Des Moines Branch NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet Co-Chairs Announced

November 10th banquet themed: “Power Beyond Measure – Empowering Workforce, Economy and Community”

The Des Moines Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has chosen Co-Chairs for its 32nd Annual Freedom Fund Banquet to be held November 10, 2007. Linda Carter-Lewis, President of the Des Moines Branch and Rev. Irv Lewis, Sr., Chair of the Freedom Fund Banquet Committee announced that the Co-Chairs of the 32nd Annual Banquet’s Co-Chair will be Patricia J. Crawford, Senior Vice President of Wells Fargo. The Corporate Co-Chair will be Rob Denmon, President of Des Moines Community College.

This year’s banquet theme is Power Beyond Measure – Empowering Workforce, Economy and Community. In a joint statement co-chairs Crawford and Denmon declared, “This year’s Freedom Fund Banquet will celebrate the investment the Des Moines Branch NAACP has made in this community, highlighting the civil rights organization’s strong history of leadership and advocacy. Through this 32nd annual celebration of success, we intend to build on the legacy of the NAACP’s past, honor the strength of its membership; and support the essential role the association will play in Iowa’s future as our economy continues to diversify and grow.”

“Our members are active in the community and work very hard make things better for everyone,” stated Linda Carter-Lewis. “We will continue to focus on the future, tying our collective efforts to the workforce, economy and community, and continue to work for justice and equality in all areas.”

As a special tribute, the celebration will also revere past banquet co-chairs and the corporate backing they have garnered over the years. “A number of Iowa companies are supporters of the Des Moines NAACP,” said Carter-Lewis. “We want to honor them for being significant partners in the Branch’s success.”

The 2007 Freedom Fund Banquet will be held November 10 at the Embassy Suites in Downtown Des Moines, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Tickets include a membership to the Des Moines Branch NAACP.

To learn more about the Des Moines Branch of the NAACP visit www.naacpdesmoines.org. For tickets or more information about the Freedom Fund Banquet, contact Linda Carter-Lewis, President of the Des Moines Branch or Rev. Irv Lewis, Sr., Chair of the Freedom Fund Banquet Committee at (515) 283-1271.

The Obvious Choice!

Iowa Bystander Endorsement

On Tuesday, September 11, 2007, the Des Moines Independent Community School District will elect two members to its Board of Directors.

There is one obvious choice Des Moines voters have before them. That choice is to bullet vote for Jon Narcisse. For nearly three decades, since he was a teenager, Jon has fought for this community without compromise. His impact on education throughout Des Moines and Iowa has been well documented. His commitment to the children of our community has been equally well documented.

Most important, however, he will fight for us. For too long local elected officials have betrayed our trust. From CIETC to the school board our elected officials have used their election to public office to self promote and enrich themselves while the condition of our community has continued to decline.

We need a person on the school board who we know will fight for our students, for our parents, for our teachers and for our community.

Jon has spent his whole life fighting for justice, fighting against corruption and fighting for the powerless in our community. He will not be corrupted as so many others have that have gone before him. He will be the champion we need on that school board.

Between now and the election tell every Des Moines voter you know to get to the polls and vote Jon Narcisse and Jon Narcisse only. Make calls. Send emails. Just make sure you get the word out. We need to elect him for our kids.

Then on September 11, 2007, go to the polls and use just one of your two votes and cast that vote for Jon Narcisse. If you cast two votes you dilute Jon’s chances of winning so cast just one vote, and one vote only for Jon Narcisse.

After that call your friends and make sure they vote - at least ten of them - and send email reminders to your friends, too. In 2005 Jon lost by 84 votes. We can not afford to let that happen again.

The Des Moines school district in general, and our community specifically, needs Jon Narcisse on the school board. He will not be corrupted. He will not sell us out. His voice will be our voice.

On September 11, 2007 vote Jon Narcisse!

Des Moines School Board Election

The polls for the Des Moines School Board election will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Also, if you have a question about where to vote please contact the Polk County Election Office at 286-3247.

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Inside this issue of the Iowa Bystander

Find your polling site for the 2007 School Board Election
Is it disproportionate minority confinement; or slavery?

