

# The MICHIGAN BULLETIN

**FREE**  
Please Take One

Vol. 13 No. 9

www.mibulletin.org

JUNE 2007

## The 411

Keeping The Dream Alive

### HONORING



#### Jordin Sparks

Jordin Sparks is the recently crowned, newest and youngest "American Idol." Sparks, 17, of Glendale, Ariz., prevailed over Blake Lewis, 25. More than 74 million votes were cast. (story on page 3)

June 2 - Steppin' Out on Faith at 6pm at Mask Memorial CME Church, 5601 S. Waverly Rd Lansing, MI featuring Special Guest: JEROME - Praise teams from around the Capital City are invited to step out and raise a "Joyful Noise."

June 7 - "The Turning Point" (Formerly Gentlemen of Distinction) Rites of Passage Ceremony @ 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the LCC Dart Auditorium. It's free to the public.

July 18 >22, 2007 - Trip to New York City by Harris International for shopping, Harlem, Queens, hotel included two per room at \$350. For information call 517-267-5300.

July 21 - GUESS WHO'S COMING TO UNION? KMIME Mime Workshop and Concert Workshop - Union Gymnasium 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Concert - Holt High School Theater 7:00 p.m.

DONATION:  
\$50 - Workshop & Concert  
\$30 - Workshop Only  
\$30 - Concert  
Sponsored by Union Missionary Baptist Church ~ 500 S. MLK ~ Lansing, MI 48915 ~ 517/485-7705 ~ www.umbcwebsite.org Holt High School Theater 5885 W. Holt Rd. ~ Holt, MI 48842

JULY 27 - AN EVENING OF SMOOTH JAZZ - BMRW Promotions and 92.9 Smooth Jazz presents Guitarist and nationally recording artist Tim Bowman, Miller Group from /Durham, NC and Charles and Gwen Scales with Modern Tribe from Detroit at the Performing Arts Center at East Lansing, HS, East Lansing, MI Ticket information: 517-372-7246

Aug. 4 - The 8th Annual African American Parade and Family Festival - Downtown Lansing at 11 AM and at Ferris Park. For more info: write P.O. Box 13233, Lansing, MI 48901.

2nd Saturday of each month - The Lansing Area African American Genealogical Society (LAAAGS) meets at 9 am in the Michigan Library & Historical Center, 717 W. Allegan St. between Pine and Butler streets in Lansing

First Sundays - Detroit Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History FREE admission each first Sunday through July 1, 2007. The entire family can experience the Wright Museum.

# Juneteenth celebration set

The 2007 Juneteenth Holiday marks the 3rd Annual State-wide celebration hosted by the Lansing Juneteenth Committee.

"Beyond Emancipation Continuing Towards Empowerment - Moving to the Next Level!" is the theme of the 3-day event.

On Thursday, June 14 the celebration begins at the State Capitol kick-off opening ceremony to be held 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the State Capitol Building, on the East Steps Platform (Front Entrance).

On Friday, June 15 the celebration moves to Lansing's Westside.

Special events are planned to be held at St. Joe Park from ~ 3:00 p.m. until dusk. An Old Negro League Baseball Game is slated to be played with guest local sports announcer Earl Robinson (WKAR-AM Radio) calling

the play-by-play.

On Saturday, June 16 the fun continues at the park from 11:00 a.m. until dusk. The slated keynote speaker is Detroit Labor Leader, Nathan Head.

All day long great performances are slated for the Main Stage. Musical guest include: Genny albrez, Lenette Hester, Greg Lewis & Devine Rhythm, The Pullin Sisters, & Poetry with Dee Freeman and Friends. The Evening Special Event is The Systole' 517 Band. In addition, children's events are planned.

Soul Food vendors will be selling plenty of catfish, chicken, & ribs. The food tent will feature a B-BQue rib cook off. Merchant vendors feature art, jewelry and unique gifts for all occasions.

Also, on June 9, at 1 - 2 pm artist Julian VanDyke will



Juneteenth Committee members back row (LtoR): Ngere Wali, Rodney Shepard, Sharon Doss, Co-Chair Rev. A. Richard Doss, Co-Chair, Marilyn Plummer, Winston Williams, Edward Thompson, Michael McFadden, Daulton Tansil. Seated (LtoR): Doris Carlis, Mary Estes, Debra Plummer, Marsha Plummer, Christy Baker and Sonya Lewis.

share his art and read from his activity/coloring book at the downtown Lansing Public Library.

