

Unity First

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Supreme Court Justice
Sonia Sotomayor

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Irene Smalls



Lucy Perez



Aimee Munnings



Haywood Fennell



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INspiration

As a mark of inspiration, please take the time to write letters to families, friends and co-workers who give you the added motivation to go the extra mile. Here is the text of a letter Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., wrote to President Barack Obama. The letter was delivered and read by President Obama after Kennedy's death.

May 12, 2009

Dear Mr. President,

I wanted to write a few final words to you to express my gratitude for your repeated personal kindnesses to me – and one last time, to salute your leadership in giving our country back its future and its truth.

On a personal level, you and Michelle reached out to Vicki, to our family and me in so many different ways. You helped to make these difficult months a happy time in my life.

You also made it a time of hope for me and for our country.

When I thought of all the years, all the battles, and all the memories of my long public life, I felt confident in these closing days that while I will not be there when it happens, you will be the president who at long last signs into law the health care reform that is the great unfinished business of our society. For me, this cause stretched across decades; it has been disappointed, but never finally defeated. It was the cause of my life. And in the past year, the prospect of victory sustained me – and the work of achieving it summoned my energy and determination.

Story continues below There will be struggles – there always have been – and they are already under way again. But as we moved forward in these months, I learned that you will not yield to calls to retreat – that you will stay with the cause until it is won. I saw your conviction that the time is now and witnessed your unwavering commitment and understanding that health care is a decisive issue for our future prosperity. But you have also reminded all of us that it concerns more than material things; that what we face is above all a moral issue; that at stake are not just the details of policy, but fundamental principles of social justice and the character of our country.

And so because of your vision and resolve, I came to believe that soon, very soon, affordable health coverage will be available to all, in an America where the state of a family's health will never again depend on the amount of a family's wealth. And while I will not see the victory, I was able to look forward and know that we will – yes, we will – fulfill the promise of health care in America as a right and not a privilege.

In closing, let me say again how proud I was to be part of your campaign – and proud as well to play a part in the early months of a new era of high purpose and achievement. I entered public life with a young president who inspired a generation and the world. It gives me great hope that as I leave, another young president inspires another generation and once more on America's behalf inspires the entire world.

So, I wrote this to thank you one last time as a friend – and to stand with you one last time for change and the America we can become.

At the Denver Convention where you were nominated, I said the dream lives on.

And I finished this letter with unshakable faith that the dream will be fulfilled for this generation, and preserved and enlarged for generations to come.

With deep respect and abiding affection,

(Ted)



A call to serve

Service is one of the best ways we can inspire others to do great things and be key contributors to their families, business and communities.

President Obama signed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act and encourages every American make service to their community and country a priority. In his formal remarks marking the 100th day of the Obama administration, he says: "... I ask every American to make an enduring commitment to serving your community and your country in whatever way you can. And together, we will measure our progress not just in number of hours served or volunteers mobilized – but in the impact our efforts have on the life of this nation."

The President salutes the late Senator Kennedy, and his entire family and commends them as icons of service and self-sacrifice in America.

Obama shares, "I've met countless people of all ages and walks of life who want nothing more than to do their part. I've seen a rising generation of young people work and volunteer and turn out in record numbers. They're a generation that came of age amidst the horrors of 9/11 and Katrina; the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; an economic crisis without precedent. And yet despite all this, or more likely

because of it, they have become a generation of activists possessed with that most American of ideas – that people who love their country can change it."

Make a difference

President Obama invites and encourages everyone to get involved. He says, "All that's required on your part is a willingness to make a difference. That is, after all, the beauty of service. Anyone can do it. You don't need to be a community

organizer, or a Senator -- or a Kennedy – or even a President to bring change to people's lives.

"We need your service, right now, at this moment in history. I'm not going to tell you what your role should be; that's for you to discover. But I'm asking you to stand up and play your part. I'm asking you to help change history's course. Put your shoulder up against the wheel. And if you do, I promise you – your life will be richer, our country will be stronger,



Tom and Janine Fondon
UnityFirst.com Founders

and someday, years from now, you may remember it as the moment when your own story and the American story converged, when they came together, and we met the challenges of our new century."

As the President explained, the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act is about "connecting deeds to needs" – it will open tremendous new avenues of opportunity for Americans to help their country get back on the right track in those many areas where government cannot do it all.

As part of the first National Day of Service, the First Lady visited a DC Habitat for Humanity site, her presence an exciting start to what is sure to be George Washington University's most service-oriented year ever."

As the White House takes the lead, let us be inspired to keep doing the great work of serving our community. We invite you to share your stories with us as we continue to serve our community by delivering inspiring news to empower success.