13th Amendment
U.S. Constitution

1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

With the disproportionate confinement numbers remaining high after the first study of the same over ten years ago we must ask why? With the crime rate down overall how does the incarceration rate climb? When do we begin to ask the questions that are tough and meaningful in order to make a positive change in Iowa’s nation leading status of the incarceration of black males?

How does the community take control of this problem and make a difference?

I want a response from you, our readers, to the questions I’ve asked. Please send your thoughts and responses to the iowabystanderarticles@yahoo.com site.

Individuals incarcerated in Iowa prisons make pennies on the dollar for the jobs they perform while their individual labor generates hundreds of thousands of dollars for prison industries. This fact holds some resemblance of our history in the United States. After studying the 13th amendment it may give some of you a new perspective to the reason for a disproportionate incarceration rate for black men in the state of Iowa.

Moving Toward Change JB

Iowa Civil Rights Commission
Working Toward A State Free of Discrimination
Enforcement of Civil Rights Laws
Education and Training for Groups, Individuals and Organizations
Raising the Profile of Civil Rights and Diversity

For more information, or questions, or concerns, please contact us at:
400 E. 14th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
515-281-4121 or 1-800-457-4416
www.state.ia.us/government/crc
What’s Going On?

“I would rather die and go to hell, than to let my children know that by my silence, by my acquiesce, I permitted to grow stronger the sentiment that they were not entitled to absolutely everything that everybody else in this country is entitled to.”

Charles P. Howard, Sr., Esq. Iowa Bystander 04/16/1927

By Robert V. Morris, Editor

When it comes to racial discrimination, Iowa’s major corporate and construction industries have virtually eliminated the black business community with indifference and exclusion and I am going to tell you how they are doing it. This week, I focus on the construction industry.

Construction is a business of relationships that usually does not work in our favor. Over the last quarter century, there have been numerous black-owned general contractors and specialty construction firms that have sprung up and died due to initial undercapitalization and lack of opportunity anchored in racial discrimination and stereotyping.

I am a professional supplier diversity consultant who has worked for Iowa’s largest general contractors trying to bring change to a “good ol’ boy” industry dominated by white males (99%) that has resisted change through federal government programs and state and local initiatives from the 1960s through today.

General construction contractors prefer to subcontract with companies who look like them and they have long relationships with that they know what they are going to get and that they can rely on. The competitive bid process is a joke because the price shaving and bid corruption is substantial and black contractors embrace the stereotype that black owned companies are inferior and financially unstable and eliminated from consideration through pre-qualification processes. Unfortunately, most black contractors are undercut due to discrimination in the financial and bonding community and the fear of anyone to give them a chance in their early stages. Therefore, black contractors seldom survive or thrive and usually fail within several years.

A number of years ago, the federal government set up programs like the Section 8(a) set-aside and federal acquisition regulations (FAR) that has resisted change through federal government programs and state and local initiatives from the 1960s through today.

The fact is that most general construction contractors embrace the stereotype that black owned companies are inferior and financially unstable and eliminate from consideration through pre-qualification processes. Unfortunately, most black contractors are undercut due to discrimination in the financial and bonding community and the fear of anyone to give them a chance in their early stages. Therefore, black contractors seldom survive or thrive and usually fail within several years.

A number of years ago, the federal government set up programs like the Section 8(a) set-aside and federal acquisition regulations (FAR) and some progress was made although “fronts” and scams hindered the programs’ integrity and re-entrenched stereotypes of minority firms. Although the FAR allowed bid price considerations (5-15%) for certified firms, the insertion of major companies as construction managers for construction (CMC’s) allowed agencies to circumvent the FAR and leave black firms out of major construction projects.

Here in Des Moines, the Polk County government built the Wells Fargo Events Center and now the new Polk County Jail with little or no minority participation using general contractors with “horrible” histories of minority subcontract utilization and no language within their contracts to provide for any. The Iowa Department of Transportation DBE, Iowa Department of Economic Development TSIB and City of Des Moines DBE “voluntary” programs are all a joke because they have no teeth to make anyone change their “good ol’ boy” ways. How can Des Moines be 20% plus non-white and Polk County 15% non-white and we can allow this to happen?

Former black Polk County Supervisor Tom Baker would have jumped off the roof of the Events Center and Jail before he would have allowed them to be built with no minority participation and we (blacks) let him get “tricked” out of office. To my knowledge, not a single major construction project in Des Moines or the suburban government or corporate, has any real minority participation goals and it is a disgrace to the very image of “diversity” this city and state tries to project.

