

**"IT CAN WAIT,
PLEASE DON'T TEXT AND DRIVE"**



The Dallas Post Tribune

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VOLUME 68 NUMBER 20

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

February 11 - 17, 2016

Black History Month

A timeline of the first African American writers to become National Book Award honored authors.

1950



1953 RALPH ELLISON is the first African American National Book Award Fiction Winner for *Invisible Man*.

1957 JAMES BALDWIN receives his first major literary honor and the first of four Finalist nominations for the novel *Giovanni's Room*.

1960

1962 JAMES BALDWIN is the first African American Nonfiction Finalist for his collection of essays, *Nobody Knows My Name*.

1969 GWENDOLYN BROOKS is the first African American Poetry Finalist for *in the Mecca*.



1970

1972 VIRGINIA HAMILTON and **JUNE JORDAN** are the first African American Finalists for Young People's Literature for *The Planet of Junior Brown and His Own Where*.



June Jordan

1973 NIKKI GIOVANNI is the first female African American Nonfiction Finalist for her autobiography *Gemini*.

1975 VIRGINIA HAMILTON is the first African American woman to win a National Book Award for *M.C. Higgins the Great*, the only children's book to receive a National Book Award, Boston Globe-Horn Book Award, and a Newbery Medal.

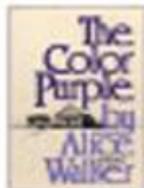


1977 National Book Award judges award **ALEX HALEY** a special citation of merit for *Roots*, a fictionalized account of the author's family history. The first major literary honor for the author.



1972 ROBERT HAYDEN is the first male African American Poetry Finalist for *Words in the Mourning Time*.

1980



1983 ALICE WALKER is the first African American woman to win a National Book Award for Fiction for *The Color Purple*.

1983 GLORIA NAYLOR is the first African American to win a National Book Award for a First Novel for *The Women of Brewster Place*.



1990

1991 ORLANDO PATTERSON is the first African American to win a National Book Award for Nonfiction for *Freedom in the Making of Western Culture*.



1994 GWENDOLYN BROOKS is the first African American to receive the Foundation's Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters.

1999 Ai is the first African American to win a National Book Award for Poetry for *Vice: New and Selected Poems*.



1999 OPRAH WINFREY receives the Foundation's 50th Anniversary Gold Medal.

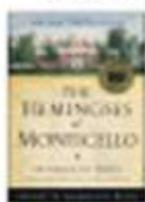


2000

2006 NATHANIEL MACKEY is the first African American man to win a National Book Award for Poetry for *Splay Anthem*.



2008 ANNETTE GORDON-REED is the first African American woman to win a National Book Award for Nonfiction for *The Hemminges of Monticello: An American Family*.



2013 DR. MAYA ANGELOU is the first African American to receive the Foundation's Literarian Award for Outstanding Service to the American Literary Community.



Dallas: Too Busy Growing To Hate!



EDITORIAL PAGE

Blackonomics: Raising money or just raising Cain?

By James Clingman
NNPA News Wire Columnist

Black economic and political woes.

We sign online petitions in support of some cause or another; we send letters to our representatives in DC; we do our obligatory marches and demonstrations; we celebrate historical events and fawn over memorials of fallen Black heroes. Some of that is fine, but if those actions are not backed up by economic muscle, they will not advance us one iota.

If Bernie Sanders can raise \$20 million in \$27.00 increments, why can't we do the same thing? I'll tell you why; Black dollars don't make any sense. We are so focused on the current political prospects of this candidate or that one, and we have lost complete sight of what is really important and vital to our future: economic empowerment. Sometimes I think Black folks have lost our ever-loving minds, well some of us at least.

On the other hand, I am proud to be a member of the One Million Conscious Black Voters and Contributors (OMCBV&C), a group of folks from thirty-five states who are not just talking about pooling resources but are actually doing it. Together we have made a real difference in the lives of various Black folks; we have supported Black radio by buying advertisements and sponsoring individual shows, in addition to just listening and calling in.

We support Black-owned businesses by buying their products and services, and we are committed to a collective approach to obtaining reciprocity in the public policy arena by voting as an unwavering bloc.