Janine and Tom Fondon
(413) 734-6444
jfondon@unityfirst.com



President Obama shared a moment with the late Senator Kennedy and former President Bill Clinton.



First Lady Michelle Obama participates in a United We Serve service volunteer event at a Habitat for Humanity site in Washington, D.C., Sept. 11, 2009. She is joined by Julie Bindleglass, a junior at George Washington University, and Shakir Cannon-Moye, a senior, to kick off the First Lady's challenge to GW students to serve. (Photo by Samantha Appleton)

INclusion

Celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month

September 15 - October 15, 2009



Saluting Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor

During Hispanic Heritage Month and also throughout the year, take the time to salute Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

The Senate confirmation of Judge Sonia Sotomayor made her the 111th Supreme Court Justice, only the third female Justice, and the first Hispanic Justice.

Speaking shortly after the confirmation, President Obama said he was grateful for the Senate's confirmation, and gave special thanks to the Senate Judiciary Committee for their hard work. He then reflected on Judge Sotomayor's qualifications, and the historic nature of her confirmation. President Obama commented,

"The Senate has affirmed that Judge

Sotomayor has the intellect, the temperament, the history, the integrity and the independence of mind to ably serve on our nation's highest court. This is a role that the Senate has played for more than two centuries, helping to ensure that "equal justice under the law" is not merely a phrase inscribed above our courthouse door, but a description of what happens every single day inside the courtroom. It's a promise that, whether you're a mighty corporation or an ordinary American, you will receive a full and fair hearing. And in the end, the outcome of your case will be determined by nothing more or less than the strength of your argument and the dictates of the law.

These core American ideals -- justice, equality, and opportunity -- are the very ideals that have made Judge Sotomayor's own uniquely American journey possible. They're ideals she's fought for throughout her career, and the ideals the Senate has upheld in breaking yet another barrier and moving us yet another step closer to a more perfect union.

"Like so many other aspects of this nation, I'm filled with pride in this achievement and great confidence that Judge Sotomayor will make an outstanding Supreme Court justice. This is a wonderful day for Judge Sotomayor and her family, but I also think it's a wonderful day for America."

President Obama recently issued the following proclamation in honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month:

"The story of Hispanics in America is the story of America itself. The Hispanic community's values -- love of family, a deep and abiding faith, and a strong work ethic -- are America's values.

Hispanics bring together the rich traditions of communities with centuries-old roots in America and the energy and drive of recent immigrants. Many have taken great risks to begin a new life in the hopes of achieving a better future for themselves and their families.

Hispanics have played a vital role in the moments and movements that have shaped our country. They have enriched our culture and brought creativity and innovation to everything from sports to the sciences and from the arts to our economy.

Hispanics have served with honor and distinction in every conflict since the Revolutionary War, and they have made invaluable contributions through their service to our country.

They lead corporations and not-for-profits, and social movements and places of learning. They serve in government at every level from school boards to statehouses, and from city councils to Congress.

And for the first time in our Nation's history, a Latina is seated among the nine Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States.

As Hispanics continue to enrich our Nation's character and shape our common future, they strengthen America's promise and affirm the narrative of American unity and progress."



Carmen Ortiz

President Obama nominates Boston's Carmen Ortiz

President Obama recently nominated Michael Moore, Carmen Ortiz and Edward Tarver to be US Attorneys. Ortiz is a nominee for the District of Massachusetts. With confirmation, Ortiz will become the first woman and the first Hispanic US attorney in the state.

"I have nominated these three outstanding men and women to serve as US Attorneys in their states," President Obama said. "I

nominated them for their diligence, intellect, integrity and their commitment to serving the public good. They will be distinguished US Attorneys, and I am grateful for their willingness to serve."

Carmen Ortiz is an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts, a position she has held since 1997. She served as an Assistant District Attorney for Middlesex County from

1983 to 1988 and from 1991 to 1994. She worked in private practice from 1988 to 1989 and from 1994 to 1997. After graduating from law school, she spent two years as a trial attorney in the Criminal Division of the Justice Department. She received her B.A. from Adelphi University in 1978 and her J.D. from George Washington University in 1981.

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"I made valuable contacts and the (Efficacy Training) presentation by Novations was immediately applicable."

"I was born and raised in Springfield. I've lived here all my life... I never imagined I would have an opportunity like this..."

Why should you attend? Get inspired, motivated and connected - all in one single day. Hear stories of success and tools of the trade from other successful women of color.