Therefore, if the federal, state, county and city government and major corporate Iowa won’t force the construction community to change their ways, we are once again put in the position of saving ourselves through political representation and financial muscle, which unfortunately, we do not have.

With the aforementioned non-white populations, why do we have no City Counselors or Polk County Supervisors? Rather than fleeing Des Moines with no plans of returning, why can’t we finance our “best and brightest” to run for political office with our backing and change the way business is being done? Until we do that, we will continue to slide down the poll of exclusion and despair and our community will pay the price everyday with more disparate unemployment, incarceration and futility.

We should also ask the visiting presidential candidates their views on minority business inclusion as related to the various problems our community is facing.

Subscribers receive the Iowa Bystander every Friday at the special rate of $55.00 per year.

Narcisse enjoys broad based support

A number of state and local officials have endorsed Narcisse for School Board. Former Des Moines Police Chief William McCarthy also is a strong Narcisse supporter and was the first of many public officials to offer his support. Gen. Jodi Tymeson, former Chair of the Iowa House Education Committee said: “Best wishes in your bid for election to the Des Moines School Board. From our discussions, I know the students will be the beneficiaries of your passion for quality education. The parents and taxpayers will all benefit from your expectation of accurate data resulting in better accountability. You will be a strong voice for positive change.”

Grethen Tegler, former Chief of Staff for Governor Branstad and past Director of the Iowa Department of Management state: “I have known Jon Narcisse as a public policy professional and a friend for many years. Jon cares deeply about a successful future for all students in the Des Moines Independent School District (and

Narcisse enjoys broad based support

in Iowa), and if elected will work every day to promote their interests. He will insist upon the sound use of data in decision making, and as a Board member will emphasize accountability for student achievement. Jon is living proof of the capabilities of this great school system to educate students to be successful as individuals and as citizens of the community and world.

Greg McClain, a past member of the Iowa State Board of Education and the driving force behind raising academic standards for athletes in Iowa stated: “Jonathan, you have impressed me as being a data-driven, fact-based decision maker with a proactive, long-term mindset. You continue to demonstrate a passion for educational excellence in Iowa and advocating what’s best for all students based on truth. Indeed, you’re a ne plus ultra candidate for the Des Moines School Board. I wish you the best and much success in your election to and subsequent years on the Des Moines School Board.”

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NAACP Des Moines Freedom Fund Banquet supports its local ACT-SO program

It’s ACT-SO time! The Des Moines NAACP is committed to civil rights advocacy and quality educational programming. The branch, under the leadership of Mrs. Linda M. Carter-Lewis, sponsors the local ACT-SO program through funds made available by its annual Freedom Fund Banquet.

So what is ACT-SO? The Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological, Scientific Olympics—the Olympics of the mind—is a challenging yet rewarding educational experience. The NAACP Des Moines chapter is looking for academic and artistic excellence among high school African American students who want to participate in the 2008 program. ACT-SO is considered the “crown jewel” of the NAACP’s education initiatives.

Where is your strength? Is it Science, Humanities, Performing Arts, Visual Arts, or Business? The categories align with the same courses that high school students study each day.

Why should you participate? Should you ask, “What’s in it for me?” ACT-SO helps you develop your knowledge and perfect your skills. The mentoring helps move you from talent and potential to excellence and success. The competition helps strengthen your commitment to your craft. ACT-SO provides the opportunity to measure your skills by a higher standard as you compete with true cultural peers. ACT-SO provides a showcase and network with students from across the country. Additionally, cash scholarships are awarded at both the local and national competition.

Who else is doing it? Several students have already committed to participate in this year’s program. These are students who participated last year and are still eligible. They are students who went to Detroit last year as national competitors or as observers. They are NAACP Youth Council members. They attend East, Hoover, Lincoln, Roosevelt, Johnston, Urbandale and Valley high schools.

Are you interested? Plan to attend one of the upcoming ACT-SO orientations on Monday September 10th at 5:00 p.m. at Employees and Family Resources (EFR) 1446 MLK Jr. Parkway or on Saturday September 15th at 10:30 a.m. at the Mickle Center 1620 Pleasant St.