We are dedicated to one another and to our collective goals and objectives, and we will not break ranks simply to please some politician, nor will we succumb to their attempts to buy us off. Our funding pool is from the "work of our own hands," as Martin Delany taught us. Our resolve is built on the shoulders of those strong elders who have made their transitions. We are organized and well on our way to becoming the largest group of conscious black people in this nation.

Most importantly we are about action not rhetoric. We are willing to make the requisite sacrifices necessary to reach our goals of economic and political empowerment, and we have demonstrated that willingness through our actions.

Let's face it; Black folks have little or no chance of achieving the many things we discuss unless we are organized and prepared to utilize our collective leverage to obtain reciprocity from the system in which we find ourselves. When are we going to follow through on the solutions we put forth in our conversations? As I wrote

some time ago, "What is the result of our rhetoric?"

Politically and economically, we are in last place. Are we so complacent about our position in this nation that it has caused us to be paralyzed, frozen in our tracks, even at the thought of moving forward? Raising Cain instead of, or at least in addition to raising money to help ourselves, is a hopeless strategy for empowerment. Imagine one million conscious Black people pooling our money to fund the Harvest Institute or the political campaign of a candidate we "decided" would run. Our schools, museums, media, financial institutions, conferences, businesses, co-ops, movements, foundations, endowments, and any other Black owned entity could all be funded by a committed group of conscious Black folks.

Bernie did it; what's holding us back? As the old saying goes, "There's nothing between us but air and opportunity." Go to www.iamoneofthemillion.com and let's start taking care of ourselves. We can start with \$27.00 each.

James Clingman is the nation's most prolific writer on economic empowerment for Black people. His latest book, *Black Dollars Matter!* Teach your dollars how to make more sense, is available on his website, Blackonomics.com.



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- 4) Deadline for receipt of advertisements is MONDAY AT NOON. Advertisements will not be received after that point unless they are camera ready and have been approved by the publisher.
- 5) All articles and advertisements must be proofed by the article placer or advertiser. We will not be held responsible for any errors if the article placer or advertiser does not proof their article or advertisement.
- 6) Articles and advertisements received past the stated deadlines will be held over for the next publication if applicable.
- 7) We will not be held responsible for pictures that are not claimed after two (2) weeks. Pictures held after two (2) weeks are subject to disposal.
- 8) Advertisement positioning based on a first-come basis. Positioning can be guaranteed for 15% over total cost.

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The Black Press believes that America can best lead the world away from racial and national antagonisms when it accords to every person, regardless of race, color or creed, full human and legal rights. Hating no person, fearing no person, the Black Press strives to help every person in the firm belief that all are hurt as long as anyone is held back.

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A Little Bit of Faith: Be Diligent



By Colleen White

the wrong places.

There is truly only one person's love who will never fail us and His love will last forever.

In the book of Psalm it says, "Give thanks to the God of Heaven. His love endures forever," (Psalm 136:26). God's love for us is not dependent on our love for Him. He loves us unconditionally because of who He is.

If you're looking for a love that will last this Valentine's Day, look toward the Heavenly father. He will love you with a love that is everlasting. His perfect love for you will cast out any fear or doubt you may carry in your heart.

Do you want a love that will last for all eternity? Would you like to have a Valentine that would last a lifetime? If so, God's love will endure forever. Look to Him to complete you this Valentine's Day. I know I will.

Amen. Amen?

The Connection between Climate Change and the Zika Virus

By Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson

We have all heard about the scary disease, Zika virus, which is sweeping its way north from South America, and causing birth defects. We have also heard that early last week, Dallas County confirmed two cases of Zika virus, and that it can be transmitted sexually. What we have not heard, and what most people are not talking about, is the fact that global warming creates conditions for the spread of such mosquito-borne diseases as Zika Virus.

First, let me give you information about this most recent outbreak. This particular outbreak of the virus began in Brazil in 2015 and has spread among South American countries. At this time, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is monitoring the cases of Zika virus in the Americas in conjunction with the World Health Organization (WHO), which has put the Zika

virus outbreak on "public health emergency of international concern" status.

Now, let me give you a little background on the virus itself. The Zika virus was first identified in the Zika Forest in Uganda in 1947 as part of a study to identify viruses that were carried by mosquitos. Researchers in the study discovered a monkey that had contracted an unrecorded virus, what we now know as Zika. The mosquitos that spread Zika and other diseases, called aedes aegypti, originated in Africa and have migrated globally since.