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AM Keynote Speaker
 Pam Cross, WCVB-TV

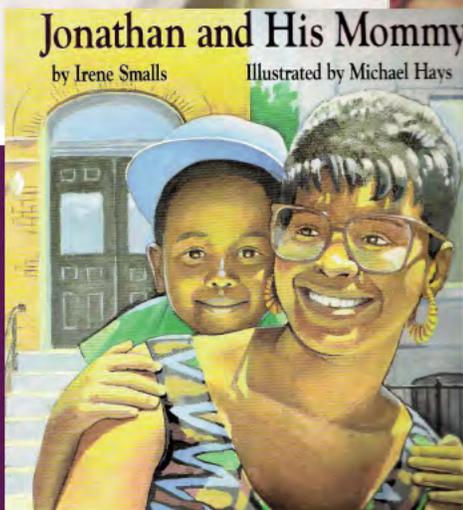


Luncheon Keynote Speaker
 Steve Pemberton, Monster.com



Carole Copeland Thomas,
 MSS Founder

Education



Boston author Irene Smalls introduces new exhibit at the Boston Public Library

Award-winning Author Irene Smalls says she became an author in kindergarten when 5 year-old Smalls was taught the beauty of language through songs, games, and dance. In kindergarten, she was taught “reading was a thing that you did that was loud and fun.” Literacise is the science based extension of that powerful introduction.

Research confirms that increased exercise helps young children improve their concentration, boosts reading comprehension, and raises academic achievement. The new Literacise exhibit opening at the Boston Public Library builds on this important connection between physical activity and learning.

Literacise is an interactive, children's exhibit in English and Spanish. It is inspired by the Irene Smalls story titled *Jonathan and His Mommy*. In the story, a young boy and his mother travel together through Boston's South End neighborhood taking steps of all sizes. Literacise brings the book to life – and to kid-size scale – on the first floor of the Central Library in Copley Square where children will be able to zig-zag, bunny-hop, and giant-step their way through the interactive exhibit.

Exhibit opens October 3

The Literacise exhibit opens to the public with a special celebration on Saturday, October 3 at

11:30am.

The Literacise exhibit is made possible through the generous support of State Street Corporation.

Irene Smalls is a long-time literacy educator and based this creative endeavor on scientific research that indicates that physical exercise can reduce obesity and result in increased academic achievement. In effect, literacy, plus exercise, equals Literacise.

Author Smalls says, "Literacise is book-based, book-

Author Irene Smalls introduces LITERACISE = Literacy + Exercise

NEW Bilingual EXHIBIT OPENS October 3 at the Boston Public Library gets kids moving and grooving while they are learning

related exercise that uses the music and motion of story to teach and to reach. It engages children with reading using a brain, body, and book connection.

"The Boston Public Library is delighted to share the concept of Literacise with our ever-growing community of users," said Amy E. Ryan, President of the Boston Public Library. "We are committed to providing innovative paths to the advancement of learning and Literacise does exactly that. By engaging families in activating a book,

Literacise engages us all in activating our minds."

The opening celebration for the Literacise exhibit will feature a performance by the South Shore Ballet

child- to adulthood."

The Central Library in Copley Square, located at 700 Boylston Street, is open Monday-Thursday, 9am-9pm; and Friday and Saturday, 9am-5pm. Beginning October 4, the Library will be open on Sundays, 1-5pm.

Literacise is scheduled to be on display at the Boston Public Library through March 2010. It was designed by representatives of the Boston Community Design Resource Center. For further information about the Literacise exhibit, visit www.bpl.org. Admission to the Literacise exhibit is free.

Irene is the author of 15 children's books and 3 interactive storytelling CDs. Smalls travels the world from China to Chicago presenting author programs and "literacising." She has twice been invited to the White House. "You'll get the rhythm of the feet" with Irene's moving approach to reading books. With a degree from Cornell University and an MBA, Irene Smalls has twenty years experience working with children. Learn more at www.literacise.com or www.irenesmalls.com. Also, Irene Smalls will be doing an Authortalk at 1:30pm Saturday, Oct. 3, 2009 at the Barnes & Nobles Cafe in Prudential Center (Huntington Avenue Side), a few blocks from the Literacise Exhibit at the Copley Square Library



Photo Credit: South Shore Ballet Theatre

Children learn more when they are moving and having fun."

With tunnels to explore and secrets to find, children will experience reading in a completely new way. Parents and guardians will also be able to enjoy Literacise and will be able to borrow other activity-themed Boston Public Library books to share and experience with their young friends.

Theatre, a costumed character parade, and a fashion show of Literacise-inspired active wear.

