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PROVIDING INFORMATION ON RESOURCES AND EVENTS THAT IMPROVE THE LIFESTYLE OF INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY

## National Urban League Annual Conference Inspires Thousands and Launches Push to 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration



Rev. Jesse Jackson, Greg Nickels of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, NAACP Legal Defense Fund president and director-counsel John Payton, NUL Marc H. Morial, CUL President Cheryle Jackson, NAACP President and CEO Benjamin Jealous, and author of Pursuit of Happyness Chris Gardner and other guests during the conference.

The National Urban League (NUL) concluded its three-and-a-half day long, annual conference themed "The Path to Power" after drawing more than 3,300 conference registrants and 4,000 attendees to the NUL Experience Career Fair and Expo Hall. Hosted in Chicago at McCormick Place West, the annual event featured some of the most influential leaders in the country as they addressed the issues that African Americans face in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Presented by Centene and McDonald's Corporation, the conference began with a keynote address by NUL President and CEO Marc H. Morial at Apostolic Church of God where he laid out four

empowerment goals for 2025, which included: 1.) That every American child is ready for college, work and life, 2.) To ensure that every American has access to a decent job with a living wage, 3.) That every American is free from barriers to safe, affordable, and energy efficient housing, on fair terms, and 4.) That every American has access to quality and affordable health care solutions. Following this address, conference attendees joined actors Tracee Ellis Ross and Terrance Howard for a welcome reception at the Field Museum hosted by the Chicago Urban League.

On the first day of workshops and plenary sessions, Marc H. Morial moderated the conference's first panel discussion on "The Path to Power." Participants included: NAACP President and CEO Benjamin Jealous; John Payton, president and director-counsel, NAACP Legal Defense Fund; Greg Nickels of the U.S. Conference of Mayors; Chicago

See NUL page 5

## HOOPS IN THE HOOD 3 ON 3 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT



Jermaine Johnson and Kirk Johnson Director and Co-director award the Slam Dunk Champ.

On August 22 and 23<sup>rd</sup> the Chicago Raiders basketball Team presented the "Hoops in the Hood" back to school 3 on 3 basketball tournament.

This event was for kids and young adults and was held at Millard Park. It was a way to get the neighborhood to come together for a day of fun and basketball.

This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> of such events the organization has done this summer. There has been no sign of violence at these events and they have young kids from blocks all throughout the neighborhood. The Chicago Raiders is a nonprofit organization and the kids of the program help to fund the events by having car washes and various other fundraising activities.

"Hoops in the Hood" is a way to enhance the lives of young men

and women in a small way, to build pride in them, and show that "hard work breeds success." The winner of the event in the grammar school division was the *Silver Hawks*.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> place prize was awarded to the *Wildcats*. The 1<sup>st</sup> place prize for the high school division was awarded to team *Best Buy* and the 2<sup>nd</sup> place prize was given to team *Showtime*.

For the adult division the 1<sup>st</sup> place prize was awarded to team *Real Hooper* and the 2<sup>nd</sup> place prize was awarded to team *Showtime*. There were plenty of spectators out to support the event. Former Chicago Bulls player Linton Johnson was on hand to watch the event.

With the help of head coaches Kirk Johnson and Jermaine Johnson, and the Chicago Raiders



1st place winners in the Young Adult Division (Real Hoopers).



One of the many slamdunks of the tournament.

Board of directors this event proved to be one that will help to change the face of the community.

The Chicago Raiders look

forward to seeing you in 2010 for more "Hoops in the Hood."

For more information please call contact Kirk Johnson of the Chicago Raiders at 773-606-4993.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

96 YOUTH  
WORKER'S  
GRADUATE FROM  
CHICAGO AREA  
PROJECT  
PAGE - 3

EFFORTS TO GET  
FATHERS TO  
SCHOOL SHOULD  
ALSO FOCUS ON  
MOTHERS  
PAGE - 3

19 TIPS FOR  
EFFECTIVE  
FUNDRAISING  
WITH LETTERS  
PAGE - 4

Visit us on our website at [www.nlcen.org](http://www.nlcen.org) for more articles, photos, information and more.



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Presented By Congressman Danny K. Davis &  
Residents of the 7th Congressional District

# NLCN

## 2009 FOCUS

### HEALTH & THE ECONOMY

One of the major issues of the recent presidential campaign was health care. Health care costs have become an escalating burden for employers and consumers alike. Research has shown that total health spending is reduced when consumers bear more responsibility for their health and the expenses related to it. One of the best ways to increase life expectancy while reducing disability is to encourage a culture of self-care practices.

Self care is personal health maintenance. It is the care taken by individuals towards their own health and well being. Self care includes the actions individuals take in their role as care givers for their children, their families, and others to stay fit and to maintain good physical, mental, and spiritual health.

Extreme self care means making choices and decisions that honor our soul in everyday living. It means feeding ourselves whole foods, moving our bodies every day, balancing silence with activity, and surrounding ourselves with supportive, like-minded people who are committed to improving or restoring health and uplifting the quality of their lives as well.