A warming planet creates an environment more conducive to the spread of infectious diseases. In fact, scientists at the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change already predicted years ago that a warming planet would cause the movement of infectious and tropical diseases. A warmer environment can cause pathogens to become more virulent and spark the development of entirely new

strains, significantly increasing the risk of contracting a disease. The spread of infectious diseases like Lyme disease, Zika virus, West Nile Virus, and Rocky Mountain spotted fever, carried by insects such as ticks and mosquitos, are on the rise due to more favorable breeding and migration conditions as a result of climate change.

With the spread of this particular virus, Zika, and its complications with microcephaly, a serious birth defect, we must do all that we can to contain the spread and also recognize the challenges we face with global warming. Right now, the National Institutes of Health is partnering with industry and organizations around the globe to do more research on the Zika virus and to find a treatment or viable vaccine.

Each month the scientific evidence on climate change grows and it is confirming what the majority of climate scientists have been saying for some time. The Earth is warming, and its con-

sequences are mammoth and unpredictable. The spread of Zika virus is one of those consequences.

Last week, I joined a coalition of my colleagues in Congress urging President Obama to take additional steps in the fight against Zika with research, treatment, and prevention. I urge my constituents to stay informed on prevention, transmission, travel notices, and cases of Zika virus at <http://www.cdc.gov/zika>

Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have called for a serious legislative approach to recognize and combat global warming. With increasingly serious and unpredictable consequences of global warming such as Zika virus, denying global warming is not only careless, it is dangerous. We need a new political climate to ensure that we can responsibly discuss the climate of our world.

Credo of The Black Press

The Black Press believes that America can best lead the world away from racial and national antagonisms when it accords to every person, regardless of race, color or creed, full human and legal rights. Hating no person, fearing no person, the Black Press strives to help every person in the firm belief that all are hurt as long as anyone is held back.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

CITY OF DALLAS INVITES CITIZENS TO SHARE DESIGN IDEAS FOR NEW AQUATIC FACILITIES

- Dallas Park and Recreation wants citizens to share their ideas for the design of Dallas' new family-friendly, multi-generational aquatic centers. Public meetings from January 25 to February 18 will let individuals and families help select construction features

and water amenities for regional, community and neighborhood facilities proposed in Dallas' aquatic master plan.
Fretz Park February 11 6:30 p.m.
Fretz Recreation Center 6950 Belt Line Road
Samuell-Grand Park February 18 6:30 p.m. Samuell-Grand Recreation Center 6200 E. Grand Ave.

DALLAS VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY PROGRAM HOSTS

FREE EXPUNCTION CLINIC

DALLAS, TEXAS-The Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program (DVAP), a joint initiative of the Dallas Bar Association and Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, will hold a free Expunction Clinic for Dallas County residents who meet certain financial guidelines on Tuesday, February 16, 4:00 p.m. at the West Dallas Multi-Purpose Community Center (2828 Fish Trap Rd., Dallas, TX 75212).

City of Dallas Closings and Schedules for President's Day Holiday

City facilities to close Monday, February 15 for President's Day

City offices - Closed
Libraries -Closed
Recreation Centers -Open
Animal Services
The Shelter and Administrative offices will close on Monday, February 15th. Animal Services staff will be available to respond to emergency calls. All calls will be handled thru 311. Everyday Adoption Center at 16821 N. Coit Rd. will open 10 am to 8 pm.

3-1-1 Customer Help Line
Customer Service Representatives will be available to take service-related urgent calls such as water main

breaks, downed trees/limbs, signal lights out/down, animal control, etc. Water

Customer Service will be closed. Routine service requests may be input via the web at <http://www.dallascityhall.com/services/services.html>

Police Administrative offices-Closed
Will operate on normal schedule
Dallas Fire Rescue Administrative offices-Closed
Will operate on a normal schedule

Court and Detention Services
The Municipal Courts Building at 2014 Main will be closed Saturday, February, 13

and Monday, February 15, 2014. Payments by mail are accepted with postmark dates honored. Online payments may be made at www.dallascityhall.com. Full payments and attorney & cash bonds for arrested defendants will be processed 24 hours/7days a week (including holidays) at the Dallas Marshal's Office, 1600 Chestnut Street, Dallas, Texas 75226.