"Engaging children early in healthy habits such as exercise and reading has a long-term positive impact on a person's life," said Russell. "With our community support focus on education and workforce development, State Street is pleased to partner with the Literacise exhibit and promote these building-blocks of success from



Education

2009 School and District results show MCAS gains

Massachusetts education officials released the 2009 school and district MCAS results. Education Commissioner Mitchell Chester announced that 54 percent of the state's schools have been identified for improvement, corrective action or restructuring under the federal accountability system, up from 50 percent in 2008. But while the number of schools and districts identified went up, Commissioner Chester hailed the MCAS achievements at schools across the Commonwealth as evidence that many of the schools that have been identified under the No Child Left Behind Act are achieving at high levels.

Brockton High School is currently in restructuring, the most severe category, but because of its stellar 2009 student performance, the school is now one year away from being removed from accountability status entirely.

Focus on schools

"I take every school's accountability status seriously, but I also recognize that many of the schools across the Commonwealth that have been identified are making tremendous academic gains," Chester said. "While the teachers and students in these schools need to recognize that there is still more work to do, they should be extremely proud of their accomplishments."

AYP measures district and school progress toward annual performance targets

in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math. Those that fail to meet their AYP targets in ELA and Math in the aggregate or for any of their subgroups for two or more consecutive years receive an accountability status and are required to take steps to focus efforts on improving student performance. Alternately, schools and districts are removed from the list when they make their tar-

gets for two consecutive years.

Statewide, 109 districts (28 percent) and 937 schools (54 percent) are on the state's 2009 list of schools and districts in need of improvement because they did not make AYP for more than one year. Those 109 districts include 29 charter schools, 8 vocational technical schools, and 17 other single-school districts. The 937 schools are located in 266 (69

percent) of the Commonwealth's school districts. In 2008, a total of 828 schools (50 percent) and 89 districts (23 percent) were identified. The 89 districts included 26 charter schools, 6 vocational technical schools, and 11 other single-school districts.

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Photo by Layla M., Class of 20

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Education

MCAS gains

(from previous page)

Brockton High School is one of eight high schools statewide with a 60 percent or higher low income population in which 50 percent or more students have scored Proficient or higher in all three subjects. The other schools are the Boston Preparatory Charter Public School, MATCH Charter Public High School, University Park Campus School, City on a Hill Charter Public School, Fenway High School, Revere High School and Codman Academy Charter Public School.

Statewide, six high schools – Acton-Boxborough Regional High School, Boston Latin, Boston Preparatory Charter Public School, Dover-Sherborn Regional High School, MATCH Charter Public High School and Westborough High School – had more than 95 percent of their students score Proficient or higher in ELA, Math and Science, Technology/Engineering. There are 56 schools that have met the NCLB goal of having all students score Proficient or higher in ELA and math.

According to statewide AYP results, four districts exited their accountability status entirely, after making AYP for two consecutive years: Dighton-Rehoboth, Community Day Charter School, Greater Lowell Voc Tech, and Southeastern Regional Voc Tech. At the same time, 10 multi-school districts were newly identified for the first time: Acushnet, Beverly, Billerica, Cambridge, Dartmouth, Dedham, Hudson, Quincy, West Springfield, and Whitman-Hanson.

Statewide, 21 schools previously identified for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring were removed after two consecutive years of improvement in the identified subject areas. Among them are three schools that were removed from restructuring and two schools that were removed from corrective action.



The Springfield Public School's (SPS) Educator Orientation Program was a success in sharing resources and information with 85 new and early career educators participated in the two-day event. According to Education coordinator Lucy Perez, Administrator for Recruitment & Retention, Human Resources Department Springfield Public Schools, supporting and developing quality teachers is the responsibility of the entire school community. Fostering professional learning communities, emphasizing from the start the importance of relationships with colleagues, and establishing support systems for continued learning and growth is critical. Working together, we can ensure that our teachers develop the skills, attitudes, dispositions and knowledge required to improve the academic success of our students.



"The education panel discussion on October 22 will be an opportunity for the City's residents to come together to learn about the many approaches schools in the city are taking to improve children's lives and their prospects for successful futures.

If you have an interest in children, education, and the City, please come to The MacDuffie School to participate in this stimulating session.

Kathryn Gibson
Head of School
The MacDuffie School
413-734-4971



Panel Discussion on Urban Education

October 22, 2009 - 7:30 pm
The MacDuffie School - Auditorium

11 Ames Hill Drive
Springfield, MA 01105

On Thursday October 22, MacDuffie will host a panel discussion with Dr. Paul Intrator of Smith College's School of Education, Springfield's Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Alan Ingram, and Joan Kagan, Executive Director of Square One. The discussion will address the challenges that schools face with high levels of poverty and low levels of expectations among their students.

City Thinks is a collaborative program with the City Library, with support from the AIC Honors Program, Mass Humanities and The MacDuffie School.



By: Mable Sharif

Parent to Parent

Empowering parents to help prevent their children from drugs or substance misuse.