More than 75% of people surveyed in the United Kingdom said if they had guidance or support from a professional or peer they would feel far more confident about taking care of their own health. Research shows that supporting self care can improve health outcomes and increase patient satisfaction. Our intention is to support individuals, families, institutions, and communities in their efforts to practice extreme self care. During 2009, the North Lawndale Community News focuses on cost-effective ways you can improve your health by practicing self care.

The Economy has made itself the number one issue with gas prices reaching almost \$5.00 per gallon and having a domino effect on everything else sold, except housing stock which experienced a terrible decline with the high rate of foreclosures. The Chicago metropolitan area reported 5,821 new foreclosure filings in December, a foreclosure rate of one new foreclosure filing for every 499 households — more than twice the national average. That brought the area's fourth quarter foreclosure total to 16,949 and its 2006 foreclosure total to 57,706, according to Realty Trac.

Even transportation on the CTA went on the rise with one day passes increasing by seventy-five cents and monthly passes increased by \$10.00 from \$75.00 to \$85.00. Those are just a few of the increases.

The North Lawndale Community News this year is expanding on last years financial focus to give attention to its broader parent the economy. Saving and making smarter shopping decisions will help stop us losing through wasteful choices. Finding new ways to increase our income is a necessity for many in an area where gentrification is not going to stop.

One of the hardest things to change is behavior. Modifying behavior seems to be easy when it comes to pain. Social pain lack of money has to be extreme for many to change. 2009 should be different for many and of course many will continue toward economic mistakes and financial ruin.

But in today's information society there is no excuse for not making smart choices. Financial literacy alone is not enough. Look what happened to Lehman Brothers and what's happening to many other financial institutions let alone individuals, families, and small businesses.

Solutions come to the internet, books, economic experts, financial counselors and experts, the media and your economical neighbors.

The North Lawndale Community News will tap into resources and share them with you, our reader. So to help you improve your health and your economy keep reading The North Lawndale News. We say yours because some may not modify their behavior, except when the pain comes and still some won't change.. Your input is also welcome If you have some information that is beneficial please submit it. Let's make smarter health and economic moves for life in 2009.

## THE NORTH LAWDALE COMMUNITY NEWS

The North Lawndale Community News is now published weekly by Strategic Human Services. Our purpose is to help inform our community on resources, events, and issues relevant to them and our neighboring communities. Our community includes those who live, work, worship in, and/or care about North Lawndale. Our focus is on positive, productive solutions, that will improve the lifestyle of our community members.

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## 96 Youth Workers Graduated on Jan. 28th from Chicago Area Project's AYD/YDPCP Professional Development Program

The importance of youth workers and their work with young people was stressed by Keynote Speaker Alderman Ray Colon (35th Ward) during the graduation ceremony on August 28, 2009 at Harold Washington College for 96 youth workers who completed Advancing Youth Development (AYD) and the Youth Development Practitioner Certification Program (YDPCP). AYD and YDPCP are two professional development programs offered as part of a partnership between Chicago Area Project (CAP), the Chicago Department of Family Support Services, and the City Colleges of Chicago. The graduates from several community, governmental, and educational agencies throughout the City of Chicago joined more than 1700 youth workers in Chicago and the suburbs who have enhanced their skills through AYD and YDPCP.

Colon, himself a youth worker with the Chicago Boys & Girls Clubs, the Chicago Park District, and the YMCA before becoming an alderman, credits youth workers with turning his life around. A life changing incident happened when his older brother was killed in a drive by shooting. "It was a youth worker who helped me decide whether to go and get revenge or to go and set an example," said Colon.

Another speaker was Azim Ramelize, Assistant Deputy Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Family Support Services. Ramelize also talked about the difference youth workers can make in lives—especially in keeping at-risk youth out of the juvenile justice system. "Juvenile detention is the gateway to incarceration," stated Ramelize. "Juvenile detention worsens behavior problems. Juvenile prisoners are 37 times more likely to be arrested as an adult than similarly troubled kids who didn't get incarcerated." Ramelize went on to point out: "If someone says, 'you really made a difference in my life'—It's worth all the money in the world!"

Since 2002, more than 1700 youth workers have graduated from accredited professional development programs managed by Chicago



Alisa Williams from the Neighborhood Technology Resource Center, 3517 W Arthington St., is congratulated by David E. Whittaker, Executive Director of Chicago Area Project (CAP) and 35th Ward Alderman Ray Colon as she graduates from the Advancing Youth Development (AYD) program.

Area Project. "It is important for the city, it is important for the state and it is important for the country," stated Whittaker, "to understand that we are moving into a different direction in terms of our care and concern for our young folks. Chicago is leading the way by uplifting the spirits and uplifting the credentials of youth workers not only in Chicago and Illinois, but this model is being replicated throughout the country. The hope is that in 10 years this will become standard all across the county."