Sanitation Administrative offices closed. Garbage and recycling will be collected on Monday as scheduled for residential customers. Week 3 Bulk & Brush collection will begin Monday, February 15th. Transfer stations and the McCommas Bluff landfill will be open.

DALLAS VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY PROGRAM HOSTS FREE DIVORCE LEGAL CLINIC FOR LOW-INCOME

The Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program (DVAP), a joint initiative of the Dallas Bar Association and Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, will hold a free Pro Se Divorce Legal Clinic for Dallas County residents who meet certain financial guidelines, on Wednesday, February 24, 9:00 a.m. - Noon at the Jubilee Park and Community Center (907 Bank Street, Dallas). This clinic is provided the fourth Wednesday of every month, with the exceptions of November and December.

Volunteer attorneys will provide free divorce legal

assistance for low-income Dallas County residents to assist with their simple uncontested divorces and uncontested non-parent custody and adoptions. To qualify for assistance, residents must apply for help and meet certain financial guidelines, including:

- Resident of Dallas County
- Legal resident or citizen of the USA
- Minimal amount of property and no property disputes
- No family violence within the last 90 days, unless there is a Protective Order or you have been denied. If there is domestic violence, you may

still qualify.

If residents need assistance before or after the Divorce Clinic, they can attend one of the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program's other legal clinics held in the Dallas area multiple times each month. For a full listing of the clinic, log on to <http://dallasvolunteerattorneyprogram.org/get-help/>. Residents may also call the Dallas Bar Association's Lawyer Referral Service at (214) 220-7444. For media inquiries about these clinics, contact DVAP Managing Attorney Michelle Alden at (214) 243-2234.

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WEDNESDAY SERVICES: 6:00 A.M. - 8:00 A.M. (Sundays only)

www.bocdallas.org

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Phone: (214) 330-8522 Fax: (214) 353-3297



Rev. Brian Carter, Senior Pastor

SERVICES
Adult Sunday School: 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. (Sundays only)
Children's Church: 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. (Sundays only)
Youth Conference: 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. (Sundays only)
Adult Worship Service: 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Sundays only)
Children's Raising: 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Sundays only)
Worship Service: 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. (Sundays only)
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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
Sunday
Morning Worship 9:00 a.m.
Bible Class 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday
Prayer Service 7:00 p.m.
Bible Class 7:30 p.m.
Thursday
Bible Class 11:00 a.m.

Dallas West Church Of Christ
3510 N. Hampton Rd. Dallas, Texas 75212
(214) 651-2111



Pastor David R. Jones, Sr.

SERVICES
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Monday, Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.
Friday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

True Lee Missionary Baptist Church



Pastor David R. Jones, Sr.

SERVICES
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Monday, Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.
Friday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

ST. PAUL A.M.E. CHURCH
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Services
Church Sunday School: 8:30 a.m.
Morning Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.

Additional Services available during the week for more information visit www.spamc.net or call 214-421-1344

Salem Institutional Baptist Church
144 Cooper Street • Dallas, Texas 75215 • (214) 425-4797



Rev. Todd M. Atkins, Pastor

SERVICES
Sunday School: 9:15 A.M.
Morning Worship: 10:45 A.M.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 7:00 P.M.

Friendship West Baptist Church
"Making Disciples To Make A Difference"
Matthew 28:19-20



Dr. Frederick D. Haynes, III - Senior Pastor

SUNDAY SERVICES
8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

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www.friendshipwest.org

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2600 S. Marsalis Ave • Dallas, TX 75216 • 214-375-4876



Rev. Derrrian Bailey

Services
Sunday 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Wed. 12:00 p.m. Bible Study
Wed 7:00 p.m. Bible Study
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Love of Self,
Love of Humanity,
the Will to Serve.

New Cliff Missionary Baptist Church
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(214) 372-4528



Rev. T. L. Brown

SERVICES
Sunday School: 9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship: 10:50 A.M.
Bible Study: 6:00 A.M.
Night Service: 7:00 P.M.
Monday Mission: 7:00 P.M.
Tuesday Bible Study & Prayer: 7:00 P.M.
Thursday Choir Rehearsal: 7:00 P.M.

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You're welcome to join us

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CELEBRATION TIMES
Church School: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship Services: 7:30 & 10:30 a.m.
Mid-Week Revival Services: 7:00 p.m.