I listen to parents and other adults daily talking about their worries and concerns about children misusing or beginning to use drugs. Parents you must stop worrying and begin to talk with your children about drugs and include the consequences of using drugs.

It is never too soon to talk with your child about drugs. For beginners, start to talk with your small children about legal medications. Talk to children about what might happen if they take too much of the medication and explain why the medicine come with a child-proof cap. If your child is old enough to try to open the medication he/she is old enough to be taught why he/she can not take the medicine all by themselves in an age appropriate language. There is danger in misusing any drugs. Legal medications sometimes lead to illegal drug usage. Continue to talk to your child as he/she grows into a pre-teen and teenager.

Some parents might say my

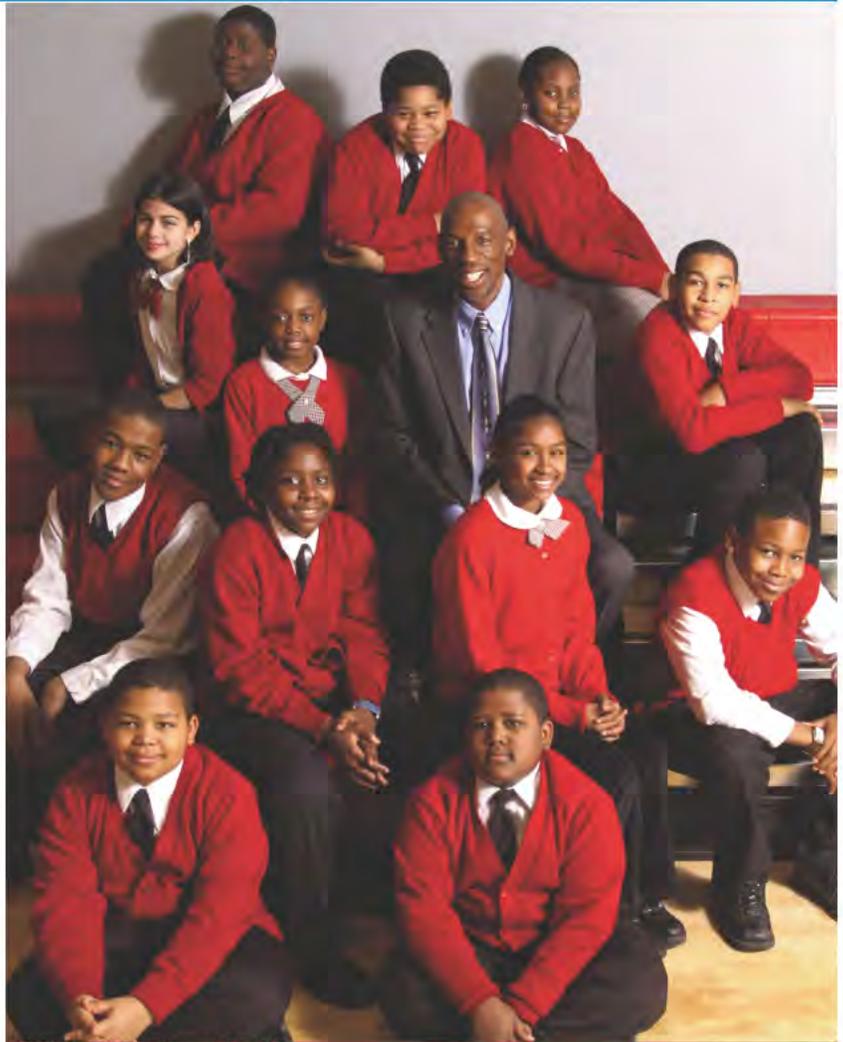
child won't talk to me. Children like to talk especially teenagers. Parents must really learn how to listen without judging their child. If your child opens up to you about something you disagree with continue to listen and get the whole story. Ask your child what he/she thinks about the subject matter and why they hold their stated views.

Give your child an opportunity to explain or express his/her views. If you yell at your child and say don't bring that mess in my house, chances are your child might not come back to you again. If parents are not willing to listen, believe me, children will find someone who is very willing to listen and that source's message might not be appropriate.

Parents keep the line of communications open.

Remember listening is a great tool for preventing the misuse of substances/drugs.

Mable Lene Sharif



City Thinks 2009: Education, Poverty and a Call to Action

The 2009 City Thinks, a collaboration of the Springfield Public Forum (Springfield Symphony Hall) and the Springfield City Library will analyze urban education and poverty amelioration through book and film-discussion groups, panels, a student and art essay contest, a mural project and other cultural and educational programming. The City Thinks will culminate in the lecture with Harlem Children's Zone CEO and President, Geoffrey Canada on November 4, 2009. The book which will serve as the backbone for City Thinks programming is *Whatever It Takes: Geoffrey Canada's Quest to Change Harlem and America*; the documentary we will screen is *Hard Times at Douglass High: A No Child Left Behind Report Card*. Discussion groups and other programming will be scheduled at City Libraries, schools and community centers.

