Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement

Established 1894
U.S. Postage Paid
Des Moines, IA
Permit #3314

Iowa CCI Named As An MVP By The Nation Magazine

The Nation magazine has named Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement (Iowa CCI) the “Most Valuable Grassroots Advocacy Group” in the United States in 2009.

Nichols writes, “Although the MVP list, which makes its print debut here, focuses on individuals and organizations, it is really about issues and ideas. As such, the point is not to identify perfect players so much as to make note of activists and activist groups that may not get enough recognition but that are having a demonstrable effect — in Washington and around the country.”

CCI members believe that community organizing is the most effective means for engaging everyday people in grassroots democracy and winning long-term social change that makes our state, and country, more just and democratic. Iowa CCI mobilizes thousands of Iowans each year to tackle tough issues, stand up for what’s right, put pressure where it needs to be put and get things done.

“We recognize the importance of community organizing and the work of people across the United States,” said Hugh Espey, Executive Director of Iowa CCI. “The recognition is a great honor for us, but it’s also very humbling since we know there are so many deserving groups doing great work across the United States,” said Hugh Espey, Executive Director of Iowa CCI.

“We count on The Nation to stand with us and many other like-minded organizations as we speak truth to power and fight for justice, democracy, fairness, dignity and ultimately, a better life for a lot more people,” Espey said. “We consider ourselves in excellent company with John Nichols and The Nation.”

“We are thankful for those who believe in and support our mission and work,” Espey added. “Our funders - foundation, business, church — and our members. CCI members are what make us the strong organization we are today.”

CCI members will continue to stand up for what’s right and ask elected officials to put people first at their Rally & Lobby Day Jan. 26 at the State Capitol. CCI will call on legislators to stand on the side of everyday people, not big-money special interests.

Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement is a group of everyday people who talk, act and get things done on issues that matter most. With thousands of members from all walks of life — urban and rural, black and white, immigrants and lifelong Iowans — CCI has been tackling tough issues and getting things done for nearly 35 years.

Tavis Smiley Ends Annual State Of The Black Union

By JESSE WASHINGTON
AP National Writer

After 10 years, Tavis Smiley is ending his annual State of the Black Union conference, which spawned best-selling books and his critical stance toward Barack Obama.

The activist and PBS host said Wednesday that he needs time to focus on other projects, such as his four prime-time specials this year and his book company, which recently announced plans to publish the musician R. Kelly’s memoir.

Smiley also said that, unlike a decade ago, black issues now are being addressed by numerous other media outlets, commentators and bloggers.

The State of the Black Union “doesn’t have the premium that it used to have - and that’s a good thing,” Smiley told The Associated Press.

Smiley, who hosts a nightly half-hour talk show on PBS, said he was inspired to start the conference because black issues were rarely addressed in the president’s State of the Union speech or the national media.

The conference, which took place each February, was broadcast on C-SPAN and averaged 7,000 to 10,000 participants each year as it traveled to various cities. It drew almost 20,000 people in Jamestown, Va., in 2007, when it marked the 400th anniversary of the first arrival of African slaves in North America.

Smiley said money was not a factor in ending the series - which cost “well over seven figures” each year and was free to the public - because Exxon Mobil and Nationwide Insurance had committed to major sponsorship deals in 2009.

Wells Fargo was a major sponsor last year, which led to some criticism of Smiley after the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People filed a lawsuit accusing Wells Fargo of pushing blacks into high-interest mortgage loans while whites with the same qualifications got lower rates. Smiley said he ended his deal with Wells Fargo as soon as the lawsuit was filed.

Wells Fargo & Co. has denied race played any role in how it did business.

Over the years, the State of the Black Union conference became a major event, drawing a wide range of influential speakers such as Hillary Rodham Clinton, Louis Farrakhan, Johnnie Cochran, Nikki Giovanni, Jesse Jackson, Al Sharpton and Magic Johnson.

The 2005 conference generated the idea for the book “Covenant with Black America,” about issues facing the black community. One of Smiley’s fondest State of the Black Union memories is holding the book aloft at the 2006 event and watching thousands of people in the audience do the same - “just the fact that we did what we said we were going to do.”

The book became a No. 1 New York Times best-seller. Smiley published two more books in the series, which focused on putting the “Covenant” into action and then on holding politicians accountable.

That led to Smiley’s critical stance toward Obama because of the presidential candidate’s insistence that the best way to help blacks was improving the entire economy, rather than specific policies targeting black problems.

