



Contact: Deborah Cohen, (214) 915-4602
DCohen@ulgdncctx.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CapitalOne Bank and Sam's Club present the Urban League of Greater Dallas and North Central Texas Annual Meeting Luncheon. The League will kick off its 41st Anniversary fundraising season on **Friday, February 22, 2008 at 11:45 a.m.** The event will be held at the **Hilton Anatole Hotel, 2201 Stemmons Freeway.** The theme of the Luncheon is *The Legacy Continues: Passing the Torch.* For ticket information call **(214) 915-4600.**

Three prominent leaders in the fields of journalism, education and religion will be honored for their contribution to the Dallas community at a luncheon hosted by CapitalOne Bank, Sam's Club and the Urban League of Greater Dallas. During the event, the honorees (**Mollie Belt, Publisher Dallas Examiner, Julia Jordan, Retired Educator and member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and Links, Inc. Dallas Chapter and Rev. C. B. T. Smith, Pastor Emeritus of Golden Gate Missionary Baptist Church**) will participate in a symbolic ceremony in which they will give the charge to three others whom they have selected to carry on their legacy.

Dallas Examiner publisher Mollie Finch Belt, educator and community volunteer Julia Jordan and Pastor Emeritus Dr. C.B.T. Smith of Golden Gate Missionary Baptist Church will be recognized for their decades of dedicated service to the African American community. Dallas Urban League President/CEO Dr. Beverly Mitchell-Brooks and Chairman of the Board A. K. Mago will preside over the final chapter of official business for the Urban League's fiscal year which will be followed by the presentation of this year's honorees.

Belt has held the reins of *The Dallas Examiner* since March 1986, refusing to allow a family tragedy kill the dream of providing the Dallas Black community with a quality and credible African American publication aimed at presenting real news from an African American perspective. Belt's father, Attorney Fred Finch Jr., founded *The Dallas Examiner* in 1986, but only days after publishing their first issue, both Attorney Finch and his wife, Mildred Newton Finch were murdered in their home. The Belts felt the call to continue the fledgling newspaper and made great personal sacrifices to ensure the papers continuation, investing much of their personal resources into the paper.

The Dallas Examiner differentiated itself from other local Black publications, by directly mailing up to 65,000 copies to Black homes, becoming a charter member of *Newsfinder*, the weekly news arm of *Associated Press* Newswire and being the first Black newspaper in the city to use four-color processing.

The Dallas Examiner also created *Future Speak*, Dallas' first youth publication aimed at developing young minority journalists and launched numerous community outreach projects. Dedicated to addressing social issues affecting the Black community, *The Dallas Examiner* instituted the Voter's Roll Call, an initiative intended to encourage voting. Last year, the publication held the first Monday Night Politics, a series of political forums providing a unique opportunity for candidates and residents to get together. The publication formed an unprecedented coalition of 19 major Black



organizations, including the Urban League, Friendship West Baptist Church and J. L. Turner Legal Society who helped sponsor the event.

The Dallas Examiner has also devoted itself to increasing HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention by publishing numerous articles and supplements. *The Dallas Examiner* also hosted public events such as an HIV/AIDS town hall meeting at the Inspiring Body of Christ where famed actor and activist Danny Glover was the guest speaker and co-hosted The Youth Angle luncheon on World AIDS Day held at Paul Quinn College.



Jordan amassed an amazing 48-year career as an educator with Dallas Independent School District. Twenty-two of those years were as a teacher, before being promoted to the position

of counselor and eventually Director of Student Services. It's calculated Jordan personally handled well over 1,500 students throughout her career.

Jordan has been a tireless community worker for numerous organizations, holding prestigious memberships with: Jack and Jill, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, the Priscilla Arts Club (the oldest women's club in Dallas), the CV Roman Medical Auxiliary and Links, Inc. In 2006, the Links, Inc. national chapter honored Jordan with a "Platinum Membership" and she received the Pearl C. Anderson Award for Community Service. Jordan has served as president of all of these organizations at one time or another. She's also an original board member of the

African American Museum and is still active on the board. She was instrumental in organizing the Maria Morgan Branch YWCA and was a co-founder of Dallas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

Jordan was married to prominent physician and surgeon Dr. Frank Jordan for 42 years before his death. The Jordans raised their children to be proud of their heritage and as a result, they played their part in the civil rights demonstrations of the '60s.

She and her husband, along with their son participated in Dallas' first civil rights march in Dallas. Their daughter, Leiwanda Kayrette Jordan Stoker also participated in civil rights demonstrations throughout the nation and, bore the scars of her commitment on her back.

Jordan, a Wiley College graduate, has also undertaken the task of helping to preserve some of Dallas' rich Black history. She worked with The African American Museum to bring, 381 Days: The Montgomery Bus Boycott Story to Dallas this year. A 53 year member of New Hope Baptist Church, Dallas' oldest Black

church, she serves as church historian and is currently working to ensure the church's rich history is preserved. She has also directed her writing skills toward authoring *Beauty and the Best*, on the life of Fredericka Chase Dodd.



Dr. Clarence Booker Taliaferro Smith, now 92, has been held in deep high esteem among prominent ministers around Dallas and the country. His pastorship of Golden Gate Missionary Baptist Church spanned 45 years - through 10 different U. S. presidents - before retiring in 1997. His ministry began 72 years ago when as a 20-year-old son of a sharecropper he saw a vision he said was so intense, his clothes were soaked in sweat.

Smith gained a stellar reputation as an old-time preacher who was able to reach out successfully to all people, regardless of their socio-economic background. Smith's powerful preaching and his unique leadership style was instrumental in helping Golden Gate grow to a congregation of over 3,000 parishioners and an average income of \$1 million annually. He's served as a mentor to dozens of other preachers, including Vincent Parker, who ran Golden Gate's drug treatment program for five years before succeeding Smith as the church's senior pastor.

The Adult Rehabilitation Ministry, established by Dr. Smith before retiring, has helped several hundred drug and alcohol addicted men and women get their lives back in order, through a one-year program that addresses all of their spiritual, emotional and financial needs, including housing and teaching them critical life skills.

As pastor emeritus, Smith continues to provide strong guidance to current pastor, Vincent T. Parker.

During his pastorship at Golden Gate, several other outreach ministries were established to meet the needs of the community, including: a jail ministry, a benevolence program, the Sunday School on Wheels and a senior citizens' ministry. Smith has been married to his wife Rosie for 65 years.

The Urban League of Greater Dallas will hold their 2008 Annual Meeting Luncheon, Feb. 22, noon, at the Khmer Pavilion, inside the Hilton Anatole Hotel at 2201 Stemmons Freeway. For more information, contact the Urban League of Greater Dallas at 214-915-4600.