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Historic performance of students state-wide will revisit the Harlem Renaissance at Boston College, October 16

On October 16th 2009, at the Robsham Theater on the campus of Boston College, "The Harlem Renaissance Revisited With a Gospel Flavor" will be performed at Boston College by the Oscar Micheaux Family Theater Program, a Boston-based theatrical company, along with several performers from communities across the Commonwealth.

Harlem Renaissance Revisited, one of the most heartwarming performances by youth, was written and produced by Boston's own renaissance writer Haywood Fennell, who takes pride in bringing history to the youth who need it most.

Roger F. Harris, Ph.D., Headmaster, Chief Executive Officer Boston Renaissance Charter School states "Haywood Fennell is a man who genuinely wants to

improve conditions for under-represented social groups, particularly people of color, urban youth, military veterans, and those who have experienced incarceration. He constantly thinks, and acts, in various ways to improve conditions for others. He is a role model for many."

With his powerful vision of keeping youth and adults in touch with history, Haywood and the inter-generational cast of the Oscar Micheaux Family Theater Program, presents this historic play to bring life to the Harlem Renaissance -- a "Spiritual Coming of Age" according historian and philosopher Alain Locke.

A new look at the Harlem Renaissance

The Harlem Renaissance, an African American cultural

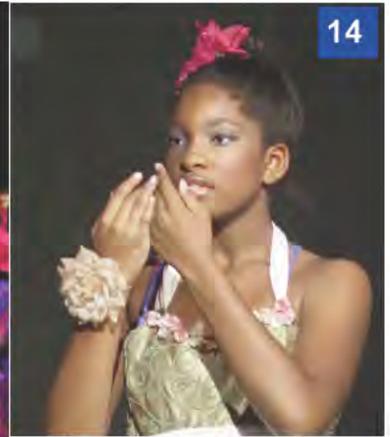
movement of the 1920s and early 1930s that was centered in the Harlem neighborhood of New York City, was the defining moment and movement in history highlighting the cultural identity of African

Americans.

According to many sources, the movement emerged toward the end of World War I in 1918, blossomed in the mid- to late 1920s, and then faded in the mid-1930s. The Harlem .



Harlem Renaissance philanthropist Sarah Breedlove Walker, known as Madam C. J. Walker, was the first African American woman millionaire in America.



Smith Georgia Douglas Johnson, Augusta Savage and others.

Harlem Renaissance Revisited

Renaissance marked the first time that mainstream publishers and critics took African American literature seriously and that African American literature and arts attracted significant attention from the nation at large.

Some authors who became nationally known were Jean Toomer, Jessie Fauset, Claude McKay, Zora Neale Hurston, James Weldon Johnson, Alain Locke, Eric D. Walrond and Langston Hughes as well as Zora Neale Hurston, Bessie

The Harlem Renaissance Revisited is a play about Negro artisans during the Renaissance Period. It is during this time period that many Negro, because of Jim Crow laws, sought countries in Europe where racism would not interfere with their artistic developments.

At the same time, there were other leading Negro artists that remained in the United States, with many of them working and residing in Harlem, the Black metropolis of New York City.

A strong patron of Negro Art, and very successful businesswoman, was Madame CJ Walker. She did not believe that Langston Hughes or any other Negro artist should leave the country where their forefathers were slaves, and she helped in an enormous way to build.

Madame Walker decides to have a party at "Evelyn's Delight," a hang place in Harlem for Langston Hughes, who has returned to New York after some success in Europe as a writer. She wants to use this party of welcome to say, "Stay home." She has invited many other artist friends of Langston's to attend the party. "We are humbled and grateful by this experience and we are looking forward to bringing

this production on campus. The music and dance along with the story line tells of an exciting time as the audience learns about characters such as Ethel Waters, Josephine Baker and Zora Neale Hurston and other famous folks from the Harlem Renaissance trying to show the world their creations," stated Haywood Fennell, Sr., Playwright and Artistic Director.

"The production format comes from some of America's rich, and culturally diverse history. People that come out will really enjoy and appreciate this performance. It's our History, not a mystery."

Come out and see this great play and support the youth. For more information, see the ad below.