AYD is an introductory national youth development curriculum offered in 18 cities throughout the U.S. and the first step on the route to becoming a professional youth worker. YDPCP is unique because it provides college level credits and certification to local people who chose to become active for youth in their communities. Youth workers may also take advantage of a new two-year Associate Applied Science Degree in Youth Work at Harold Washington College in Chicago. The youth workers benefit by obtaining a

professional credential and by moving into the higher education system. Young people benefit from the comprehensive training received by the youth workers with whom they interact.

Each student in the professional development curriculum starts with AYD, a 28-hour curriculum from the National Training Institute for Community Youth Work at the Academy for Educational Development in Washington D.C. The next step is enrollment in YDPCP, an intensive, more advanced, and complex training and education certification program that carries three academic credits and is attached to a 400-hour practicum. The Associate Applied Science Degree in Youth Work includes 62-credit hours of coursework at Chicago's Harold Washington College.

AYD classes are held at various locations throughout Chicago.

For information on future AYD and YDPCP classes, or the Associate Applied Science Degree in Youth Work, call Joy Hernandez at 312-588-3845.

## LANE CHANGE Efforts to Get Fathers to School Should Also Focus on Mothers

A Commentary by Travles R. Lane  
[the1lane@yahoo.com](mailto:the1lane@yahoo.com)

I will preface these comments first by again informing you I am a father with 30 years of experience in the business.

And I have always taken my children to school on the first day. I further want to add that I am a firm supporter of local efforts to inspire all other dads to walk with their child(ren) to school next Tuesday.

I will be taking my 4<sup>th</sup> grade son, as I have done each of his school days since his first grade year, and I strongly encourage other fathers to accompany their kid(s) to the first day of classes next week.

But that is not the focus of this conversation.

It is about correcting an oversight of this Million Man campaign aimed at dads and saying that the Opening Day of school is also a time to emphasize that mothers also should be accompanying their young scholars to the classroom.

As a single parent, I know that like me with my son's mother, many single moms do not have the option of expecting a father to be available next week. So single moms, too, have to carry on sometimes in the name of the fathers their kids may never know. And they should also be recognized and encouraged as much as the fathers who take interest in their kids' education.

A father's interest in his child is certainly special and to be cherished; it is not, however, any more than simply what is required of him. Trying to make more of a man's responsibility to his child

See Efforts page 5

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## 19 Tips for Effective Fundraising with Letters

Valerie F. Leonard - Community Development Consultant

A study conducted by the Direct Marketing Association in 2003 indicated that the average response rate for direct mail campaigns across all major industries was 2.61%. The response rate for nonprofit fundraisers was significantly higher, with an average of 5.35%. The reported ranges included a low of 0.19%, a median of 3.07% and a high of 26.5%.<sup>1</sup>

Given the staggering competition for charitable contributions and corporate sponsorships, what can you do to increase your organization's chances of being on the high end of the spectrum? I have provided a list of tips that I have found to be particularly helpful. Individual results will vary based upon a number of factors, including organizational commitment to the campaign, the number and quality of prospects, your organization's reputation for providing necessary services for the community, timing, etc.

1. Before soliciting any funds, be sure your organization is registered with the Attorney General's Office [http://www.ag.state.il.us/charities/register\\_report.html](http://www.ag.state.il.us/charities/register_report.html) to read about registration requirements and to download the necessary forms.

2. If you work with a professional fundraiser, make sure s/he is also registered with the Attorney General's Office of your state. You can contact the Attorney General's Office to verify whether or not the fundraising consultant is registered.

3. Identify a revenue goal, and strategies to reach it.

4. Establish a realistic budget and timeframe to organize and implement your campaign.

5. Engage donors and prospects before you ask for money. Send annual reports and newsletters, and invite them to special events, etc.

6. Start your solicitation with your organization's board members. If your board members are not engaged, it will be difficult to garner excitement from other prospects. It will also be helpful to be able to tell other prospects that you have 100% participation from the board.

7. Develop a list of prospects consisting of individuals and organizations that are likely to support your cause. This should include the organization's board members and

employees and their contacts; current and former organizational clients; organization vendors; community residents; organizational partners; civic leaders who have shown an interest in your organization's issue; and corporations that sell products that would perceive your clients as a desirable target audience. This is a numbers game. The more prospects you have, the better.

8. If your direct mail campaign will last a couple months or so, consider supplementing the letter with reminder cards, notes on your website, a signature in your e-mail transmittals, ads in neighborhood newspapers or announcements in your organization's own newsletter.

9. Let the reader know why you are writing within the first paragraph of the letter. In the event s/he doesn't read the entire letter, you want him/her to read enough to consider your request, or pass it on to the appropriate person in the organization. Even if the reader decides not to give at this time, you will have at least let him/her know about your organization and its accomplishments.

10. Consider using creative graphic design to engage the reader's interest or to emphasize key points.

11. Draw connections between your organization's mission, goals and values and the core values of the individual prospect, or the mission, goals and values of the prospect organization.

