy to share with others.

"They were going to eat because I always carried electric pots with me and a frying pan," James Black joked back.

Although an alternative league was created, it was still very clear that the color line imposed barriers that didn't impact White athletes.

"It was a joy to be around but it was separate, totally separate and not equal," said John Merchant, a former USGA executive committee member.

Though golfers made their own efforts to break the color barrier of the golf world, the documentary shed light on how Joe Louis, the former heavyweight champion broke the

Read more at  
[www.texasmetronews.com](http://www.texasmetronews.com)

# Tommy's Girl opens cont. from page 1



Tommy's Girl grand opening.



woman to experience the true luxury she deserves. And we all know that once you've had the best, nothing less will ever do!

Tommy's Girl is an attitude! Clients are classy, insatiable high achievers who value mindset and character over the superficial and enjoy a very specific lifestyle.

Creative and innovative, she is aspirational and inspirational to everyone who knows her and those who want to know her better!

Not only does the boutique carry the highest quality human hair available, but the location is part of the Tommy's Girl experience with deep amber notes of its signature fragrance greeting each customer upon entry, white marble flooring and beauty advisors who all come together to create an exceptionally luxurious experience from start to finish.

The boutique also features a Beauty Room for waxing, brows, Botox and massage and an Elevation Room for fashion stylists, hair stylists and make-up artists.

This B-n-B, Beauty and Bookings, business model allows health and beauty industry professionals to secure space to service their clientele on an as needed basis while having access to the most exclusive hair brands in the world.

This bold and innovative step in the hair and beauty space has Tommy's Girl uniquely poised to become the number one provider of luxury hair products and services on a global scale.

According to Hawkins, "We foresee a future where Tommy's Girl is not only the choice of distinctive women of style but also top celebrity stylists who will look to us for the perfect finishing touch for their clients' Oscar and Emmy looks, and fashion designers around the world from Balmain to Balenciaga will only accentuate their runway creations with Tommy's Girl. When nothing but the best will do, it's Tommy's Girl for every woman and every occasion!"

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for Duncanville Mayor



a CLEAR VISION for a CHAMPION CITY



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*-Mark D. Cooks*

VOTE EARLY:  
April 22-30  
ELECTION DAY:  
Saturday, May 4

Scan the QR to learn more



# Metro Community Calendar powered by



## MARCH

### 23

**AIDS WALK South Dallas 2024**, celebrating 14 years, Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, 2922 Martin Luther King "Achieving Equity to end HIV." Jr. Blvd, Dallas. Registration now open! Scholarship and vendor opportunities available at [www.AID-SWalkSouthDallas.com](http://www.AID-SWalkSouthDallas.com)



The Dallas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority presents Surviving the Skin I'm in 1K and 5K walk and run - healthcare 8 AM to 2 PM at Wilmer Hutchins High School 5520 Langdon Rd. To register visit [dallasalumnae.org/events](http://dallasalumnae.org/events)

CITY OF EULESS

# EASTER SPLASH

March 23rd

9:30am

Euless Family Life Center Natatorium

\$10 PER PERSON

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED AND SPACE IS LIMITED.

### 24



Brunch with the Judge, GREATNESS IN THE GARDE, A Woman's HERstory Brunch featuring dermatologist, Dr. Dianne Davis, If you know a young lady who wants to come,

learn and grow, encourage her to fill out the Google form here: <https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSddwcUuauWfW9.../viewform>

### 26

Witherite Law Group, is helping to sustain families in need during the upcoming Easter holiday. The law group is giving away 500 \$100 Honey Baked Ham gift cards to families in need on Tuesday, March 26 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Honey Baked Hams, 4201 S. Cooper St., Arlington, TX,

### 28

North Central Texas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. presents, Giving Birth with Grace and Power: Fighting for equity in Black Maternal Health, 7 PM to 8:30 pm March 28 featuring Dr. Jaylen Wright, post doctoral fellow, preventative medicine, and cardiovascular epidemiology from the Boston University school of medicine For more information, [www.dstncta.org](http://www.dstncta.org)



The Alignable Networking Extravaganza will be held at The Warehouse, 1125 E. Berry St. Fort Worth, at 5:30pm.

## APRIL

### 5

21st First Amendment Awards and Scholarship Banquet Fundraiser, honoring Dave Lieber with the Open Doors - Lifetime achievement Award. Keynote speaker is Cynthia Izaguirre.

