

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

21st Century Community Learning Centers Serving Savannah's Public Schools

Our primary concern is to provide a safe place for youth to be after school. We offer a variety of activities to assist young people with their academics as well as introduce them to new ideas and experiences, which they can carry with them in the future. It is our hope that every child can develop a life-long love for learning, which will carry them through to high school graduation, a college education, and into their adult life.

All students that participate will receive a snack after school, homework assistance and bus transportation, if needed. There is no fee to be a participant in the after school program. If you are interested in participating in any of the after school program activities, please contact the site coordinator at the school.

For more information about the 21st Century Community Learning Centers and locations, contact Aldric Dekle at (912) 395-5686.

StoryCorps, The National Oral History Project comes to Savannah

Georgia Public Broadcasting hosts StoryCorps during its 26-Day stay in Savannah as its tours the U.S. to capture stories of everyday Americans.

SAVANNAH - StoryCorps, a national initiative to document everyday history and the unique stories of Americans, will arrive January 26, 2009 in Savannah to collect the stories of the "First City" residents as part of its cross-country tour. StoryCorps is an independent nonprofit project in partnership with NPR and the American Folklife Center (AFC) at the Library of Congress.

The StoryCorps MobileBooth -- an Airstream trailer outfitted with a recording studio -- will be parked on the west side of President Street off of Telfair Square, just outside of the Telfair Academy of Arts & Sciences from Tuesday, January 27 through Friday, February 21, 2009 and will be open everyday except Tuesdays and Wednesdays, by appointment. StoryCorps plans to collect approximately 120 interviews during its stay in Savannah. The first round of reservations open on January 13 at 10 AM and additional slots will open on January 28 at 10 AM. A waiting list will be available once all slots are filled for last minute cancellations. Reservations can be made by calling 800-850-4406 or online at www.storycorps.net

StoryCorps was created by award-winning documentary producer and MacArthur "Genius" Grant recipient

Dave Isay. This unprecedented project has traveled to every corner of America, instructing and inspiring individuals to record their stories in sound. StoryCorps is the largest multi-year oral history project ever undertaken. Since its launch in October 2003, StoryCorps' mobile and stationary recording studios have collected interviews in over 100 towns in 48 states -- over 20,000 stories in all.

In Savannah, StoryCorps is partnering with Georgia Public Broadcasting, Savannah's NPR station, WSVH 91.1 FM, which will air a selection of the local stories and create special programs around the project. Selected segments may also air nationally on NPR's Morning Edition.

At the MobileBooth, interviews are conducted between two people who know and care about each other. A trained facilitator guides the participants through the interview process and handles the technical aspects of the recording. At the end of a 40-minute session, the participants walk away with a CD of their interview. With their permission, a second copy becomes part of an archive at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress for future generations to hear.

"The Savannah community is filled with culturally rich and diverse stories that GPB and WSVH 91.1 FM are proud to bring to our loyal listeners and members," said

See **Oral History**, page 9

A.E. Beach Class of '54 Celebrated It's 54th Reunion



Alfred E. Beach Class of '54 Reunion Highlights Hail, Hail, the Blue and Gold Class of 1954!

Alfred E. Beach High School Class of 1954 wishes each of you a Happy New Year! We are growing stronger each year. The Class of '54 Celebrated it's 54th Reunion during the Holiday Season 2008.

To highlight Hospitality was held on December 25, 2008, at the Desoto Hilton, downtown Savannah. The local alumnae welcomed all of those who traveled back to participate in this celebration.

On Friday evening, December 26th, we held a banquet. Invocation was given by Mrs. Betty C. Taylor. The hosts for the evening were Mr. Jerill Johnson and Mr. Elijah McGraw. Mr. McGraw brought the house down with his jokes and his rendition of Louis Armstrong's "Oh Yeah"! Mrs. Mignon Williams serenaded the celebrants with a beautiful solo; Rededication by Mrs. Albertha Collier; and History was given by Mrs. Barbara Caper Howard. Closing remarks were made by the president, Mr. John Owens.

Colorful and beautiful in our blue and gold, on Saturday, December 27th, we shook-a-leg or two during our semi formal dance. The hostesses and host were Mrs. Emma Lue Preer, Mrs. Albertha Blue McHatten, Mrs. Delores Hunter, Mrs. Mary Thompson, Mrs. Vivian Johnson, and Mr. William Moultrie. A wonderful time was had by all.

On Sunday, December

28th, the alumni worshipped at St. Paul C.M.E. Church at 1601 Barnard Street, with Sr. Pastor Rev. Henry R. Delaney and Rev. DaHenri Thrumond Pastor. Turnout was excellent and the worship was a blessing.

To wind up the celebration for 2008, we enjoyed a delicious picnic at the Progressive Recreation Center on Sunday afternoon. The picnic committee included Mr. Bobbie Benyard, Mr. Johnnie Bacon, Mr. Moses Calhoun, Mr. Roland Denegall, and Mr. Carl Middleton.

What a beautiful celebration it was. We are looking forward to more celebrations throughout the coming years. We appreciate all of you who took part. May you and your families have a prosperous New Year.

Mrs. Clareth Bivins
Reporter

Alfred E. Beach '54 Alumni Officers:
President, John Owens; Vice President, Irene Booker; Secretary, Barbara C. Howard; Corresponding Secretary, Earl Myers; Financial Secretary, Naomi Robinson; Chaplain, Josephine Jones; Parliamentarian, Albertha W. Collier; Treasurer, Fred Ford; Sergeant at Arms, Alphonso Scott; Sunshine Chairperson, Delores Hunter; and Reporter, Clareth Bivins.

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