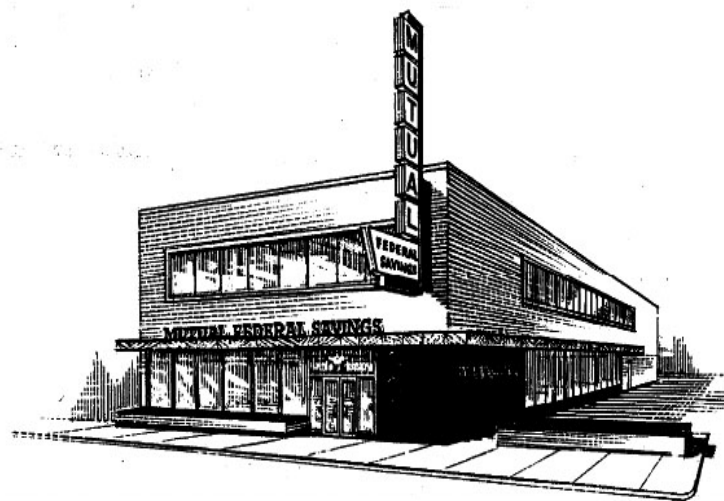
12. Indicate how the gift will be in the mutual best interests of the organization and the prospective donor. A tax deduction in and of itself does not suffice.

13. Clearly demonstrate your organization or program's track record of success. If your organization is a start up, cast your vision for success. Express this in terms of numbers of clients served, impact (positive change) on the **community and client** (not the organization), percentage increases in growth, problems solved, return on investment, etc.

14. Get "behind the numbers" by providing anecdotal evidence of success (ie, human interest stories). Provide pictures that clearly demonstrate impact to clients or the community. Good examples include before and after pictures, or candid shots of a program in progress.

See Fundraising page 6

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## ANNUAL BLACK WOMEN EXPO PLAYS HOSTESS TO NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE ANNIVERSARY, BIG ON ADVICE

Iva Robbins

The Black Women's Expo took a back seat as hostess to the National Urban League 99th Annual Conference but the headlights beamed on the guest speakers who captured the highlights of the event. Both annual events were combined due to economic hardship; this year's 16th annual Black Women's Expo was without question BIG On Delivering Information, very much appropriate for the hard economic times. The event was held at the McCormick Place using the new spaces in the building between July 3 and Aug 1, 2009.

Once you became informed on how the event was logistically laid out with the National Urban League in the front seat very visible with the Black Women's Expo making sporadic appearances and a distance down, directed through a wide and very public corridor leading to the escalators and the guest speakers, it eventually unfolded to be an enjoyable event. Certainly it was an informative event, full of inspiration, entertainment, and a new twist, a dash of politics. Sponsors of the Black Women's Expo met its unusual standards of "something for everyone" well worth the \$10.00 dollar admission fee.

Not noticeable to first time goers of the Black Women's Expo, but annual attendees of this event could not help but miss the traditional selling of African and Black, culture goods of out of state and local vendors. Having said that, the National Urban League replaced this with the elite Corporate America who liberally distributed promotional giveaways such as mini-flashlights, key chains, lotions, soy bars, etc. The Public Defender was present and gave out a variety portrait of President Obama. Among the 170 participant exhibitors were

Wells Fargo Bank passing out books written by Wells Fargo on the housing market. The Small Business Administration was very vocal on what it takes to get a loan, now. The U.S. Army and Veterans Administration suggested that Military Services are a viable option. The Illinois Dept of Public Health emphasized the washing of hands and also had a very giving health information panel. There was also a host of schools, Dudley Beauty College, City Colleges of Chicago, Benedictine University of Adult and Professional Studies. A hand full of local vendors in the mist of the 170 exhibitors were the Literary Cafe and in the Entertainment Stage Area.

Black authors took ownership of the Literary Cafe and positioned themselves to signing their most recent and popular books, having sold over 100,000 copies of their books such as Susan Taylor - All about love, Judge Glenda Hatchett - Say What You Mean and Mean What you say, and S. Brandi Barnes - Black Berries in the China Cabinet.

The Entertainment Stage Area was continually occupied with hot and attractive stars, a little gospel and fashions shows. Among them were Damon Williams, The Journey, and Dru Hill. Stand up applause occurred for the fashions show which served as a promotional tool for the local elite, included mink and leather goods shops, evening and church apparels stores, all had layaway plans on sight.

Seminars and panels were broad and very well accepted in which the guest speakers did not hold back on advice and shared their secret on how they made

See Expo page 7

## NUL from front page

Urban League President and CEO Cheryle Jackson; and Chris Gardner, author of *Pursuit of Happyness* and CEO Christopher Gardner International Holdings.

Following this session, Marc H. Morial was joined by Centene, McDonald's Corporation, Service Master and the Black Women's Expo for a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to commemorate the grand opening of the NUL Experience Career Fair and Expo Hall. Next, Bank of America President and CEO Kenneth Lewis served as the keynote speaker at the National Urban League Business Luncheon. U.S. Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan gave remarks.