To RSVP -<http://spjfw.org>. To purchase tickets with CC at <https://AwardScholbanq.eventbrite.com>. To pay at the door for individual tickets, visit [https://spjfw.org/?page\\_id=1390](https://spjfw.org/?page_id=1390). To sponsor - visit [https://spjfw.org/?page\\_id=1390](https://spjfw.org/?page_id=1390)



### 6

#### PRESIDENTIAL AWARDEES



Rev. Dr. Frederick D. Haynes III



Dr. Harry Robinson Jr.

American Education Archives and History Program Educator's Hall of Fame induction is at the Sheraton in Dallas at noon.

NANBPWC, Inc. Garland Club presents 42nd Annual Founders' Day Scholarship and Awards Luncheon at 11am at the Hyatt Place, 5101 N. George Bush Hwy, Garland, featuring Maria Starling, Ed.D of Alvin Community College in Houston



### 7

Ledisi - The Good Life Tour - Dallas

### 27

60th V. Alyce Foster Trailblazer Awards Luncheon, sponsored by the South Dallas Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc., at 12 noon, HILTON ANATOLE HOTEL Keynote Speaker at this scholarship benefit will be U. S. Congresswoman Maxine Waters. Subscriptions are \$ 70.00, and ad prices range from \$50-\$500. Among this year's honorees is Ella Goode Johnson, who will receive the coveted WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD.



## MAY

### 5

Miss Jabberwock Pageant at 6:00 pm at Las Colinas Country Club, 4400 N. O'Connor Rd, Irving, TX 75062 presented by the Dallas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., in partnership with Dodd Education and Support, Inc.,

### 19



Crowned Scholars Gala, noon - 3pm, On the Levee, 1108 Quaker St. Dallas. Purchase tickets at [www.crowned scholars.org](http://www.crowned scholars.org)

#### MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

TwoGether Land, the latest addition to the ONE Musicfest (OMF) family in partnership with Live Nation Urban, is set to make its mark in Dallas at the historic Fair Park. The renowned ONE Musicfest has chosen the vibrant city of Dallas as the perfect canvas for its expansion, introducing TwoGether Land as a sister festival.



PAUL QUINN COLLEGE

MetroNews

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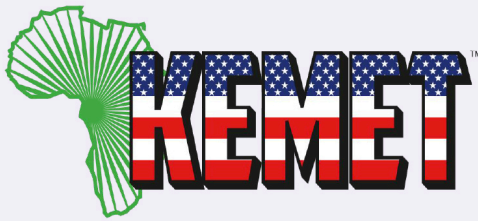
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SPECTACULAR MAGAZINE

BLACK STAR NETWORK

CURATED BY POLAND S. WARTON



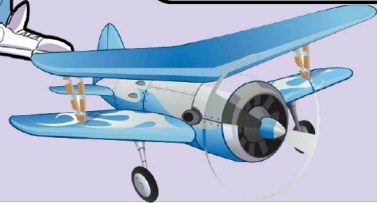
# BLACK WOMEN PILOTS ACTIVITY SHEET

WWW.KEMETCOMIC.COM

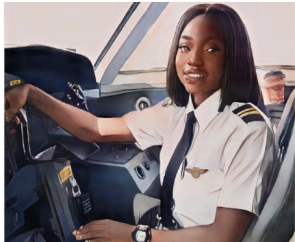


Hi Everyone!

Even though I fly a lot in Sankofa 82, it never ceases to amaze me what an awesome flying machine she is! It also made me appreciate the fine Black American females who dared to become pilots in the United States. Have you ever been in the cockpit to see how the pilots fly the plane? Let's explore what it takes to become a pilot and meet some of the brave Black American female pilots who took to the skies!



## SO YOU THINK YOU CAN FLY!



A pilot is a person that drives a transport vehicle such as an airplane, spacecraft or boat. All types of pilots must pass tests and earn a license before they can operate the vehicle. Airline pilots must be at least 23 years old. A commercial airline pilot's license requires 250 hours of flight experience. The pilots are responsible for making sure that the passengers, crew, and the aircraft itself are safe. Professional female pilots make up only 5% of the piloting workforce, with Black women representing less than 1% of the piloting workforce.

