

Black in America

The Savannah Tribune announces the third in a series of articles written by guest columnist Taqwaa Falaq Saleem. Taqwaa is a 2008 honor graduate with the B.A. in English Language and Literature from Savannah State University where she was also awarded the coveted President's Second Mile Award at the commencement ceremonies. She is currently a graduate student and teaching assistant at Georgia Southern University. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.



Taqwaa Falaq Saleem

Each year the four sororities of the National Pan-Hellenic Council host the 100 Celebrity Men Who Cook fundraising event for the United Negro College Fund. This year marked the ninth year of the event bringing the community together to sample great food and raise money for the education of those yearning to expand their minds who might not otherwise be able to attend college. The tradition also displays the unity between four groups of women in the planning, advertising, and execution of the event. Dressed in black and wearing Greek letter pins, not the colors of their respective organizations, these community women united in a call for service.

Being Black in America represents embracing the truest forms of the holiday spirit and finding unity. This time of year, regardless of what holiday an individual chooses to celebrate, reflects a spirit of togetherness and

sororities present at the fundraiser. We must realize the strength in numbers and the necessity of our unity.

Being Black in America is setting an example for current and future generations that even though we may belong to different organizations, attend different churches or schools, or even live in different neighborhoods, we must unite for the prosperity of our people.

Being Black in America means celebrating this season with clear hearts and minds set on continuing to unite in the New Year. Whether the celebration in your household is of Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukah, or any other holiday, enjoy the celebration in a spirit of unity. Give an extra smile or hug or kind word to brighten the day of another. Embrace the tie that binds all of us. Celebrate humanity.

thanksgiving. Now is the time to look back on what we have learned, endured, shared, and experienced in the past year. Now is the time to set our eyes on the newness that waits to appear with the dawn of a new horizon. As the sun prepares to set on 2008, together we should stand to watch the sunrise on 2009. We must use the same spirit of the presidents of those four

Presidential Inaugural Committee Announces Honorary Co-Chairs

Bipartisan Collection of Distinguished Americans to Help Lead Inaugural Activities

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The 2009 Presidential Inaugural Committee announced the honorary co-chairs for the Inauguration of President-elect Barack Obama and Vice President-elect Joe Biden.

In keeping with the President-elect's commitment to an inclusive and bipartisan Inauguration, the list of honorary co-chairs includes members of the President-elect and Vice President-elect's immediate families as well as prominent Americans from both sides of the aisle who have dedicated their lives to selfless service to their fellow citizens.

"Vice President-elect Biden and I are grateful to these distinguished men and women for agreeing to serve



President-elect Barack Obama

as Honorary Co-Chairs for the Inauguration," said President-elect Obama. "From family members to former Presidents, each of these leaders has an unwavering commitment to bipartisan cooperation and a proud record of service to their community and our country. They exem-

plify the spirit of unity and shared purpose this Inauguration will reflect."

The Honorary Co-Chairs for the 2009 Presidential Inauguration are: President Jimmy Carter, President George H. W. Bush, President William J. Clinton, Mayor Adrian Fenty, Senator Dick Durbin, Senator Dick Lugar, Senator Claire McCaskill, Representative Tammy Baldwin, Representative Artur Davis, Representative Ray LaHood, Representative Linda Sánchez, General Colin Powell, Hunter and Kathleen Biden, Craig Robinson, and Dr. Maya Soetoro-Ng.

For the latest information on the 2009 Presidential Inauguration, please visit www.pic2009.org.

Celebrating 50 Years of Togetherness
 Bishop Earl E. Coleman and Mrs. Betty Coleman
 Children (l-r): Shon, Earl Jr., Jonas, Vondell, Ron

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EOA (Economic Opportunity Authority) 2006 and 2007 Annual Report

Opportunity: Community Action Works



John Finney

The theme for our 2008 meeting is Opportunity: Community Action Works. During the past 43 years, Economic Opportunity Authority for Savannah-Chatham Area Incorporated has provided numerous programs and services "designed to empower our citizens to attain economic independence and a higher quality of life". This is the spirit of the agency's mission.

The highlight of 2006 was the opening of EOA's new Head Start/Administration Building, which serves over 200 preschoolers and infants. The new facility contains a computer laboratory for Head Start families and clients seeking computer skills and employment.

Between 2006 and 2007 EOA developed several new partnerships that enhance its services for clients. The agency signed an agreement with the City of Savannah's Step-Up Poverty Initiative; contracted with the Georgia Department of Labor for restructured employment and computer services, and expanded its relationship with Scholastic America as a leader in sponsoring book fairs in Savannah, Georgia.

For the past two years, EOA's Comprehensive Housing Department has kept pace with a sluggish economy that threw hundreds of local homeowners and Americans into uncertainty about their dwelling. Through our Crisis Intervention program over 4,000 Georgia Natural Gas, SCANA, and Georgia Power customers were served each year.

Opportunity through our Career Development program is increasing each year. Our staff is attending a variety of academic instructions for advancement. St. Leo University, Savannah State University, Armstrong Atlantic State University, Savannah Technical College, and the University of Phoenix are just a few.

In the midst of a possible recession, EOA Savannah will continue to provide opportunities, but also continue its commitment in the "WAR ON POVERTY", one of mankind's greatest foes.



Dr. Wesley Ball



Quick Facts

Housing-Homebuyer Education
 358 Participants graduated from class
 47 Participants purchased homes.
 \$5,981,527 in mortgages.
 1,338 Received comprehensive housing counseling services.

Disability Services
 10,300 Individuals received Head Start Disability Training services in 39 counties.

Weatherization
 93 Homes were weatherized by EOA Staff.
 61 Homes were repaired by 790 Work Group Camp volunteers

Retired Senior Volunteers (RSVP)
 65,210 Clients served in 10 counties.

Emergency Services-Crisis Intervention
 9,380 Clients served for energy assistance and related services.

Child Development
 1,798 Pre-school children were prepared to enter kindergarten
 1,798 Pre-school children received health screenings, immunization, and preventive care.
 160 Infants and toddlers received Early Head Start services.

EOA Spent Over 13 Million Dollars with Minority Contractors in 2006 & 2007