Obama said he was too busy campaigning to attend the 2008 State of the Black Union event. Clinton was the only presidential candidate there.

Smiley endured much criticism as a result of his position on Obama, but the new president spoke to Smiley’s gathering by satellite from the White House in February 2009.

That was Smiley’s other favorite memory.

“That the president of the United States felt compelled to join us live to acknowledge the power of this symposium over 10 years, and what it had accomplished, raising the kind of issues that helped him get elected - that was significant,” Smiley said.
Pregnant Women Still A Priority For H1N1 Vaccine

At any given time there are about 6,000 pregnant women in Polk County. So far 3,169 have been vaccinated for H1N1. Even though a large number of pregnant women in Polk County have received the vaccine, the Polk County Health Department is still trying to reach expectant mothers because new women are becoming pregnant every day and need to be reminded to get vaccinated.

Pregnant women are one of the five high-risk categories for H1N1. According to the Center for Disease Control, they are four times more likely than the other flu victims to be hospitalized by H1N1, and account for six percent of confirmed deaths from the flu strain. In April of 2009 when H1N1 first appeared, doctors immediately saw many cases of the virus in pregnant women. Of 100 admitted to intensive care units, 28 died from H1N1. Doctors around the country have never seen a flu impact pregnant women so severely.

There are two reasons that H1N1 can be serious in pregnant women. A woman who is pregnant has a slower and less reactive immune system that a non-pregnant person, which means that viruses, such as the flu, can create a serious infection. In addition, as the baby grows a woman’s respiratory system is greatly affected, so if she gets pneumonia after the flu it is very challenging to restore normal airflow to the lungs.

Pregnant women refuse to get the vaccine, either because they feel it’s unnecessary or they don’t know enough about its effects. The H1N1 vaccine immunizes the baby for a few months after birth, developing antibodies in both mother and child. But some pregnant women refuse to get the vaccine, either because they feel it’s unnecessary or they don’t know enough about its effects.

The health department is trying to target pregnant women by providing information to their physicians and making flu clinics more accessible. The long lines seen at the start of the vaccine campaign may have deterred some women but now most people can get in, get vaccinated and get out in 15 minutes.

And in the end, it’s all about the child being born healthy and having a healthy family to come home to.
Klan Founder’s Bust Moved From House Chamber

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - A bust of Civil War general and early Ku Klux Klan leader Nathan Bedford Forrest has been moved from outside the doors of the Tennessee House chamber but still remains in a place of prominence on the main floor of the state Capitol.

The rearrangement of the Capitol busts was spurred by a new bust to honor Sampson W. Keeble, the state’s first black lawmaker who served in the House from 1873 to 1874. The likeness of Keeble is meant to represent the two sides in the Civil War. He rose to become a cavalry general within the Confederate army at the outset of the Civil War. He rose to become a cavalry general within a year.

The busts of the two Tennesseans facing each other were meant to represent the two sides in the Civil War, Tennessee State Museum Director Lois Riggins-Ezell said.

The busts outside the House chamber were of Forrest and Union Adm. David G. Farragut, who in 1864 famously ordered “Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!” as he led his fleet to victory in the Battle of Mobile Bay, Ala.

The busts of the two Tennesseans facing each other were meant to represent the two sides in the Civil War, Tennessee State Museum Director Lois Riggins-Ezell said.

The two Tennesseans facing each other were meant to represent the two sides in the Civil War, Tennessee State Museum Director Lois Riggins-Ezell said.

The two Tennesseans facing each other were meant to represent the two sides in the Civil War, Tennessee State Museum Director Lois Riggins-Ezell said.

The two Tennesseans facing each other were meant to represent the two sides in the Civil War, Tennessee State Museum Director Lois Riggins-Ezell said.

The Farragut and Forrest busts have now been moved outside the doors of the House chamber but still remain in a place of prominence on the main floor of the state Capitol.

The Farragut University busts placed outside the chamber: former presidents Andrew Jackson and Halberstam with “The Children,” and it is light on fresh analysis. But he distills the vast trove of material on SNCC and the movement with a sure, skillful hand. The book would be an excellent starting point for anyone, particularly young people, wanting to learn about key points in the modern civil rights era and the rise - and - fall - of SNCC.