Who is eligible? If you are a high school student of African descent, a U.S. citizen or legal resident and an amateur in the competition categories you are eligible to compete. If you are in middle school, you are not eligible to compete until 9th grade. However, all 7th and 8th grade students are encouraged to contact Mr. Steve Fields, Student Awareness and Recruitment committee chair. He will keep your name and contact information on file until you are eligible for the program. Interested middle school students are welcome to attend the ACT-SO prep workshops. Other ways to participate would be as a coach, mentor, competition judge or be in the audience during the local competition.

Registration for competition begins on September 15th and goes through November 2nd. Students will prepare for competition throughout the year by working with mentors, community networking and community showcase opportunities.

The program begins in September and will progress throughout the year with mentoring, workshops to help students prepare for both local and national competition. The workshops include an overview of the NAACP, building self-esteem, developing communication skills, travel and the expectation for a national competitor, college essay writing, career choice, time management, dress and attire, and developing positive relationships.

The local competition will be held on Saturday April 5, 2008. First place winners who score 95 points or better advance and will represent the Des Moines Branch at the 2008 National ACT-SO competition at the Walt Disney World theme park in Orlando, FL.

So, it’s ACT-SO time! Be a participant, be a mentor, be a judge, plan now to be in the audience at the local competition in April. Share this message with the greater Des Moines community. We need students, mentors, judges, and you. This is our program—it is By Us and For Us.

For information regarding student awareness and recruitment, please contact Mr. Steve Field, 313-7727 or stevefields@icfpr.org. To volunteer to be a competition judge, please contact Mrs. Annis Austin Woods, 262-8345 or auustin106@aol.com. For program information or to volunteer as a mentor please contact Mrs. Gretchen Woods at 254-1947 or gretchenal@peoplepc.com.

ACT-SO is where ‘Today’s Youth become Tomorrow’s Legends. So if you believe you can . . . then ACT-SO. 000

NOTICE OF REGULAR SCHOOL ELECTION

DESMOINES INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

AND

DESMOINES AREA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

IN THE COUNTIES OF POLK AND WARREN, STATE OF IOWA

SEPTEMBER 11, 2007

POLLLING PLACE CHANGE: Precinct DES MOINES – 26 has been changed from WALLACE SCHOOL, 1404 E. 13th Street, Des Moines, IA. The new polling place is the COMMUNITY OF CHRIST CHURCH, 1645 Pennsylvania Ave., Des Moines, IA.

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given to the qualified electors of the Des Moines Independent Community School District and Des Moines Area Community College in the Counties of Polk and Warren, State of Iowa, that the regular School Election will be held Tuesday, September 11, 2007. At this election, the voters shall vote for two School Board Directors for the Des Moines Independent Community School District and select precincts in this school district shall vote for one Director for District No. 8 for Des Moines Area Community College.

The voters in Des Moines Precincts 7, 8, 10, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 96, 98, 101 and Pleasant Hill Precincts 1, 2, and 3 in the Des Moines Independent Community School District School District shall vote for two School Board Directors for the Des Moines Independent Community School District and one Director for Des Moines Area Community College District No.8.

The remaining precincts within the Des Moines Independent Community School District shall vote for two School Board Directors for the Des Moines Independent Community School District. Those residing in Urbandale—3 that are in the Des Moines Independent Community School District shall vote at Des Moines Precinct-14, Westover Baptist Church, 2330 62nd St. The voters from Warren County in the Des Moines Independent Community School District shall vote at Des Moines Precinct-95, Mann School, 1001 Amos Ave. The voters residing in Windsor Heights—3 in the Des Moines Independent Community School District shall vote at Windsor Heights – 1, Windsor Presbyterian Church, 6301 University Ave.

The polls will be open from 7:00 AM until 8:00 PM and the polling places for this election are listed within this publication. The ballot to be used in this election shall be in substantially the form published. All qualified voters of the Des Moines Independent Community School District and Des Moines Area Community College District are hereby notified to appear at said time and place, each voter to vote at the polling place designated or authorized by law. All voters are also advised to the requirements of voter registration in order to be eligible to vote at said election. This notice is given by order of the Des Moines Independent Community School District, Des Moines Area Community College and the Polk County Commissioner of Elections.