The Oscar Michaux Family Theater Program presents
"Telling the History of Triumph Over Adversities"

October 16th 2009 (7:15PM) -
Boston College's Robsham Theater

Featuring some of Boston Best Talents....
Singing and Dancing

Ruby Hill, Irene O'Bannon, Michael Carter, Jr., Marchelle Jacques-Yarde, Rayetta Ingram, Kushelia Sukhu, Joe Banks, Linda Henderson, Alex Newell, Wanda Perry Josephs, Maurice Smith, Angel Dublin, Sidney M. Bowden, Stanley Everette, Chemi Kadete, Catrina Andrae, and David Bowden

Director: Lee Smith and Music Director: Adonis Martin

Dance by: Stajez Center for the Arts

For Ticket Information Call: (617) 238-2460 - General Admissions \$20

A special thanks to Aimee Griffin Munnings for her contributions to the business community here in Massachusetts as well congratulations to her for all of her professional achievements and recent new appointment. Munnings will leave Springfield, MA to take a position in Washington, D.C. as General Counsel for the National Children's Center.

Munnings' leadership and success will be celebrated on September 30, 2009, during the New England Black Chamber of Commerce's Community Celebration of Collaboration for Economic Development at the Basillica, 339 State Street, Springfield, MA starting at 5:30 p.m.

The event will also welcome



Aimee Griffin Munnings

the organization's Interim Executive Director, Maegan Brooks, Esq.

The New England Black Chamber has supported more than 500 individuals with business planning, training and access to capital. Munnings initiated the chamber to initiate an awareness of economic

development to transform the region. She has started something that will continue to impact the city of Springfield and the Region.

The New England Black Chamber of Commerce has a commitment to provide service and support to those who have not traditionally had access. Munnings has been willing to push the hard conversations about the economic impact of institutional racism especially in the city with demographics with a majority of people of color. While Aimee leaves the city the issue still persists.

Maegan Brooks has accepted the mission and the challenge to direct the Chamber to the next level. As the President of the Friends of the Chamber organization, Attorney Brooks

has been instrumental in expanding the footprint of the Chamber.

Brooks will coordinate a strategic planning session to move the Chamber to the next level. Munnings, who was born in Springfield, has made contributions to the city of Springfield as the director of the Western New England College Law and Business Center for Advancing Entrepreneurship in addition to serving on 10 local and national boards for economic development and community service.

For information about tickets and sponsorships please call 413-731-6444 or send an email to info@neblackchamber.org



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Law and Business Center for
Advancing Entrepreneurship
www.law.wnec.edu/lawandbusiness

Western New England College Law and Business Center for Advancing Entrepreneurship

Event: Speaker Series September 2009

Date: Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Time: 12pm - 1:30pm

Location: Western New England College School of
Law Commons, 1215 Wilbraham Road Springfield, MA

Free and open to the public. Lunch will be served.

September Speaker Series event will feature Darian Ibrahim, Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin Law School. The title of his talk will be "Debt As Venture Capital."

About Darian Ibrahim

Darian Ibrahim is an Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin Law School. He specializes in corporate and securities law and its application to entrepreneurial activity. He is particularly interested in the legal and economic issues involved in financing rapid-growth start-up companies, which he examines in recent work on angel investors, venture debt, and the geography of entrepreneurship. Professor Ibrahim's work appears (or is forthcoming) in the *Vanderbilt Law Review*, *Washington University Law Review*, *Iowa Law Review*, *Arizona Law Review*, and several other journals. He teaches courses in business associations, securities regulation, law & entrepreneurship, and corporate governance. Professor Ibrahim was previously on the faculty at the University of Arizona, where he was voted Teacher of the Year by the law school student body.



Darian Ibrahim

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Cultural Connections

The Sword of the Lord and of Gideon: John Brown & The Coming of the Civil War



On Saturday, October 17, STCC will host a symposium in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of John Brown's Raid on Harpers Ferry.

Our keynote speaker will be David S. Reynolds, author of *John Brown, Abolitionist: The Man Who Killed Slavery, Sparked the Civil War, and Seeded Civil Rights*.

From 1847 to 1851, John Brown lived in Springfield, Massachusetts. He intended to establish a distribution method to offer a wider market for raw wool. Although the company failed, the four years Brown spent in Springfield were crucial to his deepening involvement in the abolitionist movement.

The public is invited to this event, which will begin at 9 AM in Scibelli Hall, with registration at 8:30 AM. For more information, contact Professor John F. Gately at Gately@stcc.edu.

Springfield Technical Community College is located on the 55-acre Springfield Armory National Historic Site in Western Massachusetts. Tours of the Armory will be offered.

Springfield Technical
Community College



September 30, 2009

The New England Black Chamber of Commerce presents the third annual Community Celebration of Collaboration for Economic Development

honoring Aimee Griffin Munnings at the Basillica, 339 State Street, Springfield, MA starting at 5:30 p.m. For more information, call 413-731-6444.

