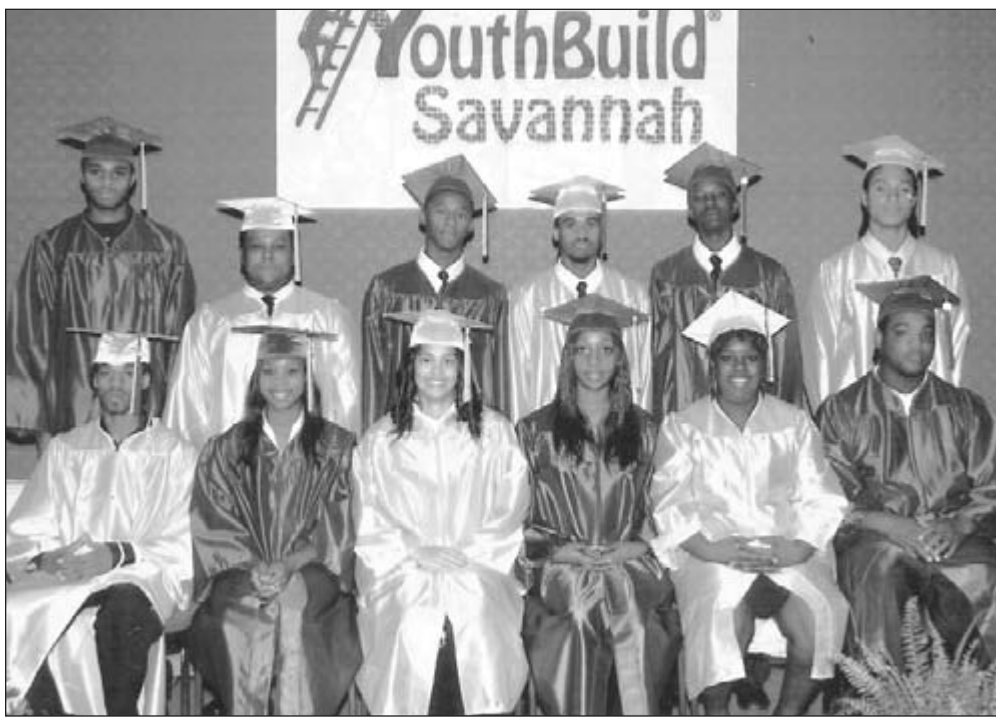


YouthBuild Savannah holds Graduation Ceremony



YouthBuild Graduates: Tramaurie Ashley, Brandon Bailey, Sr., Joshua Coaxum, Raymond Hargrove, Dominiq Harris, Roger Hill, Jr., Marcus Houston, Ankhkaser Khatma, Dana McFarlin, Porchia Randall, Sha'Tavia Sanders, and Shermika Sanders.

YouthBuild Savannah held its 2008 Graduation Ceremony on Thursday, December 11, at the Savannah Civic Center Ballroom. Twelve young adults were recognized and honored for their hard work and commitment to the program.

YouthBuild Savannah is a full-time, comprehensive youth and community development program. Eligible young men and women, who have not yet completed high school, spend approximately nine months participating in activities including GED Instruction, Construction Training, Leadership Training, Community Involvement, Life Skills and Counseling and Support Services. Participating youth

use their construction skills to improve their community by building affordable housing for eligible and deserving families.

The members of the graduating class were expected to show great perseverance and dedication. They have committed themselves to improving their personal situations and their community at-large.

The staff and graduates of the YouthBuild Savannah program would like to extend their appreciation to the partners who have helped to make this program a success: Ash Tree Organization, Inc.; Royce Learning Center; St. Paul CME Church; Savannah Technical College; Neighborhood Improvement Association; and the City of

Savannah Coastal Workforce Service, Community Planning & Development Department and Housing departments. Special thanks also to: Mr. Miller Fields, who gave each student a \$25.00 gift; Housing Authority of Savannah; Savannah Impact Program; and Savannah Technical College - Adult Education & Testing Center.

Rev. Ronald Hamilton offered the Invocation at Thursday's program and Ms. Lillian Grant-Baptiste was the keynote speaker.

Others on the program included a Welcome by Sha'Tavia Sanders; Words From a Parent by Rosetta Wingster; Introduction of the Speaker by Ankhkaser Khatma and Alumni Club Induction by Tavares Worthy.

Certificates and awards were presented to the students.

Junior League of Savannah Sponsors Habitat Savannah Family Reunion

The Junior League of Savannah will sponsor the Habitat Savannah Family Reunion honoring all Habitat volunteers and home-owners from the past 25 years. The event is planned for Sunday, January 18, 2009, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Oglethorpe Mall Food Court.

"We invite all Habitat Savannah volunteers from the past 25 years to join us to celebrate the completion of the 100th house and 25th

Anniversary of Habitat for Humanity in Chatham County," said Lynn Brennan, President of the Junior League of Savannah. "The 100th home was built for Royce Sloan and her family with volunteers and partial funding provided by the Junior League of Savannah. We are proud to have been part of this meaningful project," said Brennan. The Junior League of Savannah supports Habitat for

Humanity as part of a three to five year commitment to women's and children's advocacy.