CNN's Soledad O'Brien ended the day's sessions as she moderated a panel on "The State of Black America" with panelists: BET's Jeff Johnson; MSNBC political correspondent Michelle Bernard; Dr. John Jackson, president, Schott Foundation and others. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan gave remarks and conference participants were later treated to an electrifying performance by legendary R&B group En Vogue at the Chicago Theater during the evening closing benefit concert.

On the second day of the conference, Vice President Joseph R. Biden was the featured speaker in the special forum "Preparing for the Future: How to Rebuild America's Workforce". During his speech, Biden touted the \$787 billion stimulus package and stressed how he is urging members of Obama's Cabinet to educate women, minority and veteran business owners nationwide about benefits in the economic recovery act.

Other panelists for the day included Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley, Earvin "Magic" Johnson; ComEd Chairman and CEO Frank Clark; Paula Pahl, SVP, Communications & Public Affairs, Best Buy; Wayne D. Watson, Chancellor Emeritus of the City Colleges of Chicago; Dr. Larry Goodman, president and CEO, Rush University Medical Center; BET's Ed

Gordon; HGTV's Myles of Style host Kim Myles; and many others. CNN's Soledad O'Brien also hosted a special screening

of "Reclaiming the Dream", during a red carpet premiere event at the Chicago Theatre.

On the final day of the conference, the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson served as the featured speaker for the Urban League Family Session & Breakfast. The Women of Power Luncheon, hosted by CBS News Correspondent Michelle Miller, honored extraordinary African-American women that included: U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA); Judge Penny Brown Reynolds, host of *Family Court with Judge Penny*; Paula Madison, EVP, diversity, NBC Universal; and Lavern J. Chatman, president and CEO, Northern Virginia Urban League.

The conference concluded with the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Awards Gala where honorees Tyra Banks, former Illinois State Senator Emil Jones; and Alexis Herman, CEO, New Ventures; were presented Living Legend awards. Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley also received the first National Urban League President's Award; and Robert J. Brown, chairman and CEO, B&C Associates was awarded the Charles Collins Award.

Following the awards presentations, event attendees were treated to an inspiring video featuring NUL affiliate chapter presidents from across the nation discussing the current and future needs of African Americans and the NUL's role in addressing these challenges. The video served as a soft launch to what will be a major push towards celebrating the NUL's 100th Anniversary in 2010 through a centennial campaign.

To view recorded webcasts and videos of conference sessions and events, or to learn more about the centennial campaign, please visit [www.nul.org](http://www.nul.org).

About the National Urban League

Established in 1910, The National Urban League ([www.nul.org](http://www.nul.org)) is the nation's oldest and largest community-based movement devoted to empowering African Americans to enter the economic and social mainstream. Today, the National Urban League, headquartered in New York City, spearheads the non-partisan efforts of its local affiliates. There are over 100 local affiliates of the National Urban League located in 36 states and the District of Columbia providing direct services like job training, home ownership and educational assistance to millions of people nationwide along with extensive advocacy and research.

## Efforts from page 3

than just acknowledging it as a requirement of his God-given duty to his own future cheapens its value to the child—and the society that would have to resort to calling it something extra beyond what a father or mother is simply supposed to do.

Anyway, I speak as the child of a single mother who served also as de facto daddy to myself, eight other siblings and two nephews. And as far as I can recall, we always got to school on time.

So, I do salute all the dads out there who recognize their duty to encouraging the education of their children. You are doing a mighty work that is priceless because it means so much more than what can be measured in mere concrete terms.

Still, as important as a father may be to the success of our students, the interest of a mother, especially in the absence of a father, is just as precious and necessary.

So moms, don't let the daddies hog the spotlight Tuesday. Because your child need you just as much, if not even more.

And while on the subject of school, I want to also recognize and encourage the teachers and administrators who have the seemingly thankless task of educating our children. What you do is invaluable beyond our ability to truly thank you when you expect a student to succeed and dedicate your efforts to making that happen.

Far too often, however, we hear about how necessary it is for parents to be involved in a child's education being used only as a crutch for schools and teachers that are failing to educate.

Sure, parents need to be involved. Whole communities should be.

But teachers need to teach with the expectation that each child deserves no less effort from them than what they expect of a parent. Because irrespective of what a parent does or does not do, the hours of the school day is the time a teacher has to make a difference—in support of an interested parent, or in spite of a disinterested one.

Children will strive mightily to meet the expectations of the adults in their lives. All of us—parents and teachers—must simply expect them to succeed and demand no less of them.

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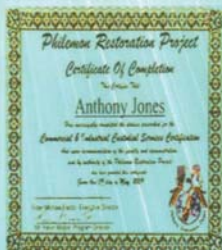
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# From Sista To Sister: “Let The Shift Begin”



Tali Bakhit

From the time that I was a child until now, I have often wondered why fear brings about such detrimental reactions from those who fear what might be if they were not in control of what people are thinking, feeling, and doing. The insecure minds of those who are truly followers and not leaders.