October 3, 2009

Macedonia Cogic

Community Safety Fair will

be held on Saturday, October 3, 2009 (10AM - 6PM) at Magazine Park (St. James Avenue, Springfield MA)

Come for Hay Rides, Bounce House, Pumpkin Patch, SOURCE Youth Parachute Games & Team Building Workshops Good Food / Various Vendors

as well as information on the following:

Free Coats for Kids, Free Toys for Joy, Free Turkeys, Assistance paying your utility bills and Free Oil to heat your home.

October 5, 2009

The Business of Hip-Hop Symposium at Berklee Thirty Years of Hip-Hop Business: Mentoring Tomorrow's Entrepreneurs

On Monday October 5, 2009 (7 pm), Berklee College of Music's Music Business/Management Department will present a riveting discussion with entertainment and media industry senior executives about their career paths, the role of mentorship in Hip-Hop, the state of Hip-Hop, shaping pathways for tomorrow's leaders in the music business, and more. Panel discussion with Q&A to follow

The panel will be moderated by James "Big Hawk" Hawkins from The Source Magazine with Mike Trammel, a Berklee graduate and former Urban Division marketing executive for BMG, Jive, PolyGram, and EMI who now works extensively in urban youth outreach and arts education.

The event will be held at the Berklee Performance Center 136 Massachusetts Avenue Boston. It is free and open to the public, all ages are welcome.

Belinda's Petition

October 8, 2009

Dramatic Presentation and
Author Reading

Dr. Raymond A. Winbush
&
The Colored Ladies
Thursday, October 8, 2009
at 7:00 PM

Location:

Royall House and Slave Quarters, 5
George Street, Medford, MA

Raymond Winbush will be reading and discussing his recently published book, *Belinda's Petition, A Concise History of Reparations for the Transatlantic Slave Trade in the former Slave Quarters*.

The book is centered around the nascent action of Belinda Royall, an enslaved African on the Ten Hills Plantation in Medford, MA. Belinda petitioned the Massachusetts State Legislature in 1783 and 1787 to pay her for the 38 years that she toiled as a slave for Isaac Royall. In his book, Winbush argues that Belinda's actions place her squarely at the forefront of the reparations movement in the United States and presents a reexamination of reparations.

Winbush is the editor/author of the critically acclaimed *Should America Pay? Slavery and Raging Debate on Reparations* and *The Warrior Method: A Program for Rearing Healthy Black Boys*. The Colored Ladies will be joining Dr. Winbush at the Slave Quarters for a dramatic reading of *Belinda Royall's 1783 petition*. The Ladies have reenacted the lives of Black women during the Civil War in locations throughout the US and the life of the enslaved in Medford, MA.

BELINDA'S PETITION



A CONCISE HISTORY
OF REPARATIONS FOR
THE TRANSATLANTIC
SLAVE TRADE

October 8, 2009

October 16, 2009

The Harlem Renaissance Revisited With a Gospel Flavor

will be performed on October 16th 2009 starting at 7:45PM at the Robsham Theater on the campus of Boston College. This play is for one night with the strategic support of Boston College and the participation of students from Northeastern University along with other cast members of the Oscar Micheaux Family Theater program. For ticket information, please call (617) 238-2460 or visit <http://oscarmicheauxrep@tripod.com>

The Minority Reporter- "You Mean There's Race in My Movie?"

Thursday, October 8, 2009
2 Showings: 11:00am and 6:00pm
Scibelli Hall, Building 2, 7th Floor
Free admission - Please note tick-

October 10, 2009

Third Annual PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE for Women of Color

Saturday, October 10, 2009, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Baystate Medical Center Conference Center
759 Chestnut Street Springfield, MA

What is it? A professional development opportunity designed for women of color seeking to advance their chosen professional avocation.

Why should you attend? Get inspired, motivated and connected - all in one single day. Hear stories of success and tools of the trade from other successful women of color.

Electronic registration is available at www.urnextlevel.com and is preferred. You can also register by mail. Download and return the attached registration form available on the website.

Want to attend but can't afford registration? Contact us to find out how you might qualify for a scholarship. Interested in presenting your product or service at the Vendor Mart? Give us a call - 413.335.8670. You can attend AND vend without missing anything.

ets are required for this event. For more information please contact: Jourdana Barton at 413-755-4468

October 8, 2009

"THE MONEY SUMMIT for MEN"

(Women are encouraged to attend this event)
Thursday, October 8, 2009
8:45 am - 2:00 pm; "VIP"
Networking Hours: 2:00 pm to 3:00



Dr. Bill Winston, Pastor

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