

- San Antonio Branch NAACP meetings: January 8, February 12, and March 12, at Barbara Jordan Community Center
- MLK Day March, January 19, 10:00 AM, from Freedom Bridge to Pittman-Sullivan Park

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The Herald

VOLUME 6

ISSUE 3

DECEMBER 2008

Change Is in the Air

Obama Elected President

American voters elected Illinois Senator Barack Obama to be the 44th president of the United States. Obama won a clear majority of the popular vote and decisively beat his Republican opponent in the electoral vote count 364 to 171. A wave of hopeful anticipation for a new direction in American policy at home and abroad was combined with the feeling that the United States had taken a major step toward fulfilling the promise of the Declaration of Independence "that all men are created equal."

Obama has moved quickly to put together his cabinet and

White House staff to tackle the huge problems of economic slowdown, financial market collapse, job loss, and mortgage foreclosures.



President-Elect Barack Obama takes over Jan. 20

Obama will inherit domestic and international challenges bigger than any president since 1932.

Julian Bond Reverses Decision

Julian Bond, Chairman of the NAACP Board of Directors, after first announcing his withdrawal from the re-election race for chairman, has reconsidered and will stand for re-election in February 2009. Bond, Board Chairman since 1998, said colleagues and supporters encouraged him to continue to seek the leadership position. In a statement posted on the NAACP website, Bond, 68, added, "I also share the hope expressed by many that we can operate with increased civility and harmony in our Board deliberations. We owe it to each other and to the Association."

Branch Election Results: Marvinette

Smith Elected New President

The San Antonio Branch NAACP has elected a new slate of officers and at-large executive committee members to lead the local organization through 2010. The election was conducted on November 13, 2008 in accordance with the constitution and by-laws of the organization. The results were pre-

sented at the general membership meeting following the close of the balloting. The following individuals were elected: President, Mrs. Marvinette Smith; 1st Vice President, Mr. Horace Brown; 2nd Vice President, Mr. William B. Johnson; 3rd Vice President, Mrs. Gloria Chandler; Treasurer, Mr. August

Johnson; Assistant Treasurer, Mrs. Johnnie M. Thompson; Secretary, Mrs. Maria Greene; Assistant Secretary, Mentoria Sherfield. Executive Committee: Mr. Ahmad Rashad Berry, Mr. Sloan Blocker, Mr. William Burman, Mr. Oliver Hill, Mrs. Regina Horne-Espree, Mrs. Mildred Lamkin, Mrs. Claudette Lewis, Mrs. Jo McCall, Mr. Lloyd Miller, Mrs. Ethel Minor, Mrs. Deloris Mosley, Mrs. Wanda Sykes, Captain James Taylor, and Mrs. Gertie Williams.



San Antonio hosts the largest march in the United States.

"I take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude for the high level of support and hard work from all of you."

March Highlights MLK Celebrations

Each year, a variety of educational, inspirational and celebratory events honors one of the nation's most revered civil rights leaders. The signature event, the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. March, is scheduled for **Monday, January 19, 2009**. The march will begin at 10 a.m. at the MLK Freedom Bridge

located at 3500 MLK Drive and end at Pittman-Sullivan Park, 1101 Iowa. Again this year, it is expected to draw more than 100,000 adults and children. San Antonio hosts the largest march in the United States. The MLK Commission organizes the march and more than two dozen other events

paying tribute to Dr. King. A wide variety of educational, inspirational and celebratory events will take place at city library branches, college and university campuses, as well as military installations. Excerpted from the *San Antonio MLK Commission* website. For more information on dates, times, and locations of events scheduled go to: www.sanantonio.gov/mlk

From the President's Desk

We have come to the end of 2008 and this has been a most exciting year to be alive. I do believe that not even one of us thought that we would be alive to see a Black Man elected as President of these United State, but

here we are. Not only did we elect a Young Black Man as President of these United States this year, we selected a young man as our new NAACP National President and CEO. We also elected a very active lady as our San Antonio

NAACP Branch President for 2009. We wish for each of them God's choice blessings along with the organization they will lead. It has been my pleasure to serve as Interim President San Antonio Branch NAACP over the last couple of years because of illness and *Continued on page 3*

Greetings from the President-Elect

I want to wish you and your families a happy holiday season. I hope you will continue to serve as you have in the past, because we will need your assistance in the coming year with the economy

in its current condition. To better serve the community, office hours will be extended to 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, Monday – Friday, starting January 5, 2009. Stay tuned for an an-

nouncement about changes in the times for the monthly regular meetings, and for Executive Committee meetings.