Those who sit in position of leadership, who can't even lead themselves. Their lives are a mess and therefore, in trying to lead someone else's life there is an obvious wrong re-direction. Have you ever heard of the analogy of “Mind Control” that is so forcefully being used today by many government officials by way of trading information with extraterrestrials from other planets called “The Greys?”

Even in this analogy, we are to still understand that we are the masters of our own destiny and have the ability to move past that which is being impeded upon our freedoms without our permission or full understanding. **For more information on mind control look up the words “Reptilian Agenda.”** Must I go further?

Without getting to far into what we all need to do based on our own research, we are to understand what is happening around us. How we are to begin the shift of love, peace, and happiness without becoming a slave to the system that so harshly tries to pull us down.

To keep us blinded and in the rut of paying bills that have been given to us by the thievery of bill collectors keeping us in bondage with interest, late fees, over draft

fees, and over the limit fees which sometimes far exceed the amount that has been spent 100%, 200% and sometimes over 300%, watching the propaganda filled news brainwashing tactics of isolation and hate, and keeping our noses in the air while our brothers and sisters kill each other in the streets over gang signs, ego idiosyncrasy, and the breeding of hate.

We are to be more open to research such as what is being put in our communities, who is coming into our communities, and what are they trying to do. Are they trying to poison our children with fast food in order that they be the victims of diabetes, heart disease and cancer.

Or is there a liquor store being plastered onto every corner in the inner city in order to get our men and women addicted to alcohol so that there is no way for them to wake up and understand what's really going on. And let's not be ignorant to the diagnosis of our children being mark for life with ADHD and the “Ritalin” reactions that causes such harm to the futures of our youth. We are to wake up and begin the shift in order to bring about change.

We are to ask questions, make phone calls, write letters, petition, and stand up before those who so frequently violate our constitutional rights, and rights of humanity on the everyday basis.

This subject of Shifting to a better day has become so complicated based on many of those in leadership positions because they have made it very complicated based upon the love of money, fame and fortune.

I still wonder how such evil could continue to invade us from the sanctity of love, peace, and new beginnings. And I've come to realize that this systems is one of

brainwashing, micro chipping, and negotiations to those of a difference realm (The Realm of Darkness.) Which is a place that would be considered a fairy land to the everyday ordinary humans.

However we must stay in tune with that which may seem unbelievable and understand, what ever the cause may be we are still “The Masters of Our Own Destiny” even with the unlawful tactics that are being used.

According to conspiracy theorist David Icke who has dedicated his life since 1990 to researching who and what is really controlling the world, we are all powerful spiritual beings capable of waking up and transcending this control through focusing on love.

And if I might add love is the main ingredient. Because in dealing with anything that is antithetical to the Creator which is love itself evil has no place. So in order for us to beat what is entrenched upon us by the powers of darkness we must begin the shift by operating out of love. Let's begin Today.

Walk In The Light, And The Light Shall Lead You. It's Time To Wake-up My Sisters And Lead The Way!

Love & Light,  
Tali

*Tali Bakhit is a visionary journalist, writer, entrepreneur, and owner of her own company Bon-chic Productions. Born and raised in the inner city of Philadelphia, she knows the struggles that young African American sisters go through on the everyday basis. As a writer for the the North Lawndale Community Newspaper, Tali has made a loyal commitment to give back to the Sisters and prove yes we can all get along and create a since of loyalty. Peace & Light My sisters.*

## Fundraising from page 4

(Remember to get signed releases if your subjects are people)

15. Follow up the letter with a phone call within a week of sending it out. Continue to call the prospect until you get a definitive “yes” or “no”. A word of caution: Do not make a nuisance of yourself.

16. If you are working with a group of volunteers to make follow up phone calls, make sure they have a prepared script or speaking points so that your organization's message is consistent. Educate them on the campaign, your organization's mission and accomplishments so they may field questions.

17. If you are receiving pledges, confirm any oral pledges in writing immediately. Include an invoice to increase the likelihood of collection.

18. Follow up with a thank you letter within a week of receiving the gift.

19. Send informal progress reports from time to time

About Valerie F. Leonard

Valerie F. Leonard is a Chicago-based community development consultant, with a mission to strengthen the capacity of organizations to make a positive impact on the communities they serve through technical assistance, specialized workshops, resource and organizational development and project management. For further information, you may call Ms. Leonard at 773-521-3137, visit [www.valeriefleonard.com](http://www.valeriefleonard.com) or e-mail her at [consulting@valeriefleonard.com](mailto:consulting@valeriefleonard.com).

(Footnotes)

<sup>1</sup> Direct Marketing Association, “Landmark Study Finds Nonprofit Fundraisers and Retail Stores Report Top Direct & Interactive Marketing Response Rates”

<http://www.the-dma.org/cgi/disppressrelease?article=519>

## ON VIDEO

Compiled and reviewed by David Schultz

**EARTH (\*\*1/2)** Disney re-enters its true-life nature adventure films with this British made documentary made from the same team that brought us the miniseries, “Planet Earth”. This awesome and visually beautifully photographed documentary is the first of a planned nature trilogy that first deals with the animal inhabitants on earth.

