

NEWSLETTER

COMMITTED TO THE PRINCIPLES OF LEGAL EXCELLENCE, COMMUNITY SERVICE, AND
INCREASED MINORITY PARTICIPATION IN THE PRACTICE OF LAW

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>From the President</i>	1, 2
<i>Oratorical Contest A Huge Success</i>	3
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	4
<i>Black History Month Meeting Photo Gallery</i>	5
<i>Take Charge of your Life Program Graduation</i>	5
<i>JFB Legislative Reception</i>	6
<i>Membership</i>	6

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Judge Hassan El-Amin

History in the Making

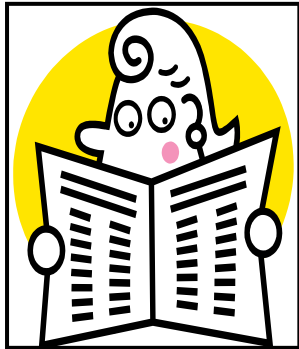
February 2008 was a whirlwind. It may have been the most historic African-American History Month of our lives.

We started with the basics: A primer in the origins of Black History Month given by a representative of the organization that founded the observance in the first place. At the well-attended joint Prince George's Bar Association/JFBBA meeting on February 5th, we were treated to a lively lesson in American and African-American history by **Barbara Dunn**, membership director for the **Association for the Study of African-American Life and History (ASALH)**, direct successor to **Dr. Carter G. Woodson**, the originator of Negro History Week. Barbara's multimedia presentation in the jury room of the Federal Courthouse in Greenbelt graphically showed us that the remedies posited by Dr. Woodson's in his classic treatise, *The Mis-Education of the Negro*, especially a multicultural approach to education, could help alleviate many of the social ills still plaguing contemporary America as she struggles with the problems of inequality and intolerance.

February 5th also brought us "Super Tuesday" in the primary presidential elections. Huge numbers of delegates were at stake. The results in the Republican primary were all but decisive, with one candidate emerging as the clear front-runner, but the Democratic Party results were inconclusive.

A week later, on February 12th, we Marylanders took our turn in the national spotlight. Because no one had emerged from "Super Tuesday" as the clear front runner in the Democratic race, all eyes seemed to be on us in the Mid-Atlantic States. For the first time in a long while, our votes seemed really important. We in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia might determine the outcome of the primaries. We juggled our schedules to go cast our ballots, and those of us who waited until after work to vote were met with ice, freezing rain and record traffic backups.

In an extraordinary act of accommodation, polls in Maryland were ordered to stay open 90 extra minutes due to the inclement weather. Reportedly, 94,000 people voted during this extension. Poor Virginians had no such luck! Their polls closed as scheduled, with thousands stranded in their cars for as long as eight hours on the ramps and fly-overs of Interstate I-95 and on other highways, and so were unable to cast their votes.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK (Cont.)

The historic election, led in the Democratic Party by a woman and an African-American male, grew more even more historic as the votes came in and the African-American candidate swept all three jurisdictions.

History was being made and we were making it.

And while many eyes were focused on the presidential returns, huge upsets were occurring in some local races. Eight-term incumbent **U.S. Congressman Albert Wynn** lost convincingly to upstart **Donna Edwards, Esquire**, who had come within 3 percentage points of beating Wynn in 2006. (Donna, time to become a JFBBA member!) On the Eastern Shore, moderate Republican **U.S. Congressman Wayne Gilchrist** was ousted by a conservative, while **Frank Kratovil, Jr.**, son of former **District Court Administrative Judge Frank ("The Hammer") Kratovil, Sr.** prevailed.