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"A GOOD UNDERSTANDING WINS FAVOR"
Prov. 13:15

Carver Heights Baptist Church
2510 E. Ledbetter Dallas, Texas 75216



Pastor, Rev. Daryl Carter

SERVICES
Early Worship: 8:00 AM
Sunday School: 9:30 AM
Morning Worship: 10:45 AM
Evening Worship: 7:00 PM

Greater New Zion Baptist Church
2210 Pine Street Dallas, Tx 75215
(214) 421-4119 • Email: gnz2210@sbcglobal.net



Rev. Joe S. Patterson, Pastor

Services:
Bible Study
• Tuesdays 11:00am
• Wednesdays 7:00pm
• Sunday School 9:30
• Worship Service 11:00am



Bernie
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An honest leader with the courage to take on powerful interests and fight for justice

Bernie: A Lifetime Leader
Bernie has fought for civil rights his whole life. He has one of the strongest civil rights voting records in Congress. From marching with Dr. King to proclaiming that Black Lives Matter, Bernie has a long history of standing with the community. He fights for what is right and has the courage to stand up to injustices — then and now. He is against the death penalty, and has fought his whole life to uplift struggling families and communities. Bernie is a leader who will continue to fight for equality, opportunity, and the protection of our rights.

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★ Fight for free tuition at public universities.
★ Fight to fix the broken criminal justice system.
★ Fight to increase opportunities for minority owned businesses
★ Fight to reform our police departments.
★ Fight to end mass incarceration.

SPORTS PAGE

7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, February 11	Friday, February 12	Saturday, February 13	Sunday, February 14	Monday, February 15	Tuesday, February 16	Wednesday, February 17
H-70° L-42°	H-68° L-45°	H-62° L-48°	H-65° L-48°	H-64° L-45°	H-70° L-51°	H-73° L-64°

BLACK HISTORY FACT...

ERNIE DAVIS





ERNIE DAVIS
1939 - 1963

1961 HEISMAN TROPHY WINNER

A football player...a student
a friend...a hero

HE LIVED WITH INTEGRITY
AND DIED WITH COURAGE

This statue given by his admirers
as an inspiration to the youth of tomorrow.

In memory of a man
full of determination and courage.

Erected by...

FIRST BLACK HEISMAN TROPHY WINNER

BRONCOS WIN SUPER BOWL 50



(AP) - With his prolific passing and complete control of the game at the line of scrimmage, Peyton Manning helped usher in the NFL's wide-open era of high-scoring offenses and pass-happy game plans.

Manning's possible farewell game in Super Bowl 50 was a throwback to the 1970s when his father Archie was running away from dominant defenses such as the Steel Curtain and Doomsday.

Von Miller forced fumbles that set up both of Denver's touchdowns, led a defense that harassed MVP Cam Newton and helped carry Manning to his second Super Bowl title with a 24-10 victory over the Carolina Panthers on Sunday.

"Whenever you're doing something for your buddies, it means a little bit more," Miller said. "As human beings, we're selfish but when you're doing something for somebody else, that's when the magic happens."

For so many years, Manning's career was defined by his gaudy regular season numbers that weren't enough come playoff time. A lack of help from teammates or the inability to thrive against stellar defenses from teams such as New England and Seattle left Manning with just one Super Bowl title in his first 13 playoff trips.

So perhaps it was fitting that after carrying teammates for most of his career, he was carried over the finish line in this game by Miller and the coordinator Wade Phillips' "Orange Rush" defense.

"I certainly knew that (with) this defense, this team would have a chance," Manning said. "Our defense has just been, from the get-go, they've been nothing but awesome. Being hurt and struggling early in the season wasn't a lot of fun so I was grateful to get back healthy and to try and play my part these last couple of weeks."

But now after throwing for more yards, more touchdowns and winning more starts than any other quarterback in NFL history, Manning could be ready to hang it up. Manning wouldn't say after the game whether this was his final one.

"I got some good advice from Tony Dungy," Manning said of the first of four coaches with whom he's been to the Super Bowl. "He said, 'Don't make an emotional decision.' This has been an emotional week, an emotional night. I'm going to take some time to reflect."