Any voter who is physically unable to enter a polling place has the right to vote in the voter’s vehicle. For further information, please contact the Polk County Election Office at 286-3247.

Machine testing shall be held at the Polk County Election Office at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, September 5, 2007. Electors with a disability that need an accommodation to participate in this election should contact the Polk County Election Office at 286-3247 for assistance.

Jamie Fitzgerald, Polk County Auditor and Commissioner of Elections
Weekly Meditation

Answered Prayers

Read Psalm 138
Verse of Concentration Psalm 138:3

“When I pray, You answer me, and encourage me by giving me the strength I need.”

Psalm 138:3 NIV

We know prayer changes things. We have seen it time and time again in our own lives and in the lives of those around us. But do we give God thanks for answered prayer or even acknowledge that He’s given us the strength to endure? If we don’t, now would be a good time to start.

Prayer is a conversation with God. God has taken time out to tend to his children. In our conversations with Him, He gives us direction, instruction, and guidance to move us along on our journey, and into a place of righteousness. Part of being in a conversation with someone is listening. We need to learn how to sit quietly and listen for our instructions from God.

In our prayer time, we want to go offer praise, worship and thanksgiving, unto Him for His loving-kindness, truth, and faithfulness. We should exalt Him above all! Psalm 55:16-17, says “As for me, I will call upon God; and the Lord shall save me. Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and He shall hear my voice”. So when we call, know He’ll answer, and then give Him “thanks!”

Michelle Harris
Elpis Fellowship

Editor Wanted: We are currently looking for an editor/wordsmith to work on our various publications. The successful applicant must be able to meet deadline, work effectively in pressure situations and be a skilled wordsmith. If you are interested in this job call Jonathan at 515-471-5092.

Des Moines School Board supports changes in NCLB

DES MOINES (September 5, 2007) – Citing the need to improve how student growth is measured and to re-evaluate the federal government’s role in helping local school districts, the Des Moines School Board unanimously approved a resolution urging Congress to support changes in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, commonly known as No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

“No Child Left Behind impacts thousands of school districts and millions of students, meaning it’s time public education is at the top of the list of our nation’s public policy concerns,” said School Board Vice President Ginny Strong. “From Iowa’s congressional delegation to our next President of the United States, it’s important that those of us in Iowa make our voices heard on such a vital issue.”

Signed into law by President Bush in January 2002, NCLB was intended to provide greater focus on student achievement. However, several education constituencies – including state education officials, school boards, and teachers – have concerns about the implementation and funding of NCLB and developed recommendations for change.

“Des Moines Public Schools has had 100 years of accountability to the community when it comes to education; No Child Left Behind has had five,” added Board member Richard Murphy. “I trust the experience of local school districts more than officials in Washington, DC to best gauge what makes a difference for our schools.”

Among change to NCLB supported in the School Board’s resolution are using multiple measures to assess students rather than only standardized tests, monitoring student growth instead of proficiency, and allowing for more local control and funding to meet educational expectations.

The resolution also supports H.R. 648, the No Child Left Behind Improvements Act of 2007, as a starting point in the legislative process. The legislation is endorsed by the National School Board Association, the National Education Association, and 471 school districts across the nation. Congress is expected to begin debate this fall.

To view the Des Moines School Board’s Resolution goto the District’s website at www.dmpps.k12.ia.us.

Founded 100 years ago, the Des Moines Independent Community School District is Iowa’s largest provider of public education serving the individual needs of more than 30,000 students in 60 schools with more than 4,800 dedicated teachers and staff.
Des Moines culinary arts students win medals at nationals

Five Des Moines Public Schools Central Campus Culinary Arts students proved their cooking skills were top-notch by winning gold and silver medals at the National FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) Competition in Anaheim, California this summer.

Katie Anderson won a gold medal in the Entrepreneurship category for her business plan to create a specialty cake shop called “Custom Cakes by Katie.” She graduated from Valley High School in West Des Moines in May and is attending Kendall College in Chicago.

“Katie has worked very hard at perfecting her cake decorating skills and really hopes to open her own business someday,” said Elaine Wolf, Culinary Arts Instructor. “Our program gives students the opportunity to take part in national competitions such as the FCCLA event and helps them strive toward their dream careers.”