But perhaps the most significant local race in Maryland took place in the conservative northeast corridor, where former **District Court Judge Angela Eaves** held off three white male challengers on both Republican and Democratic ballots to become the first African-American and the first woman elected to the Circuit Court for Harford County! Congratulations, **Judge Eaves!**

A few days after the dizzying "Chesapeake Primaries", a very special lady came to town. **Ilyasah Shabazz**, third daughter of the late Betty Shabazz and El-Hajj El-Malik Shabazz, better known as "**Malcolm X**", delivered a stirring speech to over 150 people assembled at Le'Pearl Ballroom in Capitol Heights for a graduation ceremony of the **Take Charge of Your Life Juvenile Diversion Program** run by **Shaar Mustaf** and his son, former NBA star **Jerrod Mustaf**. About a

dozen teenagers gave testimonials, led songs and presented essays on Black heroes during this chock-full-of-goodies program. With such luminaries as **Ms. Shabazz, State Senators Nat Exum and David Harrington, Delegate Joanne Benson**, former County **Councilwoman Dorothy Bailey**, and **School Board Chair Verjena Jacobs** in attendance, that forum just seemed the place to be that Saturday afternoon. Following the presentations, dozens of us lined up to purchase autographed copies of Ilyasah's critically-acclaimed book, **Growing Up X**, a warm and richly textured memoir of one of America's most relevant families from the turbulent 1960's.

Finally, on February 23, we arrived at the Seventh Annual Bi-County High School Oratorical Contest, more details of which are provided in a separate article in this issue. What a great way to wind up the fast-paced activities of this extraordinary month: listening to thoughtful student perspectives on the candidates for the Presidency of the United States. These well-prepared young people are engaged. The days of apathy, cynicism, impotence and indifference are over. To quote veteran civil rights leader and **Georgia Congressman John Lewis**, "super delegate" to the National Democratic Convention, "Something unique is happening in this country, something many of us did not foresee. A transformation is taking place...."

Whew! Just think: how much is yet to come!

Stay tuned and stay engaged.

Regards,
Hon. Hassan Ali El-Amin
President
J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association

Special Thanks to the U.S. District Court Bench in Greenbelt for allowing us the use of the Courthouse for our Joint Meeting.

JFB Newsletter Committee

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The **JFB Newsletter Committee** strives to insure that the *JFB Newsletter* provides a valuable resource to its members. But we need your help. The Newsletter Committee invites your participation as a Committee member or as a contributor. We welcome articles and information on topics of interest to JFB members. For further information, please contact the editor.

ORATORICAL CONTEST A HUGE SUCCESS

On Saturday, February 23, 2008, the **J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association** held its **Seventh Annual Black History Month Oratorical Contest** at the Prince George's County Administration Building in Upper Marlboro. The oratorical contest is open to all Montgomery and Prince George's County high school juniors and seniors. Eight local high school students wowed bar association members, teachers, parents and other spectators with their thoughtful and moving orations on this year's topic, **"Who Should Be The Next President And Why?"** College scholarships and plaques were awarded to the top three students.

Thais Francis, a senior from Charles Herbert Flowers High School, for the second year in a row won Third Prize and a \$250 scholarship. **Joseph E. Gray III**, a junior from C.H. Flowers High School, was awarded Second Prize and a \$500 scholarship. However, it was **Haywood Perry III**, a senior and the only participant from Oxon Hill High School, who left with First Prize and a \$1,000 scholarship.

The J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association extends its congratulations and thanks to all contest participants and their parents and coaches. In addition, JFB would like to thank the contest judges, the **Honorable James P. Salmon, the Honorable Michele D. Hotten, and Mr. Ibrahim Mumin**. Also, special thanks to: **The Honorable Hassan A. El-Amin, Michael Pearson, Ibrahim Moiz, Lyndsey Kuykendall**, the Oratorical Contest Committee for planning this year's event; **Past President Maureen Epps-Web**, Mistress of Ceremonies, and **Dr. Dorothy Bailey**, former Member and Chair of the Prince George's County Council, for serving as this year's guest speaker.

Thank also to the members of the JFBBA for attending the event, and especially to **Past President Sharon Burrell**, who (along with Executive Board member **Mike Pearson**) had presents for all the participants. Thank you for making the Seventh Annual Black History Month Oratorical Contest a success!!!!

Please inform all of the Montgomery and Prince George's County high school students you know about this great event so we can make the Eighth Annual Black History Month Oratorical Contest bigger and better!!!