DALLAS MAVERICKS SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY '16

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	ATL 7:00		MIA 7:30		SAS 8:30	MEM 7:00
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	UTA 7:30	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
PHI 6:00			OKC 7:30		DEN 7:30	
28	29					
MIN 6:00						



Church of Christ
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My Day: Ocean Promotions



By Dr. J. Ester Davis

Where are the STEM jobs and who is hiring? Equally as important who and where are the colleges and institutions of higher education that are doing the training? In the neighborhoods and communities, what local schools (ISD's, Charters, Private) are zeroing in on the new science, aka STEM jobs for the future. (Sidebar: Be amazed. Google the new 797?)

I recently read a most enlightening magazine. I was simply sermonized!!! An entire magazine on STEM jobs at STEM JOBS.com. It was in the lobby at Lamar High School, Arlington. It starts with the Air Force Reserve. Some specific part time jobs in the Air Force Reserve allow

one to sign up for a bonus of up to \$20,000. The sky is no longer the limit for STEM jobs and training. The Oceans of the World are actually the new frontier.

Just a few notes on this new frontier for our new world. A marine physicist means you interact with the oceans. You will also design and build many specialized research tools, including "remotely operated vehicles, sophisticated seafloor instruments and innovative remote-sensing systems." A marine physicist salary is \$72,000. The universities now training are Carnegie Mellon University, Penn State and Tuskegee, Rochester Institute of Technology. The corporations hiring are also listed. Interns now are being scooped up in high school. Huh!!!!

One of the hottest top ten (10) jobs is a marine architect, who is essentially a designer. Median salary \$90,000. Why build the beach when you can build beyond the beach? And be ye not naïve nor cavalier . . . this will and is happening in our lifetime. The people now hiring is the Department of Homeland Security, Biggs & Cox, SEA, LTD and Carnival Cruise Lines. You can attend the

training at the University of Michigan, Stevens Institute of Technology and several others.

Fueling the next generation of innovators are the energy companies. At the moment, British Petroleum (BP) is leading the pack. Their investment in STEM education over the past three years is \$60 million. The sheer fact is that the thirty(30) fastest growing occupations in the next decade will require at least some background in STEM. Scholarships, boot camps, mentoring and education initiatives are all available everywhere. If not, make it happen.

So, what is the bottom line? If you and your family are NOT involved in some area of the 'new frontier', turn around and get in this line. The new world will only be kind. . . to the informed mind. PLEASE remember that.

For now. . . just start/join the conversation.

Coming Up: "The Hihacking of South Dallas". (the largest public works projects in the nation)

How many jobs are there for South Dallas?

What does DBE and MBE really mean?

Ester Davis can be reached at 214.376.9000

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Top Ladies of Distinction To Sponsor 45th Area One Conference



Lady Dorothy Lee, Co-founder of Dallas Post Tribune, Lady Dorothy Crain, and TLOD Area One Director Lady Harnell Williams

The Dallas, Trinity West, Chapters of Top Ladies of Distinction and West Cluster (TLOD),

Incorporated in Area One will host the 45th Area One Leadership Conference that will be held at the Hilton Hotel in Fort Worth, Texas, March 3-6, 2016. The purpose of the Area One Conference is to synchronize leadership, youth, and community partnerships in support of the programs and projects of TLOD.

The conference theme is "Top Ladies of Distinction and Top Teens of America: Engaging in the Enhancement of

Programs that Invest in the Community through Volunteer Service". The five programs of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. are community beautification, community partnerships, senior citizens, status of women, and Top Teens of America, which focuses on empowering and developing youth ages 13 through 19 to become leaders of tomorrow.

TLOD, a professional nonprofit organization, was founded in 1964 in

Tyler Texas. There are more than one hundred chapters across the country. The West Cluster serves cities and communities in Dallas, Austin, San Antonio, El Paso, Texas, and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Projects and initiatives are numerous. Among them are Sickle Cell Disease Awareness, National Council of Negro Women, United Negro College Fund, TLOD Literacy, Keep America

Beautiful, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, March of Dimes, Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (S.T. E.A. M.), AARP, "Back to Work" efforts, and "Because We Care".

At the annual conference, several ladies will be inducted into the organization.

Lady Harnell Williams of Dallas, Texas is the TLOD Area One Director. Lady Drema Lee Woldman is the TLOD National President.

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