## SISTERS OF THE SKIES!

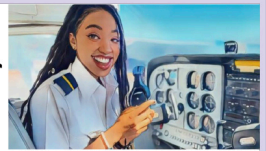
**Sisters of the Skies** is an organization of professional black women pilots. There are less than 150 black women pilots in the United States holding a license. This organization, which tracks the numbers of Black female pilots, was created to inspire young girls of color to take an interest in aviation through mentoring them and pairing them up with Black female pilots who have already earned their wings.

## FIRST BLACK FEMALE PILOT: BESSIE COLEMAN



Even though she started out washing and ironing clothes and giving manicures, **Bessie Coleman** was determined to make more out of her life. With determination to achieve more, she became excited about learning to fly airplanes. Because flying schools in the United States denied her entry, Bessie took it upon herself to learn French and move to France to achieve her goal. Coleman earned her license from France's well known Caudron Brother's School of Aviation. Once back in the United States, Bessie Coleman specialized in stunt flying and parachuting, and earned a living barnstorming and performing aerial tricks. She remains a **Pioneer of Women in the Field of Aviation**.

## POP-UP! ANOTHER SISTER OF THE SKIES...



**Miracle Izuchukwu**, age 25, is the youngest Black female pilot for a commercial airline.

## ONE MINUTE MADNESS!



Unscramble these words in one minute or less. The first letter of each word is in **bold**.

- sretsiS fo eht seikS \_\_\_\_\_
- lotPi \_\_\_\_\_
- aivAnoit \_\_\_\_\_
- plAairnes \_\_\_\_\_
- Fthgil \_\_\_\_\_
- pitkoC \_\_\_\_\_

## HIDDEN GEMS



Cross out the names of each animal to uncover who was the **first Black female pilot** and the name of the organization that inspires young black women to become **Black female pilots**.

- BEAR BESSIE FROG COLEMAN HEN CAT DOG SISTERS  
WOLF PUPPY OF DEER THE PIG BIRD SKIES



## I GOT WINGS!



**Monique Grayson, Micah Clark, Alexis Brown and Brianna Jackson** are 4 Black women who are affecting history. These four are graduates of the Western Michigan University, College of Aviation. They are among the few who make up the **Sisters of the Skies** who have earned their wings! They are defying the odds and soaring to new heights as commercial airline pilots, all while trailblazing a path to follow for young African American women who are interested in pursuing a career in aviation flight science.

## FLIGHT FACTS!



Fill in the blanks from the words in the Word Box below.

inspire, Monique Grayson, Sisters of the Skies, pilot, Aviation, Brianna Jackson, Aviation, Western Michigan, Alexis Brown, French, Micah Clark

- Bessie Coleman was the first Black female \_\_\_\_\_
- WMU stands for \_\_\_\_\_ University.
- The professional organization of Black Female Pilots is called \_\_\_\_\_
- Bessie Coleman learned \_\_\_\_\_ to attend the Caudron's Brothers School of \_\_\_\_\_
- Four women who graduated from Western Michigan University College of Aviation: \_\_\_\_\_
- Sisters of the Skies, which tracks the number of Black Female pilots, was created to \_\_\_\_\_ young girls to take interest in the field of \_\_\_\_\_



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### ANSWER KEY

#### ONE MINUTE MADNESS!

- Sisters of the Skies
- Pilot
- Aviation
- Airplanes
- Flight
- Cockpit

#### HIDDEN GEMS

- Bessie Coleman
- Sisters of the Skies

#### FLIGHT FACTS!

- pilot
- Western Michigan
- Sisters of the Skies
- French Aviation
- Monique Grayson, Brianna Jackson, Alexis Brown, Micah Clark
- Inspire/Aviation



# Lifestyle Metro Calendar powered by



## MARCH 23

Brody the Bunny will be joining in the fun for the City of Wilmer's annual Easter Egg Hunt at EBJ Elementary School at 201 S. Goode Rd, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Children to 12, can get in on the fun and spend time hunting Easter eggs with Brody.

\*\*\*

Mark Cuban Heroes Basketball Center is partnering with local nonprofit Living for Zachary to host the "SuperHeart Health & Wellness Block Party" from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at 1800 Bonnie View Rd, Dallas, kicking off with the SaveStation ribbon-cutting ceremony at 11 a.m., marking the fourth AED installation at the Mark Cuban Heroes Basketball Center.

\*\*\*

Queen Williene's Closet, a subsidiary of VBJ Enterprises presents



**YOU ARE MORE THAN ENOUGH-The Experience** and hear from Fashion Stylist & Image Consultant Eureka Calhoun and Psychologist Dr. Olunfunke Awo-



sogba discuss mental wellness & dress for success. Shop for gently-used suits, clothing and gowns, 9am-noon, African American Museum, 3536 Grand Ave. Register to attend at Eventbrite.