By Lyndsey Kuykendall, Esquire, Law Clerk to the District Court



This year's winners pose with Judge El-Amin and contest co-chair, Mike Pearson: (l-r) Thais Francis, Joseph Gray III and Haywood Perry III.



Dr. Dorothy Bailey, former Chair of the Prince George's County Council, finds herself at home as guest speaker. For the past 3 years, the contest has been held in the County Council's Main Hearing Room.



Maureen Epps Webb entertains and informs as emcee at the 7th Annual Bi-County High School Oratorical Contest



Constructive critiques from the contest judges (l-r) Hon. Michele Hotten, Hon. James P. Salmon, and Mr. Ibrahim Muminis.



Pictured above are all the contestants whose tremendous efforts help make the JFB Oratorical Contest a huge success.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mar. 1, 2008: J. FRANKLYN BOURNE BAR ASSOCIATION, INC. Montgomery County Committee, 9:30 A.M. - 10:30 A.M. held in the conference room of the Bar Association of Montgomery County, 27 West Jefferson Street, Rockville, MD 20850. PLEASE BE ON TIME. THE MEETING WILL ONLY LAST AN HOUR. Refreshments will be served. For more information contact Holly Reed, Esq. at (301) 587-9480.

Mar. 3, 2008: DEADLINE FOR HOWARD UNIVERSITY ONE-YEAR MASTERS PROGRAM AND TEACHING CREDENTIAL. The Ready to Teach program (RtT) is Actively recruiting candidates for the 2008-2009 Cohort. Through this program you can earn a Master's of Arts in teaching Degree and get your teaching certification in one short year! RtT even provides scholarships and financial assistance to its candidates. The program is geared towards African-American males, but everyone is encouraged to apply. Hurry, the application deadline is March 3, 2008!! For admissions requirements and more information please visit the website at www.readytoteach.org, or feel free to contact Trenile Tillman at ttillman@howard.edu.

Mar. 4, 2008: BAR ASSOCIATION OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND 12:00 p.m., Rockville United Methodist Church, 115 West Montgomery Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850, Cost: Free, No tickets or reservations required. Speaker: Not at liberty to reveal right now but it promises to be worthwhile.

Mar. 7, 2008: MSBA YLD MARDI GRAS CHARITY EVENT, 6:00 – 11:00 pm, at the Louisiana Restaurant, 1708 Aliceanna Street, Baltimore, MD. Tickets \$65 per person. Order online at www.MSBA.org.

Mar. 18, 2008: JFB LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION, 6:00 pm – 8:00pm, at Harry Browne's Restaurant 66 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401. Please RSVP by March 7, 2008. Donation: \$10.00 for JFB Members; \$20.00 for Non-Members. Contacts: Traci Scudder (301)572-3245 & Colette Gresham (301)952-5434. (SEE ALSO ATTACHED FLYER)

Mar. 20, 2008: GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, 6:00pm at CoCo Cabana Bar and Grill 2031 A University Blvd, Hyattsville, MD 20783, 301-431-1882. CLE on Municipal Practice begins at 7:30 p.m.

Apr. 15 – 18, 2008: ANNUAL DRUG COURT DEFENSE COUNCIL TRAINING sponsored by the National Drug Court Institute. Join the NDCI for a 3 ½ day on-site training program and learn about: The Role of the Defense Attorney in Drug Court; Ethical Considerations in Drug Court; Legal Issues/Due Process; Treatment Issues; Policy Considerations; *and much more!* For additional information contact Bobbie Taylor at 703.575.9400, ext. 16 or btaylor@ndci.org.

Apr. 16, 2008: HONORING WOMEN 3:30pm – 5:00 pm. Monumental teams with the American Bar Association and multiple sponsors to present a panel discussion entitled "**Women of Color in the Legal Profession: Why It Means Success for Everyone,**" at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Ave., NW, Washington D.C.

Apr. 17, 2008: "THE PREPARATION OF A PERSONAL INJURY CASE," JFB-sponsored CLE program.

