

# HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

## Savannah Native Travels Home to Introduce "The House That Cooks Love"

ATLANTA - Former caterer turned author and Savannah native, Aundrea Dumas, will introduce her first book "The House That Cooks Love" at local Kroger stores on December 12-13, 2008. Dumas, founder and CEO of MaBelle's Brand LLC as well as one of Kroger's minority suppliers, will also be on hand to provide a product sampling demonstration for Kroger customers and fans alike.

More than three decades ago, Isabelle Delancey, grandmother to Aundrea Dumas, known to all as "MaBelle" created her Shrabcakes® secret recipe in her Savannah Georgia kitchen, which she taught to Aundrea at an early age.



Aundrea Dumas

In 2004, during an event catered by Aundrea, her grandmother's secret recipe was formally introduced and instantly caught the attention of a Kroger executive. Today, Shrabcakes can be found in

more than 210 Kroger stores. As a tribute to her grandmother, Aundrea wrote "The House That Cooks Love: Recipes and short stories from 306 West 37th Street Savannah, Georgia," which highlights exclusive recipes and short stories from the home of the original Shrabcakes chef herself.

With more than 75 recipes and short stories found in chapters including "Staircase Secrets," "Front Porch Memories" and "Doorway Footsteps," you can almost hear MaBelle herself as Aundrea shares her past through her stories and her grandmother's recipes. On December 12th and 13th, Dumas will have her first book signing in Kroger, the store that first realized the promise of her grandmother's product. "I love Kroger," said Dumas. "When I first took my product to Kroger, they asked me why I chose to bring Shrabcakes to them. I trusted them. They were the ones that saw the potential of my grandmother's products, and it is fitting that my first book signing take place in a Kroger store."

"My grandmother's Shrabcakes recipe along with this book are her legacy, adds Dumas. "I want them both to

See Cooks, page 3

## Just In Time For Christmas: Feelings of a Poet by Zyon D. Smiley



Local author, Zyon D. Smiley, will hold a book signing for his newest book of poetry, **Feelings of a Poet** at Waldens Book Store in the Savannah Mall on Saturday, December 13, 2008 from 12:00 noon - 4:00p.m. Come meet this local poet and have him autograph your personal copy his book. This book will make a wonderful Christmas gift for that poetry lover on your list.



Zyon D. Smiley

## Savannah joins Partnership for a Sustainable Georgia

The City of Savannah has become the first municipality in Georgia to receive designation as a Bronze Level Partner by the Partnership for a Sustainable Georgia, a state-sponsored voluntary environmental leadership initiative.

The designation made in November by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources was based on the strength of the City's sus-

tainability plan, called the Thrive Initiative which seeks to reduce the Savannah City government's carbon footprint by 15 percent. Becoming a Partner will allow Savannah to access state resources, such as grant funding, to improve environmental efforts and help the Savannah achieve its sustainability goal.

The Partnership for a Sustainable Georgia was created by the state in 2004

to foster environmental leadership and recognize superior environmental performance. Free and open to any business or organization in Georgia, it includes four Partnership levels to fit the changing goals and environmental initiatives of the participants.

For information, contact Rachel Smithson, coordinator of the City of Savannah's Thrive Initiative, at 651-6420.

## Oatland Island Wildlife Center is HOT when the Weather is Cool!

Savannah, Ga. - The temperature may be cooling off, but the animals at Oatland Island Wildlife Center are hotter than ever. Cooler temperatures mean the animals are much more active, making a visit to the Center a wonderfully engaging

experience. "Coming out to Oatland Island is great anytime of year, but the animals are much more active during the cooler months than they are in spring and summer" say Allison Ballentine, animal care technician. "More

and more people are coming during the cooler seasons to see things that they don't normally get to see. The foxes and wolves are in their thicker winter coats, the bobcats and cougars are more actively exploring their exhibits and the birds of prey are much more vocal" continues Ballentine. On the coldest nights, the Center's staff takes every precaution to keep the animals comfortable. "We add hay to the Georgia Farm so that the animals have a warm bed to sleep on, we run special heaters in the reptile and bat exhibits in Wolf Wilderness, and wrap some of the aviaries in tarps to help cut down the cold wind. Our jobs become a little busier when the weather gets colder" says Ballentine.

With the upcoming holiday season, Oatland Island Wildlife Center has some great suggestions for unique holiday gifts that will sure to please even the toughest people on your list. For the gift that keeps giving, treat someone to a membership to the Friends of Oatland (FOO) and let them enjoy free admission to the Center all year long. Or, to help share the care, try adopting one of the many animals at the Center. Your contribution will go towards the food, medical and maintenance care for their growing collection. Check out the Oatland Island Website at [www.oatlandisland.org](http://www.oatlandisland.org) or call them at (912) 898-3980 to find out about these and other special holiday gift options.

The Oatland Island Wildlife Center of Savannah is home to over 150 animals from 50 different species. The center is open daily from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and is located 5 miles east of Historic Downtown Savannah on President Street (Islands Expressway). The center is a unit of Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools.

**SAVANNAH RIVERBOAT CRUISES**  
**CHRISTMAS GOSPEL CRUISE**  
 Join us for a 2 hour dinner cruise with a Southern buffet and live Christmas Gospel music.  
 Bring the family...Santa Clause is on board!  
 2 hour cruise • Prepaid Reservations Required.  
**Sunday, December 7th & 21st • 4pm - 6pm**  
 Fare \$35.95\* Children under 12: \$23.95\*  
 Discounted rates for groups of 25 or more, please contact the sales department for details.  
 For Reservations and Information...  
[www.SavannahRiverboat.com](http://www.SavannahRiverboat.com)  
 912.232.6404 • 800.786.6404

**Meet Local Singles!!**  
 Listen & Respond FREE!  
 Use FREE code 7294  
 Straight - 912-344-9500  
 Gay/Bi - 912-344-9494  
 Call 888-megamates, 18+

**Savannah Citywide Career Brunch**  
**MARY KAY®**  
 NEW DIRECTOR DEBUT  
**Saturday, December 13, 2008**  
**9:45AM - 12 NOON**  
 Consultant Recognition & Guest Event  
 at Savannah Quarters Country Club  
 Exit 155, Pooler Pkwy - Pooler, Georgia  
 Approximately 2 miles west of I-95  
 Turn left at top of off ramp and turn right into 2nd SQ entrance! Enter Main Doors of Club.  
**Paige Fleming**  
 Special Guest Senior National Sales Director  
 Linda McBroom

**Shop At**  
**Peace of Mind**  
 for All of Your Christmas Gifts  
 5548 Ogeechee Road - Suite J (Hwy 17 West of Dean Forrest Road)  
**912-234-0106**  
 VISA MasterCard DISCOVER

**Service & Repair - New Construction - Commercial & Residential**  
 Do You Have an Old Furnace or Gas Heater that needs Service?  
**Quality Heating and Air**  
 Service Calls Only: **\$35**  
 912-858-3737 Cell: 912-665-0165

**First Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church**  
 and  
**Pastor Gregory A. Tyson, Sr.**  
 Cordially Invite You to Attend Our  
**Dedication and Open House Ceremony**  
 In Celebration of Our New Church  
**Saturday, December 13, 2008**  
**12 Noon to 5:00P.M.**  
**4370 ACL Boulevard**  
 (between Evergreen Cemetery and Urban Christian Academy)