Michael Napuunoa was a silver medal winner in the Community Service category. He was honored for his project to cook and serve a meal at the Ronald McDonald House, which he presented at the competition. Napuunoa is home-schooled and attends Central Campus.

The Culinary Arts program is one example of the excellent vocational education programs we have here in the Des Moines Public Schools,” said Dr. Nancy Sebring, Superintendent of Schools.

Former Board President endorses Jon Narcisse for the Des Moines School Board

Voters in Des Moines have the opportunity this Tuesday to cast their vote for someone who will make a significant and positive difference in the Des Moines schools.

I have known Jon Narcisse for twenty years, and I am convinced the school board needs his commitment, intelligence, and innovative ideas. Jon will work very hard to increase parent involvement in our schools, he will listen to the community, and he will thoroughly explore all sides of every issue. Jon is a tireless worker, and he will bring to the Board an unparalleled passion for improving student achievement and making sure every student gets the skills they need to be successful members of our community.

As a former school board member, president of the board and PTA leader, and as someone who closely follows education and community issues, I believe Jon Narcisse is uniquely qualified for the Des Moines School Board.

I urge you to join me in voting for Jon on Tuesday.

Jon Neiderbach

Advertise Today!

Vote Narcisse for school board

Jonathan Narcisse has been doing his homework about education in Iowa as long as I’ve known him, and I give him an A+. He has used and shared his information to advocate, educate and improve the system. Success for all students and the involvement of their parents at school are his goals.

We need his expertise, experience and energy.

Mary Brubaker

Iowa Bystander • Page 6
A Legacy Of Results Earns Narcisse Recognition From Multiple Administrations, State & Federal

Jonathan Narcisse, the recipient of nearly 400 awards and honors over the years, has been recognized by the past three Presidential Administrations and the past two Gubernatorial Administrations for his work in areas including health, justice, education and economic development. His work and research during his nearly three decades of activism have generated nearly $100 million dollars for community groups, organizations, efforts, and agencies throughout Iowa.

Even before his 21st birthday he was named to Callaman Junior High’s first Hall of Fame joining the likes of Gov. Robert Ray, John Ruan, Andy Williams and KCCI’s Mary Brubaker.

He earned that honor because he offered solutions. The next oldest inductee was nearly 20 years older than he was. He is also a past recipient of the Washington Times Youth Service Award and in 2003 became Cityview’s first Central Iowa Activist of the Year.

A bridge builder he’s brought together Republicans and Democrats like Sen. Jack Hatch (pictured with Narcisse) and Sen. Chuck Larson to work together on promoting responsible education legislation. He’s brought together rural and urban Iowans linking them through common ground concerns. He’s brought together major groups like the ISA and the ISEA linking them with past and future critics. He’s been able to recruit and collaborate with leading officials like former Secretary of State Chet Culver, who chaired Narcisse’s statewide voter mobilization campaign, and Gretchen Tegeler, Gov. Branstad’s former Chief of Staff, on health and education issues.

That bridge building history and legacy of real solutions and results, documented in more than 1,000 statewide media reports, uniquely qualifies him to serve on the Des Moines Independent Community School Board.
**Author to present at Salisbury House series**

James Reston’s recently released book, "The Conviction of Richard Nixon: The Untold Story of the Frost/Nixon Interviews," provides the basis for his lecture, launching the 2007-2008 Salisbury House History Series on Thursday, September 27th at 7:30 p.m. The social hour will begin at 6:45 p.m.

Reston was adviser to David Frost in preparation for the televised interview. His firsthand account of the memorable interview inspired the play “Frost/Nixon,” in which Reston was a major character. The production opened August 2006 in London, and in New York in May 2007. The movie will be released in the fall of 2008.

Highlights of Mr. Reston’s distinguished career include publication of 13 books, whose diverse topics are revealed in such titles as Galileo: A Life; Dogs of God: Columbus, the Inquisition, and the Defeat of the Moors; Collision at Home Plate: The Lives of Pete Rose and Bart Giamatti; and Fragile Innocence: A Father’s Memoir of His Daughter’s Courageous Journey. Reston has also authored three plays and numerous articles for national magazines.

Reston is currently a senior scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C., and has been a fellow at the American Academy in Rome and a scholar in residence at the Library of Congress. He was an assistant to U.S. Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall (1964-65) and served in the U.S. Army (1965-68).