Jun. 2, 2008: JFB SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT & CLINIC Co-Sponsored with PGCB, \$125 per person. \$400 per foursome. Contact Judge Toni Clarke at 301.952.4988.

Jul. 26 –Aug. 2, 2008: NBA 83rd Annual Convention & Exhibits
http://www.nationalbar.org/news/conferences/83rd_reg_form.shtml

MSBA Calendar of Events: <http://www.msba.org/calendar/default.asp>

By Letoria G. Knight, JFB Corresponding Secretary

BLACK HISTORY MONTH MEETING PHOTO GALLERY



TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR LIFE PROGRAM GRADUATION



Ilyasah Shabazz (center at right), at the **Take Charge of Your Life Juvenile Diversion Program Graduation** run by **Shaar Mustaf** (left at right) and his son, former NBA star **Jerrod Mustaf** (seated at left) with **Judge El-Amin**.



J. FRANKLYN BOURNE BAR ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 1121

Upper Marlboro, MD 20773-1121

Important Dates to Remember

JFB's Montgomery County Committee

Sat., Mar. 1, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Montgomery County Bar Association
27 West Jefferson Street, Rockville, MD
Holly Reed (301) 587-9480

Mar. 18, 2008. JFB Legislative Reception.

Harry Browne's Restaurant
66 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401
Please RSVP by March 7, 2008;
Donation: \$10.00 JFB Members; \$20.00 Non-Members

SAVE THE DATE(S)

Mar. 20, 2008. JFB General Meeting

CoCo Cabana Bar and Grill 2031 A University Blvd, Hyattsville, MD 20783, 301-431-1882.

Buffet Dinner Included!

Don't Miss Our New Meeting Format!

Jun. 2, 2008: JFB SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT & CLINIC Co-Sponsored with PGCBA,

\$125 per person. \$400 per foursome.

Contact Judge Toni Clarke at 301.952.4988.

JFB LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

You are cordially invited to attend

THE JFB 2008 LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

Prince George's County and Montgomery County Elected Officials Invited

TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2008

6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Harry Browne's Restaurant

66 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

Please RSVP by March 7, 2008;

Donation: \$10.00 JFB Members; \$20.00 Non-Members

Contacts:

Traci Scudder (301)572-3245 &

Colette Gresham (301)952-5434

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION — PLEASE MAIL 2008 DUES TODAY



JFB is committed to legal excellence, community service, and the advancement of African-American minorities in the legal profession. Our membership consists primarily of African-American attorneys who live and/or work in Montgomery and Prince George's

Counties.

Membership classes are:

Active: Licensed to practice law in Maryland.

Dues: admitted to the Bar for less than 5 years — \$25; all others — \$50.

Associate: Licensed in *any other jurisdiction*, who lives in Montgomery or Prince George's County.

Dues: admitted to the Bar for less than 5 years — \$25; all others — \$50.

Student: Matriculated at a Washington metropolitan area law school *or* lives in Montgomery or Prince George's County and matriculated in any law school. Dues: \$5.

New Admittees: Admitted to practice in Maryland in the last 12 months. Dues waived.

Due checks should be made payable to J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association, Inc. and mailed to P.O. Box 1121, Upper Marlboro, MD 20773.

For membership applications, please visit our website, www.bournebar.org, or contact Janelle Jordan & Judge Herman C. Dawson.



J. FRANKLYN BOURNE

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BAR ASSOCIATION

Serving Montgomery
& Prince George's Counties



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You are cordially invited to attend

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*Prince George's County and Montgomery County Elected
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Contacts: Traci Scudder (301)572-3245 & Colette Gresham (301)952-5434***

J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association

** 2008 Legislative Reception * Tuesday, March 18, 2008 * 6:00 p.m. **

*Donation: \$10.00 Members
\$20.00 Non-Members*

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Number of Guests: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

Please remit checks payable to J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association, P.O. Box 1211, Upper Marlboro, MD 20773, along with this form.

This event offers a great opportunity to mingle with elected officials while enjoying appetizers and assorted beverages.