His portrait of Bob Moses, the philosopher-activist in a white T-shirt and bib overalls whose journey took him from Harvard University to Mississippi to Africa and back, would make anyone unfamiliar with him want to learn more. This is true of others in Lewis’ account, such as Zellner, a white Alabama student who remained committed and courageous even when SNCC turned against him.

The second half of the book chronicles SNCC’s downward spiral, the success and prominence of some, and the disillusionment and personal travails of others in its aging cadre. But Lewis makes clear how much their fearlessness in youth mattered.

“How this ragtag band with little money, no obvious power, painfully little help from the federal government, and the entire white South out to get them, played a starring role in the demise of legal segregation is one of the great adventure stories of American history.”

When I was diagnosed with cancer I had so many questions, then I called the American Cancer Society. I would never have imagined they offer so much information and help.

The American Cancer Society is the place to go for information, education, help, and support. It’s free and confidential.

We are with you.
Tearful Baltimore Mayor Resigning Under Plea Deal

It was the day before Kwanzaa ended and I had this hankering for some good old fashioned soul food. You know those fried Southern Chitterlings (Chittlin’s). I first started my journey to Fareway on Euclid to see if I could purchase two ten pound buckets. I wandered down the aisles in search of something else that would make a good side dish just like Down Home with the Neely’s would do. There were no fresh collards, there were no fresh mustards and there were no fresh turnips. This venture was beginning to feel like when you peep in your Christmas stocking the day before Christmas and there is nothing there. Well not to be out done, cooks in the know told me to try Glory Greens. I started back down the canned goods aisle. I saw Allen’s and Sylvia Greens, but no Glory Greens. Well, I don’t like canned vegetables, yet I was determined to make sure I had a side dish so I got several cans of the other brands.

I continued searching for the Chittlin’s. I didn’t find them either. I went to the meat department at Fareway and the butcher pointed to a frozen food bin. I looked and what was supposed to be the place for the Chittlin’s now housed frozen mixed vegetables. I asked this young man who was stockering where were the Chittlin’s he looked and said they were right there where I had been standing. He ventured over to the meat department, and they told him they would check in the back. They looked and looked. Finally a nice young man came forward and said we are out. Now I have no fresh greens and no Chittlin’s. I made a mental note of where else could I search.

I took my sacks of what nots and got in my car and drove to Hy-Vee on SE 14th Street.

There was a crowd everywhere. It was like a reunion of former high school students. I guess the south side is the new north side. I saw former students, now thirty something, I had taught at Hoover and even left a message on New Year’s Eve, to one student who had fallen short of the law to stay out of trouble that even if he was thirty something he was not beyond my lecture of staying away from the negative vices. I am sure that was a message he didn’t want to hear from one of his former high school teachers.

Now back to my quest in search of Chittlin’s. This time I was determined to find the Glory Greens. I went to the shelf and there they were. I also grabbed a bag of black eyed peas and felt a bit of satisfaction. Now if I could only find the Chittlin’s. Hy Vee’s motto is a friendly smile in every aisle as well as showing you where a product would be located. I was going to put that to a test. I walked up to Derek, a nice young man behind the meat counter, and asked do you have any Chittlin’s? Derek responded yes and took me to the spot where there were only two ten pound buckets left which put a smile on my face. Now with my arsenal of supplies for my good old fashion dinner I journeyed home.

After the thawing of the ten pound buckets, I started cleaning, cleaning and cleaning. I called my mom in Texas, while cleaning, who asked was I done yet? When I responded no and said I would probably finish by dinner time. She laughed and said I can clean twenty pounds in an hour. I smiled and thought well I wish she was cleaning these. What took her one hour took me four hours. But, my story does not end there. After all that cleaning and preparation, I put the Chittlin’s on and one by one each strand dissolved into mere fat. This was like a Nightmare on Elm Street. It looked like I switched the clean bucket with the linings I pulled off the top. All of my hard work went up in smoke, and on top of that the batch was spoiled! My only satisfaction was I still had homemade potato salad, black eyed peas and my Glory Greens. There is another lesson for me here. Get my Chittlin’s early or go home (Texas) and let momma clean and cook them because you know we were taught you just can’t eat anybody’s Chittlin’s!

So how was your New Year’s Dinner?
Michelle Obama Images
Part Of Exhibit On Race

DETROIT (AP) - Two contrasting images of Michelle Obama - weari ng pearls and smiling, and as a rifle-toting revolutionary - are on display at the University of Michigan as part of an exhibit that considers race and visual representations.