In particular, the year in the life of three species—the polar bear, the humpback whale and the African elephant captured with some of the most advanced camera equipment and techniques that will look dazzling and impressive in its blue-ray or DVD format on a HD big screen.

James Earl Jones narrates from a script that sounds like too much like he's reading, compared to the flexible script dialogue that enabled Morgan Freeman to compliment the drama and humor in the Oscar winner “March of the Penguins” G; 90min. Walt Disney Home Video

**TYSON (\*\*\*)** The turbulent life that led to the fame and shame for boxing champ, Mike Tyson, already made him an open book we already knew, even with the rise and fall seen through his fight career clips. But filmmaker-writer James Toback, a close friend manages to get more than we already knew.

By having Tyson share his thoughts, personal recollections and reflective comments that shows a grown-up man-child who has matured with frank honesty and insightful that makes the difference for this “up close and personal” documentary. R; 90min. Sony Classics Pictures Home Video

**ADVENTURELAND (\*\*1/2)**

“Superbad” director Greg Mottola takes on his teen-hood memories from one summer in 1987. Filled with the soundtrack hits of the era while being less raunchy and more bittersweet. St in Pittsburgh, a young teenager's (Jesse Eisenberg) personal plans after high school becomes altered by life, love and relationship difficulties.

When he's forced to work the summer at a local amusement ride park. Where he's captivated by two lovely co-workers, Em (Kristen Stewart) with her own personal secrets; and Leslie P. (Margarita Levieva), the popular girl with a questionable reputation; and the park's “cool” maintenance man and ex-musician (Ryan Reynolds) with a lothario rep who befriends the kid with advice. A special coming-of-age movie that is insightful and amusing. R; 107min. Miramax Home Video

**AMERICAN SON (\*\*1/2)** Nick Cannon gives a worthwhile performance as 19 yr old Mike Holland who completed his basic Marine training at Camp Pendleton. When he returns home for a four day pass over the thanksgiving holiday. He encounters difficulties within himself and his family and friend relationships that make it hard to reveal to them that this could be their last time together.

As Mike withholds the secret of being shipped out to the Iraq war; He emotionally comes under conflict from his 96 hrs of liberty of hanging with his homeboys wasting away in the ghetto life; being with his remarried mother to a white guy (Tom Sizemore) and coping with his divorced, alone father (Chi McBride) A soul searching odyssey. R; 85min. Miramax Home Video

## AT THE FLICKS

David Schultz, film critic



Alexie Gilmore, Robin Williams and Daryl Sabara in *Wrl'd's Greatest Dad*.

**WORLD'S GREATEST DAD (\*\*1/2)** Bobcat Goldthwait, a former stand-up comic has been flying under the radar as sort of an amateur movie director-writer for quite a few years since his 1991 directorial debut with the dark comedy, “Shakes the Clown”.

Goldthwait has since made other independent films with questionable and limited results such as “Sleeping Dogs Lie” a stingy box office stinker with very limited theatrical release that brings us to his latest indie offering.

“World's Greatest Dad” represents another unconventional film for this non-conformist comedian turned filmmaker. But this time around, “World's Greatest Dad” is intriguing enough to be Goldthwait's most coherent film achievement so far that could be the exception, not the rule for a curious movie audience.

Like in his previous effort, Goldthwait still holds a fascination with all things dark and macabre to find the humor in; through the down trotter life of Lances Clayton (Robin Williams), a high school poetry teacher who's also an aspiring writer who has yet to get his manuscripts accepted by any publisher from the flow of rejection letters received.

In his world, everyone around him that he

knows seems better off than him in their lives. Making matters worse, Lance is a single parent trying to cope with his difficult teenager son, Kyle (Daryl Sabara) who attends the same high school his father teaches. While at home, Kyle seems to hide out in his bedroom, obsessed with sex on the internet and other experimental interests.

Where the principal (Geoff Pierson) might terminate Clayton curriculum. Because of Clayton's declining class enrollment over

the more popular class taught by fellow teacher, Mike (Henry Simmons, formerly of TV's NYPD Blue”) who also just happened to sell his first article that was printed in the New Yorker magazine. (Ouch!)

Even when there is a ray of hope for Lance who becomes infatuated by new female teacher, Claire Reed (Alexie Gilmore). Lance feels his opportunity becomes diffused by Claire's self proclaim friendship with the popular teacher, Mike (Henry Simmons) who has everything going for him right that Lance doesn't (including some “Jungle Fever” kissing when later spotted in the mall.) Yet there is still a chance from an over-the-hill yet alluring and sexually hungry, next door neighbor (Mitzi McCall).

However, through its frank depiction of a relationship between a frustrated father and his sex obsessed son. The one thing Lance wants is to reach an audience; that would fulfill his dream of being a famous author and making money. (And make up for what doesn't work out in his current life!)