## 28

BANK OF AMERICA Presents  
**UNITING VOICES**  
the National Juneteenth Museum  
**SPEAKER SERIES**  
Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>  
Van Cliburn Concert Hall at TCU



Van Cliburn Concert Hall at TCU.



North Central Texas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., presents **GIVING BIRTH WITH GRACE AND POWER: FIGHTING FOR EQUITY IN BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH**, 7-8:30pm featuring Dr. Jaylen Wright



## 29

2024 NCAA Men's Basketball South Regional Experience the Madness of March as Dallas and the American Airlines Center host the 2024 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship South Regional on Friday, March 29, Sunday, March 31.

## 30

Easter Egg Hunt 12-2p.m. Grimes Park Pavilion, 501 W. Wintergreen Rd in DeSoto - join the Dallas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



## APRIL

### 4

Booksigning for "In the Year of COVID, I Saw the Lord," by Bishop Jeffery D. Thomas, Sr. is Senior Pastor of the Mt. Rose Church of Dallas at the J.D. Thomas, Sr. Activity Center-7151 Field View Ln



### 6

African American Education Archives and History Program (AAEAHPP) Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony Luncheon where Dr. Jennifer Wimbish will be inducted at Noon at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel, 400 Olive Street in Dallas, Texas 75201. You may purchase tickets for \$100 at <https://aaeahpp.org/donate/hof-luncheon/>



\*\*\*

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Upsi-



Ion Nu Zeta Chapter, and Zealous Dove Love Blue Revue Cotillion and Beautillion Scholarship Program! Time: 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm at Hilton Garden Inn, 800 North Main St, Duncanville, TX 75115 Get your tickets for \$75.00

## 11



2024 DeSoto Candidate Forum for candidates vying for DeSoto City Council and DeSoto School Board Trustee at DeSoto Civic Center (Bluebonnet Room), 211 E Pleasant Run Road, DeSoto, TX 75115 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

\*\*\*

InnoTech Dallas, the Technology and Security Conference will be held at 500 Las Colinas Blvd W Irving, TX 75039. Janet Robertson will be a guest speaker at the InnoTech Dallas Technology and Security Conference at 1p.m. She will lead a conversation titled *Fostering Trust and Embracing Change: Building Stronger Business Teams*. For info -<https://www.innotechdallas.com/>

## 16

**DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE**

DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE DANCING BEYOND BORDERS at W.E. Scott Theatre in Fort Worth

## 20

The Dallas Symphony Orchestra's second annual Young Professionals Experience (YPX), DSO X Troupe Vertigo! This year's experience will be held at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center.

## 21

Stock Market Investing & Entrepreneurship,



3-4:30 p.m. for middle-high school students at The DEC @Red Bird, 3560 W. Camp Wisdom. For more Info, call Project Still I Rise at 972-546-0977

## 23

DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE DANCING BEYOND BORDERS 7:30pm at Eisemann Center in Richardson

## 25-26

TwoGether Land, the latest addition to the ONE Musicfest (OMF) family in partnership with Live Nation Urban, is set to make its mark in Dallas at the historic Fair Park.

## 27

**PHILANTHROPARTY 2024 TOGETHER FOR GOOD**  
The Statler Dallas, 1914 Commerce St, Dallas, TX 75201 6 - 11pm CDT Social Venture Partners Dallas is looking forward to celebrating our 8th Annual Philanthroparty!

\*\*\*

Reach Media Inc. - Tom Joyner's Ultimate Party with a Purpose is gearing up to embark on the Tom Joyner Foundation Fantastic Voyage 2024, a transformative experience aimed at supporting students in HBCUs. Departing from Miami, FL, on April 27



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 By La Juana Barton  
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 Rev. Dr. Frederick D. Haynes III	 Dr. Harry Robinson Jr.	 Norma Adams-Wade
---	---	---

📅 April 6, 2024      📍 Sheraton Dallas Hotel, Dallas Ballroom, 400 Olive Street, Dallas TX  
🕒 12:00 PM

**For tickets and more information about this event, visit [www.aaeahp.org](http://www.aaeahp.org)**

A portion of the proceeds from this event go to scholarships for high school and college students. Donations are tax-deductible.  
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