"Reframing the Color Line: Race and the Visual Culture of the Atlantic World" includes a series of illustrations of black people starting in the 18th century that range from highly demeaning to strongly sympathetic.

Taken together, the imagery "reveals how racial stereoty pes were perpetuated, and in many ways, continue to exist," co-curator Martha S. Jones writes in an essay in the university's online journal Montage.

The first image of Michelle Obama at the William L. Clements Library's exhibition shows the first lady in her official photographic portrait, smiling and wearing a sleeveless dress with a string of pearls.

"Situated just over the first lady's left shoulder, White House photographer Carolyn Boghosian used a provocative prop ... a Rembrandt Peale portrait of the nation's third president, Thomas Jefferson, captured just slightly out of focus," writes Jones, an associate professor of history and Afro American and African Studies.

"Michelle Obama stands out in front of this scion of American slavery and American freedom," Jones says. "Jefferson's image is a powerful reminder that the meaning of Michelle Obama's presence in the Blue Room is rooted in a history that extends back to the earliest years of the republic. Today, it is this African-American first lady that commands the White House, while Jefferson has become a shadowy figure that underscores her authority."

The second image is a cartoon from the July 21, 2008, cover of The New Yorker magazine, showing Michelle Obama and then-presidential candidate Barack Obama in a room at the White House.

"He's in a tunic and turban and she's in camouflage pants and combat boots, with an assault rifle slung over her shoulder. They exchange a touch-fist greeting as a U.S. flag burns in the fireplace. A portrait of Osama bin Laden hangs on the wall. The magazine titled the cartoon "The Politics of Fear," and said it was an attempt to poke fun at those who questioned the Obama's patriotism."

An Irish political cartoon shows Jefferson and his slave and rumored sexual partner Sally Hemings as a rooster and chicken, with a quote from Joseph Addison's play "Cato" saying, "Tis not a set of features or complexion or tincture of skin that I admire."

From the late 1820s, Philadelphia artist Edward Clay's print series "Life in Philadelphia" presents an unflattering and mocking portrayal of blacks in what Jones describes as an attempt to show their unfitness for freedom.

"Differences among people have been the basis for discrimination and oppression," the American Anthropological Association says in its separate online project "The Politics of Fear." It describes racial classifications as social, not biological, and differences among people as "a cause for joy and sorrow."

The exhibition is scheduled through February.
NEW YORK (AP) - Oscar nominee Viola Davis will join Denzel Washington in the revival of August Wilson’s “Fences,” arriving on Broadway in April.

“Fences” will open April 26 at the Cort Theatre with preview performances beginning April 14, producers Carole Shorenstein Hays and Scott Rudin announced Tuesday. The production will be directed by Kenny Leon.

Davis will play Rose, a woman, who, according to the actress, “unknowingly gives up her dreams and her power for love.” Washington - an Oscar-winner for “Training Day” and “Glory” - will portray her husband, the patriarchal Troy Maxson. The pivotal role of their son is still to be cast.

In “Fences,” Wilson “explores the life … of the everyday man,” Davis said in an interview. “But … he places all of those struggles (within the context) of African-American men who also are facing the obstacle of race in America, which is a double whammy.”

She said “Fences,” part of Wilson’s 10-play cycle about the black experience in 20th-century America, is also about the most basic of human issues: “hope, love, dreams, fatherhood and death.”

Washington, who last appeared on Broadway in 2005 as Brutus in a revival of Shakespeare’s “Julius Caesar,” said, “I met August Wilson at his home in Seattle on a rainy afternoon and it made a big impression on me. I asked him how he writes his plays and he said, ‘I close my eyes and the characters start talking to me.’”

The actor said he remembered “just being blown away by James Earl Jones and Mary Alice in the original (1987) production,” which won both the Tony Award for best play and the Pulitzer Prize for drama.

The original production, which also starred Courtney B. Vance as their son, had the longest run of any Wilson play on Broadway, more than 500 performances.

Davis has appeared on Broadway in two Wilson plays - “Seven Guitars” and “King Hedley II” - and was nominated for an Academy Award for her performance in the film version of John Patrick Shanley’s “Doubt.” She won a featured-actress Tony Award in 2001 for her work in “King Hedley II.”