Admission is $10, students 18 and under are free. Reservations are required.

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**Cornerstone Family Church**

3114 SW 61st Street
Des Moines, IA 50321
Phone: 515-243-2852

**Business Office**

Monday – Friday, 8:30-4:40
Church Office 515-243-2852 ext 75

**Our Purpose**

Helping ALL people find and live their lives for Christ, bridging ethnic, cultural and denominational lines.

**Sundays**

Worship at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Real Life – Ministry for Singles 18-29
Each Sunday at 9:30 a.m.
Transportation to Sunday Morning Worship services at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

**Wednesdays**

Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.
SpiritLife 7:00 p.m.
One Youth 7:00 p.m.

**Saturdays**

Worship at 5:00 p.m.
Merge – Ministry for Singles over 30
2nd Saturday of each month 6:30-9:00 p.m.

**Radio Ministry**

Fridays 11:30 a.m. & Sundays 7:30 a.m. on Praise 940 AM
Website: www.cornerstonefamilychurch.org

**Men’s Prayer Breakfast - September 8th, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

Men of Cornerstone, it’s time again to enjoy the prayer, fellowship, bonding and great food that only the Men’s Prayer Breakfast can provide! Prayer begins at 6:30, breakfast is served at 7:00 a.m. Terry Gibson will share a devotion this month.

**New Life Class - Sunday, September 9th, 9:30-10:30 a.m.**

For new believers, people new to the church, or anyone who wants a more intimate walk with God. “How to” subjects of practical Christian living are taught. Join this 12 week journey in the upstairs Conference room.

**Kenya 2007 Mission Trip - September 10th-21st**

Please pray for the 8 mission team members as they travel and minister in Kenya, September 10th-21st. Check the CFC website for blog updates.

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**Subscribe to Iowa Bystander today!**
Iowa foreclosure rates point to need for homebuyer education

Iowa had the ninth-highest rate of home foreclosures in the nation at the end of the first quarter of 2007. “These foreclosure rates point out that Iowans need to learn about different types of mortgages and how to find a good loan for their situation whether their income is high or low,” said Mary Yearns, housing specialist with Iowa State University Extension.

Yearns is the instructor for a new online course, A Place of Your Own, designed to help people prepare for the home buying process. The course helps participants know when to buy a home, how to shop for an appropriate mortgage and budget for mortgage payments and other typical homeowner expenses.

Iowa State faculty taught the course in a traditional classroom format. The online version debuted in late June. Thirty-four people have enrolled in the online course; 32 have earned a certificate of completion. Besides Iowans, residents of Illinois, Missouri and Nebraska have enrolled. “An online course is accessible to all potential homebuyers, anytime and anywhere. This is particularly helpful for rural Iowans who may not have an on-site class near them,” said Yearns.

The ISU Extension homeowner course is approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and by the Iowa Finance Authority. Both agencies work to help lower-income people purchase homes.

“The lack of homeownership education is a well-known barrier to successful homeownership for many families,” said Mark Reisinger, USDA Rural Development State Director in Iowa.

As of May 2007, USDA Rural Development requires first-time homebuyers to complete education from a certified provider to qualify for the agency’s rural housing loans. “Homeownership remains a central part of the American Dream,” Reisinger said. “Requiring people to learn about the process first increases their decision making skills.”

Bret Mills, Executive Director of the Iowa Finance Authority, adds, “We encourage all first time owners to invest in homebuyer education to help prepare for homeownership. Successful homeowners take pride in their homes and communities. They provide a stable and healthy environment for children and become involved in neighborhoods and communities.”

“Our goal is to give people the knowledge and skills they need to be successful homeowners,” said Yearns. Information about the course is at www.extension.iastate.edu/homebuyer.
Des Moines Roosevelt student honored as Academic All-American

A Roosevelt High School senior has been recognized by the National Forensic League as an Academic All-American debater. Olivia Sandbothe, a 3-year member of the Roosevelt High School debate team, is only the third student in the history of Des Moines Public Schools to receive the award.

To be recognized as an Academic All-American, students must achieve a 3.7 grade point average and score a 27 or higher on the ACT college entrance exam, or an equivalent score on the SAT exam. Qualifications also include earning at least 750 National Forensic League speech and debate points, as well as recommendations from the school principal and debate coach.