Yet where it counts, Lance isn't quite attentive enough in dealing with his emotionally bitter son in their tender yet strained relationship. In fact, almost everything is a “strained relationship” through Lance, socially,

See Flicks page 7



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### Flicks from page 6

personally and academically.

Lately, whenever Robin Williams has taken on a serious role, his psychological approach seems to always facially brood about his character's lament with blank and numb expression in camera close ups that seems over used here to point out his lack of self esteem for such an educated man. Lance Clayton seems more like damaged goods.

While Clayton seem to wallow in his misery and inabilities to succeed along with the threat of his poetry class being cancelled. Still, Clayton does not fully take in the principal's vocal concern that Kyle has some deeply rooted problems that need to be addressed. Lance thinks he's stuck with an odd kid that he has needless arguments with.

But the film's turning point comes when Lance enters his misfit son's room to find he's accidentally hangs himself to death in an act of sexual experimentation attempted from sex photos on the internet, that Lance views as a moment of opportunity. In which he fakes the tragedy to look like a suicide that is set to a poem. The more the father lies about his dead son, the more the public embraces the falsehoods. It's the dynamics between father and son leading up to this point and the after effects that Goldthwait uses to show mental breakdown that this might a variation on humans who like some animals eat their young.

But eventually, the outpour is more than even Lance anticipated that makes him give in to telling the truth and show how fleeting fame and recognition of any size can be. Yet, unlike his earlier, small films, Goldthwait gives Williams' character some hope of minimal normalcy in the film's finale.

"World's Greatest Dad" is not without its faults, but this screen effort is a turn toward the right direction for Goldthwait to build on as a writer/director in creating his on niche through these kinds of social misfits. R; 95min. A Magnolia Pictures Release –Presented at selected theaters

### Expo from page 5

millions. The following includes comments stated by several panel participants.

The Author's Panel:

Start with a Big Bang, Have a tape record ready, know what you want to cover, keep the characters real, all practical and valuable advice given by the panel for freshly started writers.

**Financial Literary panel also gave an earful:**

Always take advantage of any match for rematch dollars plan, Have a will, Blacks are groomed for spiritual needs we have to start grooming our children for money, Lisa Nichol shared on how she had to adjust to receive millions.

**The Health Panel**, was moderated by the IL Dept of. Health's Director, Dr. Damon Arnold. Questions and answer were poised at health panel addressing a broad range of health issues. There were panels after panels, music industry, leadership, inspiration and a very popular guest speaker among black women Dr. Hilda Hutcherson, Oprah' Winfrey s favorite gynecologist, who has appeared on the her show on many occasions. Flocked with attendees she encouraged woman to explore themselves. There a comedian at hand to give it a comical twist.

Also flocked with attendees but on a more serious beat was the town hall meeting, which addressed issues facing the black community. Straight E's to the Sponsors of the Black Women's Expo 2009 for Expo Excellence and success in making available Exceptional information. The Black Women's Expo, an annual local event.

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# 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Lawndale 5k Walk/Run

Saturday, September 26

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Lawndale 5k Walk/Run

Lawndale Christian Fitness Center  
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8am Check-in

9am Start of 5K Walk/Run

10am Kids Dash (ages 3-12)

10:30am Awards Ceremony/Healthy Snacks

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Awards will be presented to the top three male and female runners in each of these age groups: 6-14, 15-17, 18-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65+

Pre-register by September 19 at Lawndale Christian Fitness Center to ensure we have a t-shirt in your size on the day of the event, or register online at [www.lawndale.org](http://www.lawndale.org).

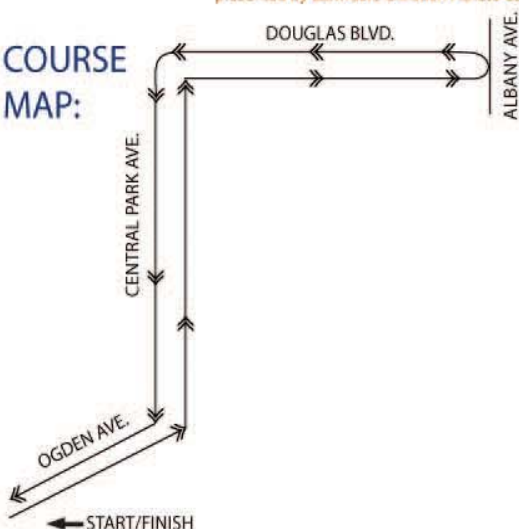
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| 9/26  | Computer Fundamentals Windows Vista |
| 10/3  | Word 2007 Basic To Advance          |
| 10/10 | Excel 2007 Basic To Advance         |
| 10/17 | PowerPoint 2007 Basic To Advance    |
| 10/24 | Access 2007 Basic to Advance        |
| 10/31 | Word 2003 Basic To Advance          |
| 11/7  | Word 2007 Basic To Advance          |
| 11/14 | Excel 2003 Basic To Advance         |
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