“August would always sit in rehearsals with his eyes closed and his head down while the actors spoke,” she said. “If you missed one word, his eyes would pop open, he would grab a script and look at it, then look at the actor and start pointing. ‘Ah, you missed a word, you missed a line and messed up the whole rhythm.’”

“But if you got it right, you could see how he enjoyed it,” she said. “It was like someone enjoying a great piece of music.”

Revisiting 2009 Iowa Juneteenth: Neighbors Day

By Gary Lawson

As the Annual Iowa Juneteenth Observance moves towards its 20th anniversary in 2010, we thought it would be helpful to review 2009 as it has been one of the most exciting and productive years to date. Our thinking is that by recounting the range of our activities, more people will consider attending, exhibiting, or even volunteering during 2010. Remember, Juneteenth in Iowa is an official holiday!

This is our sixth article in a series of articles on the 2009 Iowa Juneteenth Observance. This article is about Neighbors Day at Evelyn Davis Park in Des Moines. Neighbors Day occurs annually on the third Saturday in June. This event also provides an opportunity for churches, fraternities, sororities, civic groups, non-profit agencies and corporate entities to exhibit and otherwise participate in activities at the park.

As with the parade, Neighbors Day takes place in the inner-city and provides a great environment for food, fun, and other festivities. Neighbors Day is our largest event and attracts thousands of attendees from all walks of life and from locations across the country. Highlights of this year’s Neighbors Day included meeting and taking pictures with our current Iowa Juneteenth King and Queen, Johnny and Barbara Long; our Miss Iowa Juneteenth, Jocelyn Brown; and our first-place winners of the Iowa Juneteenth Baby Contest, Nasir Burt (Infant Division) and Kamryn Kenise Long (Toddler Division).

When Ms. Evelyn Davis and several board members of the former Mid-City Vision organization asked us if we would bring the Iowa Juneteenth Observance to the newly established Evelyn K. Davis Park in 1994 (before that we were holding it at Good Park). We agree to do so and were the first major activity that came into the park. Back then, Evelyn K. Davis Park was an extremely hot environment, with little shade and lacking a swimming pool (Goode Park had plenty of mature trees and a swimming pool).

We stayed with Evelyn K. Davis Park because we believe that the community owns the event. For two decades, we have grown together with the community. I have seen children that attended Juneteenth in the mid-90’s turn into young adults who now bring their children to Juneteenth. This is the real spirit of Juneteenth and why it has survived for two decades.

For our 20th Anniversary, we are looking for volunteers who are willing to give their “best” to a grassroots activity in service to the community. We will train you well. You may be interested in knowing that the Iowa Juneteenth Observance is a “community production” from start to finish. Grassroots community volunteers operate everything from raising funds to directing all of our activities.

The major reason why some people may not work out as a volunteer for the Iowa Juneteenth Observance is that they don’t feel as though they need to perform their “best work” in service to the community. If doing your best for your community isn’t a problem for you, then please call me at 515/707-4768 and together we can make it happen! This year’s Neighbors Day was a great success due in large part to the hard work of our new Committee Chair for Sound and Staging, Christopher Johnson. We also appreciate the tremendous volunteer services of the community, particularly the men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, whose efforts were led by Brother Terry Meadows.
AG Holder Calls Sutton A True Hero

NEW YORK (AP) - Through his civic activism, business ventures and legal work, Percy Sutton touched many people's lives.

Thousands of them filled Riverside Church in Manhattan on Wednesday to say goodbye to Sutton, who died Dec. 26 at age 89.

Beginning early in the morning, they lined up outside the church in frigid weather to get into the sanctuary, where the former Tuskegee Airman's legacy was recalled in a nearly four-hour-long service.

Among those who spoke were Attorney General Eric Holder, Gov. David Paterson, Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Attallah Shabazz, one of Malcolm X's daughters. Many recalled how Sutton had given them advice or had stood with them during struggles - or had laid the foundation for Malcolm X's daughters. Many recalled how Sutton had given them advice or had stood with them during struggles - or had laid the foundation for Malcolm X's daughters. Many recalled how Sutton had given them advice or had stood with them during struggles - or had laid the foundation for Malcolm X's daughters. Many recalled how Sutton had given them advice or had stood with them during struggles - or had laid the foundation for Malcolm X's daughters. Many recalled how Sutton had given them advice or had stood with them during struggles - or had laid the foundation for Malcolm X's daughters.