The local celebration is sponsored by the Lansing Juneteenth Committee and

Mask Memorial CME Church, where the Rev. A. Richard Doss is pastor.

On July 17, 2005 Gov. Jennifer Granholm signed the bill recognizing Juneteenth as a Michigan holiday.

For more information call (517) 394-6900 or via the internet - www.juneteenth.com www.cmechurch.org/us/mi/lansing/mask\_memorial/

## Juneteenth?

Juneteenth is an African American holiday marking the end of slavery in the United States.

In the confusion and turmoil as the Civil War drew to an close, the people of Texas did not immediately learn of Robert E. Lee's April 1865 surrender to Union General Ulysses S. Grant in Virginia. Texans fought on through May, when they finally learned that the war had truly ended.

Union army Major General Gordon Granger, landed at the Texas Port City of Galveston with 1,000 Federal soldiers to take command of the military district of Texas. His first action after landing, on June 19, was to travel from his headquarters in the

Osterman building down to the street and read General Order #3 to the people of Galveston. General Granger read, "The people of Texas are informed...all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves..."

Those words caused tremendous changes in the Yellow Rose state. At the end of the War Between the States a third of Texans were slaves, a large majority in some areas. As the stunning news for Galveston reached them, June 19 - Juneteenth - became the emancipation date of those long suffering for freedom in Texas. There was no doubt that June 19

would become a holiday for the newly freed slaves.

The tradition of celebration remained strong well into the 20th century, honored like the Fourth of July, with prayer services, inspirational speeches, reading of the Emancipation Proclamation, stories from former slaves, picnics, games, rodeos and dances.

In many parts of Texas Blacks purchased land as "emancipation grounds", public spaces were Juneteenth events could be held.

In 1980, the Texas legislature declared June 19th "Emancipation Day in Texas" thus making Juneteenth a legal state holiday in Texas.

## Area authors help celebrate Malcolm X week at Shabazz Public School Academy

The Shabazz Public School Academy, located on the near Southside, on Barnes Ave., presented three exciting African-American female authors from the Lansing area.

The women of the written word appeared on a May 23 program to share their talent with eager Shabazz students.

The authors were selected to help celebrate Malcolm X week.

Malcolm X, whose birthday was May 19, is recognized world-wide as an human rights activist. He was born in Omaha, Neb., but raised in Lansing, MI. Unfortunately, he was assassinated on February 21, 1965 in New York city. He stated, "Our objective is



RITA J. BUNTON

complete freedom, justice and equality, by any means necessary."

Because Shabazz Academy is named after Malcolm X, Dr. Eugene L. Cain, Chief School Administrator, has



DELORES "DEE" FREEMAN

made it a tradition to invite various speakers, artists, writers, dancers, etc. to help celebrate Malcolm's birthday and legacy.

RITA J. BUNTON, author of



DIANNE M. HICKS

her first inspirational book, entitled "The Battle Is Not Yours" gave a moving delivery of some excerpts of it. Rita's life story is one of triumph despite the odds. Because of her belief in God, she was able to overcome

many obstacles placed in her path. Although its appeal is universal, it has particular allure for women because it is remarkable and uplifting. Portraying four generations in matrilineal relationships that are always loving, if not always warm, it vividly depicts the importance of family—for better and for worse. It will resonate with readers long after they have closed its covers. But in the end, this is a story of faith in God, in oneself, and in redemption. Rita earned her B.A. in journalism from MSU. Before she retired, Rita served as public information director at Olivet College.

DELORES "DEE" FREEMAN, Poetess, author,

### Inside the Michigan Bulletin

Page 2 - Remembering Yolanda King Page 3 - Ask Ms. Dee - Page 4 - Free legal advise for seniors Page 5 - PAC-MAC Spelling Bee Photos Page 6 - Lansing Diversity Day Photos - Page 7- Cordell Henderson's Retirement Party 8 - AKA Senior Salute