Marvinette Smith
Branch President-elect

A Class Apart: New Civil Rights Film Coming

Representatives of local civil rights groups, Latino organizations, and educational institutions gathered on December 5, 2008 to preview the screening of the film *A Class Apart*, a documentary on the civil rights struggle of Latinos that highlights a landmark Supreme Court battle that changed history, but today is not well remembered outside of a narrow group of civil rights activists

and legal historians.

The featured case, *Hernandez v. Texas*, was decided in the high court in 1954, in the same session that the NAACP legal team argued the *Brown v. Board of Education* case. The Supreme Court decision established that the constitutional guarantee of a trial by jury of peers was not satisfied by an all-white, non-Hispanic jury

in the case of a Hispanic defendant.

The television premiere of *A Class Apart* will air on Monday, February 23, 2009, as part of the PBS American Experience series.

The purpose of the screening was to introduce the film to people and organizations that

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might have insights into how this film could be used as a tool to raise the level of awareness of the road taken by Hispanics in Texas to gain recognition of their status as a protected subclass of American citizens under the Constitution. The true importance of the film lies in its ability to highlight the role that Hispanics have and must continue to play in the broader quest to ensure that

the precepts of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence are interpreted to protect the civil rights of all Americans. Voice.

Along with the film maker, Carlos Sandoval, individuals in attendance represented the following organizations: National Council of La Raza, Mexican American Bar Association of San Antonio, Hispanic Association of Col-

leges and Universities, Texas Public Radio, San Antonio Area Foundation, Greenblum Consulting, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), Trinity University, KLRN San Antonio, Institute of Texan Cultures, Houston Endowment, Inc., San Antonio NAACP, Texas State Conference NAACP, Esperanza Peace and Justice Center, Heroes and Heritage, American GI Forum, Office of Congressman Charles A. Gonzalez, Women's Studies Institute of UTSA, and Active Voice.

From President's Desk

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resignation of the presidents. I take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude for the high level of support and

hard work from all of you. I do not believe we missed a beat during these periods. I also believe that we have only just begun to remove all vestiges of discrimination from our cities state and nation. I not only

hope, but firmly believe that we will all support our new President and Executive Committee as we move forward.

Lloyd R. Miller

Outgoing Branch President



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Texas State NAACP

Meets in San Antonio

The Texas State Conference of NAACP Units staged their 72nd Annual Convention at the San Antonio Hilton Airport Hotel on October 9-11, 2008. The keynote speaker was the newly appointed NAACP National President and CEO, Benjamin Todd Jealous. Other noted speakers included Craig Watkins, Dallas County District Attorney, the first African American to hold the position, and Kemba Smith of the Kemba Smith Foundation. The program also included a Community Health Fair on October 9th, at St. Philip's College, to allow convenient access for eastside residents. Attendees gave the convention

organizers high marks for thorough planning, interesting speakers, timely and informative seminars, and good value at banquet events.

Youth Council Launches "Reading is Power" Campaign

Next year marks the 10th anniversary of our NAACP Youth Image Awards and "Back to School Program" where we recognize students in grades K-12 for their achievements. The program was co-founded in 1999 by the late Cherice Cochrane, 2nd Vice President of the NAACP Texas State Youth and College, and former Youth Council Advisor, Mrs. Claudette Cochrane Lewis. As a special tribute to Cherice

we would like to commemorate this auspicious occasion by collecting and donating books to the students, and to encourage them to start their own library. On March 21st, the anniversary of Cherice's death we will unveil our NAACP Back to School Poster, "Reading is Power," and distribute the books. Our goal is to collect 2,000 new books of various genres and ethnicities for the students and the Learning Center at the Boys and Girls Club.

For further information, contact Arleya Horne, President, San Antonio NAACP Youth Council, at alena-horne@aol.com, or Regina Espree, Youth Advisor at rjwhespree@aol.com.