The Revs. Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton were among a group that escorted Sutton's relatives into the church. In a chapel near the main sanctuary, Sutton lay in a coffin, dressed in a Navy blue suit, white shirt and a tie.

"The tallest tree in our forest has fallen," Jackson said of Sutton.

"You've paved the way, Mr. Chairman. Be at rest," Jackson concluded.

Sharpton began his eulogy by recalling the 1999 police killing of Amadou Diallo. Sutton, then 79, laid down in protest outside police headquarters.

"Even when he was a multimillionaire, a media mogul, owned radio stations, welcomed in the White House and any other place of significance, he laid down in front of police headquarters for a West African boy he never knew," Sharpton said.

Bloomberg said city buildings lowered flags in honor of Sutton, and that a building that houses three Manhattan public schools would be renamed the Percy Ellis Sutton Educational Complex.

"Whatever opportunities New York City gave to Percy, he repaid them a thousand times over," Bloomberg said. "Because of him, the doors of City University were opened to all students. Because of him, black radio became a fixture on the dial."

U.S. Rep. Charles Rangel and former New York Mayor David Dinkins also attended. They, along with Sutton and Basil Paterson, father of New York's governor, were known as the "Gang of Four," a quartet of black political pioneers.

Stevie Wonder paid tribute by singing his 1976 hit, "As." Sutton, who was born in Texas, served with the famed Tuskegee Airmen, an all-black unit, in World War II before coming to Harlem, where he launched a trailblazing career in civil rights, politics and broadcasting. He served in the New York State Assembly and was Manhattan borough president.

Through his Harlem law firm, which he founded in 1953, he represented civil rights activists including Malcolm X and the slain activist's relatives - even in their darkest times.

Sutton and Dinkins were attorneys for Malcolm Shabazz, who at age 12 set a 1997 apartment fire that killed his grandmother, Betty Shabazz, widow of Malcolm X.

Attallah Shabazz, one of Malcolm X's daughters, said Sutton was not merely her father's attorney. The two were "brothers," she said.

"Even when things weren't on his side, he was always on yours. Am I right?" she said to applause from the sanctuary, which was filled to capacity.

Sutton turned his attention to broadcasting by 1971, becoming, along with his brother, Oliver, pioneer black owners of a radio station in New York City.

His Inner City Broadcasting Corp. eventually picked up WBLB-FM, which reigned for years as New York's top-rated radio station, before buying stations in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Detroit and San Antonio.

"Percy's passion for justice began at an early age and never wavered," Obama said in a statement, recounting an incident when Sutton was beaten at age 13 for passing out NAACP leaflets in a white neighborhood. "It was an experience that gave him strength and determination to stand up for what he believed in."

"I admired, respected and worked for him," he continued. "The tallest tree in our forest has fallen," Jackson said of Sutton.

"You've paved the way, Mr. Chairman. Be at rest," Jackson concluded.

Sharpton began his eulogy by recalling the 1999 police killing of Amadou Diallo. Sutton, then 79, laid down in protest outside police headquarters.

"Even when he was a multimillionaire, a media mogul, owned radio stations, welcomed in the White House and any other place of significance, he laid down in front of police headquarters for a West African boy he never knew," Sharpton said.

Bloomberg said city buildings lowered flags in honor of Sutton, and that a building that houses three Manhattan public schools would be renamed the Percy Ellis Sutton Educational Complex.

"Whatever opportunities New York City gave to Percy, he repaid them a thousand times over," Bloomberg said. "Because of him, the doors of City University were opened to all students. Because of him, black radio became a fixture on the dial."

U.S. Rep. Charles Rangel and former New York Mayor David Dinkins also attended. They, along with Sutton and Basil Paterson, father of New York's governor, were known as the "Gang of Four," a quartet of black political pioneers.

Stevie Wonder paid tribute by singing his 1976 hit, "As." Sutton, who was born in Texas, served with the famed Tuskegee Airmen, an all-black unit, in World War II before coming to Harlem, where he launched a trailblazing career in civil rights, politics and broadcasting. He served in the New York State Assembly and was Manhattan borough president.

Through his Harlem law firm, which he founded in 1953, he represented civil rights activists including Malcolm X and the slain activist's relatives - even in their darkest times.

Sutton and Dinkins were attorneys for Malcolm Shabazz, who at age 12 set a 1997 apartment fire that killed his grandmother, Betty Shabazz, widow of Malcolm X.