The Junior League of Savannah is an organization of over 1,000 women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

Senator Thomas... *Continued from page 1*

Sen. Thomas consistently classified herself as a public servant rather than a politician, focusing on education, healthcare, economic and environmental issues during her terms in office. Her service to the state and District 2 has been well documented, including securing nearly \$7 million in local assistance grants and budget appropriations for Chatham County. She leaves office with a reputation of noted passion for people, and worked hard to open doors for those without connections.

Come January, Sen. Thomas will focus her attention on spending time with her family, including hus-

band Ervin J. Thomas, Sr., a retired police sergeant, her four children and nine grandchildren. She will remain active in her district by attending community meetings, concentrating on the same issues she promoted in the Senate. "Savannah is my home, and I am a stakeholder," added the Senator.

"While I will be focusing more on my family now, I will still keep a close eye on what is happening at the Capitol," Sen. Thomas noted. "I leave my constituents in the capable hands of Senator-Elect Jackson, who has had a successful legislative career in the House of

Representatives since 1998."

In addition to helping her district, Sen. Thomas will also assist Senator-Elect Jackson in his transition to the Senate. Senator-Elect Jackson and his colleagues face many important issues going into the 2009 session, including the state budget, transportation, education and healthcare.

Constituents can keep abreast of the news from the state Capitol by visiting the Senate website at www.senate.ga.gov. Users can watch a live broadcast of the Senate in chamber, read daily session reports, listen to weekly radio updates, and utilize an easy-to-use bill search to track legislation.

Savannah's newest author comes with Spice!

Tonya D. Simmons says that she has lived what she writes, and presents the reality of sexuality in her new book, **Tonya D's Recipe**.

"Many people live with curiosity about sexuality, but are scared to death to seek the knowledge that will free them, and open the door to



Tonya D. Simmons

sexual knowledge and satisfaction," says Simmons.

A native Savannahian, Simmons was raised by her grandmother, and loves sharing with others her rich and spicy sexual knowledge. Her mission is to enlighten and educate others in such a way that their sexuality becomes

rich and satisfying. The book is factual, funny, direct, and straight to the point.

"Tonya D's expresses what we all wonder and whisper about, and are mostly afraid to ask about," says Simmons.

Check out a sample of her book online at Xlibris.com, select bookstore then "search," type in, Tonya D's recipe, for title, and author: Tonya D.Simmons. You may also order on line at other sources, nation wide web site-Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Books a Million. Also available next month at local bookstores, look for book-signing notices, or call Tonya direct for a copy at 912-508-2901 or 912-272-4412.

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A Red Carpet Affair at New Birth

New Birth Savannah invites the city, as well as the region to Watch Night 2008, "A Red Carpet Affair". Come for an evening of fellowship and praise, as we bring in the New Year, Wednesday, December 31, 2008 at 9:30pm.

Come as Travis Greene, of Warner Robbins, GA., leads us into praise and worship for the evening. We will bring in the New Year with food, fellowship and praise. Families are encouraged to

bring food; light refreshments will be available. Pastor Kenneth Law will bring a word that will propel you into the destiny and purpose God has intended for your life.

New Birth Savannah was established in September 2007 by Presiding Bishop, Bishop Eddie L. Long of New Birth in Atlanta.

For More Information contact the office of New Birth Savannah @912-233-6755 or email newbirthsavannah@yahoo.com.

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Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

Governor and Georgia Historical Society to Name First New Georgia Trustees in 260 Years

The Office of the Governor and the Georgia Historical Society (GHS) will honor Atlantan Bernard Marcus and the late Marguerite Neel Williams, of Thomasville, as new Georgia Trustees at the Society's Georgia Days Birthday Bash and Annual Awards Gala, in Savannah, Saturday, February 14, 2009, 7:00 p.m. Mr. Marcus and Ms. Williams will be the first Georgians in 260 years to receive this honor, which recognizes their profound commitment to philanthropy and service in their communities and throughout the state...

...Bernard Marcus is co-founder of The Home Depot, Inc., an innovative Georgia company that revolutionized the home improvement business with its warehouse concept. He served as chairman of the board until his retirement in 2002. He remains director emeritus, and is Chairman of The Marcus Foundation...

...Marguerite Neel Williams' advocacy for historic preservation ensured the survival of many landmarks throughout the state, and her civic activism created a safe space for the children of Thomasville. Throughout her life she provided leadership for civic, political, and educational organizations throughout Georgia...

The Georgia Historical Society, headquartered in Savannah, is the oldest cultural institution in the state and one of the oldest historical organizations in the nation. It is the first and only statewide historical society in Georgia. For nearly 175 years, GHS has collected, preserved, and shared Georgia history through a variety of educational outreach programs, publications, and research services.

For more information visit:
www.georgiahistory.com