"Olivia takes several Advanced Placement classes at Roosevelt and Central Academy, and devotes a considerable amount of time to debate," said Kathleen Danielson, Roosevelt High School Principal. "Being recognized as an Academic All-American proves how hard she works to succeed."

The National Forensic League has 95,000 student members nation-wide, and recognizes 350 students annually with the Academic All-American Award. Des Moines' other Academic All-Americans were two Roosevelt students recognized last year: graduates Sam Fairfield, who now attends Grinnell College, and senior Billy Strong.

"Olivia is very deserving of this honor, as she has earned more than 1,000 NFL points and is currently ranked ninth on the all-time list of Roosevelt High School debate winners," said Harry Strong, Roosevelt High School Debate Coach. "We are proud of our three students who have achieved Academic All-American status in the past two years."

Sandbothe and Strong are co-captains of this year's Roosevelt High School debate team. They excel at Foreign Extemporaneous speaking, where they are allowed 30 minutes to research a topic and then must present a speech without using notes. Sandbothe is the daughter of John and Tracy Sandbothe of Des Moines. Strong is the son of Harry and Ginny Strong of Des Moines.
Renewable Energy Business Conference

Renewable On Parade offers Insider Insights—where to come to get the unfiltered opinions of the world’s renewable energy experts—September 20-23 at the Riverside Casino Conference Center in Riverside, IA.

“This is the conference business people should attend to get their own, unfiltered information directly from the renewable energy experts—to gain the information necessary to move your business forward with confidence,” Wendy Gady, Event Organizer said. “Whether you’re a producer, venture capitalist, banker, developer or just interested in what the future holds for renewable power...Renewable On Parade is where you should be in September.”

“The U.S. faces a formidable strategic challenge, to not only move toward a greater reliance on renewable energy, but, more importantly, create market-driven sustainability that could enhance U.S. long-term competitive position in the global marketplace,” Sano Shimoda, President of BioScience Securities and a keynote speaker at Renewable On Parade, said.

“Since 1873, our nation has relied on foreign oil and its instability to keep our society operating. Now we face a new global challenge: the need for a sustained shift to a clean energy grid that is diverse, secure and renewable,” Sano added. “Our nation is facing a３ energy challenge, and Outdoor is being called to lead the solution.”

This wide-ranging conference provides a forum for people to think broadly about the energy challenge ahead for the country,” Sano added.

This international conference will bring over 60 speakers to the business interests of the country. It’s the first conference where all renewable energy interests will come together at the same time, according to Gady. “The discourse among solar, hydro, wind, geothermal, ethanol, biodiesel—all renewable experts and how they can begin working together—will start at Renewable On Parade,” Gady said.

“We’ve just seen Iowa land values increase 17 per cent in one year because of renewable energy. That means dollars into the coffers of everyone who does business in and with this state. At Renewable On Parade, we expect to hear a lot of ‘what’s new, and what’s next’ in cross-development and cross-utilization of all types of renewable energy to continue this growth,” Iowa Governor Chet Culver set the goal of becoming the Renewable Energy Capital of the World,” Gady added. “Renewable On Parade is where we begin.”

“The conference is comprised of three events: a pre-conference summit on September 20, 2007, for business and organizational leaders focused on financing and developing alternative energy projects; the conference track September 21-22 both at the Riverside Casino Conference Center, Riverside, IA. The Renewable on Parade Consumer Expo runs September 21-23 at the Washington, IA fairgrounds.

Exhibits at the fairgrounds will allow individuals to participate in interactive learning opportunities. The Purdue University Solar Race Car, the University of Iowa Solar Bike, the University of Northern Iowa Solar Boat, the I-Renew Energy Learning Lab, the Iowa DNR Education Vehicle and the Alliant Geo 1 Mobile Education Vehicle will be showcased throughout the event. Renewable On Parade boasts 60 scheduled speakers, over 50 significant sponsors and 100 exhibitors who are putting renewable energy solutions to work across the country and around the world.

For more information about Renewable On Parade or to register online, go to: www.renewableonparade.com.
Editor Wanted: We are currently looking for an editor/wordsmith to work on our various publications. The successful applicant must be able to meet deadline, work effectively in pressure situations and be a skilled wordsmith. If you are interested in this job call Jonathan at 515-471-5092.