Attallah Shabazz, one of Malcolm X's daughters, said Sutton was not merely her father's attorney. The two were "brothers," she said.

"Even when things weren't on his side, he was always on yours. Am I right?" she said to applause from the sanctuary, which was filled to capacity.

Sutton turned his attention to broadcasting by 1971, becoming, along with his brother, Oliver, pioneer black owners of a radio station in New York City.

His Inner City Broadcasting Corp. eventually picked up WBLB-FM, which reigned for years as New York's top-rated radio station, before buying stations in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Detroit and San Antonio.

"Percy's passion for justice began at an early age and never wavered," Obama said in a statement, recounting an incident when Sutton was beaten at age 13 for passing out NAACP leaflets in a white neighborhood. "It was an experience that gave him strength and determination to stand up for what he believed in."

"I admired, respected and worked for him," he continued. "The tallest tree in our forest has fallen," Jackson said of Sutton.

"You've paved the way, Mr. Chairman. Be at rest," Jackson concluded.

Sharpton began his eulogy by recalling the 1999 police killing of Amadou Diallo. Sutton, then 79, laid down in protest outside police headquarters.

"Even when he was a multimillionaire, a media mogul, owned radio stations, welcomed in the White House and any other place of significance, he laid down in front of police headquarters for a West African boy he never knew," Sharpton said.

Bloomberg said city buildings lowered flags in honor of Sutton, and that a building that houses three Manhattan public schools would be renamed the Percy Ellis Sutton Educational Complex.

"Whatever opportunities New York City gave to Percy, he repaid them a thousand times over," Bloomberg said. "Because of him, the doors of City University were opened to all students. Because of him, black radio became a fixture on the dial."

U.S. Rep. Charles Rangel and former New York Mayor David Dinkins also attended. They, along with Sutton and Basil Paterson, father of New York's governor, were known as the "Gang of Four," a quartet of black political pioneers.

Stevie Wonder paid tribute by singing his 1976 hit, "As." Sutton, who was born in Texas, served with the famed Tuskegee Airmen, an all-black unit, in World War II before coming to Harlem, where he launched a trailblazing career in civil rights, politics and broadcasting. He served in the New York State Assembly and was Manhattan borough president.

Through his Harlem law firm, which he founded in 1953, he represented civil rights activists including Malcolm X and the slain activist's relatives - even in their darkest times.

Sutton and Dinkins were attorneys for Malcolm Shabazz, who at age 12 set a 1997 apartment fire that killed his grandmother, Betty Shabazz, widow of Malcolm X.

Attallah Shabazz, one of Malcolm X’s daughters, said Sutton was not merely her father’s attorney. The two were “brothers,” she said.

“Even when things weren’t on his side, he was always on yours. Am I right?” she said to applause from the sanctuary, which was filled to capacity.

Sutton turned his attention to broadcasting by 1971, becoming, along with his brother, Oliver, pioneer black owners of a radio station in New York City.

His Inner City Broadcasting Corp. eventually picked up WBLB-FM, which reigned for years as New York’s top-rated radio station, before buying stations in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Detroit and San Antonio.

Through the company, Sutton bought the Apollo Theater in 1981, rescuing the Harlem landmark from impending demise. Speakers at the service spoke about his key role in the revitalization of 125th Street, where the theater is located.

Jackie Robinson’s widow, Rachel, arrived at the ceremony early and appeared shaken. She said her family loved and admired Sutton, who was her son’s godfather.

Marc Morial, the president of the National Urban League, called Sutton a “great man.”

“Percy Ellis Sutton departed us paid in full,” Dinkins said. “Let him not look down and find any of us in arrears.”

About Iowa Bystander

The responsibility of the Black press is to empower the Black community through meaningful communication and leadership nurturing, and to keep the Black community informed of those issues most vital to us as a people.

Iowa Bystander

President, CEO & Publisher • Jerald Brantley, Sr.
Associate Publisher • Gaynelle Narcisse

Guidelines For Submitting Copy:

Iowa Bystander is published weekly. Copy must be typed. Editorials, news items and press releases should be 600 words or less. Public service announcements, thank you notes, etc., should be 300 words or less. All copy is subject to the editorial policy of Iowa Bystander.

Pictures submitted with articles become the property of Iowa Bystander unless otherwise specified at the time of submission. All photos should clearly identify those in the picture, their order and the relevance of the photo.

Finally, all submitted copy or photos should contain a phone number and the name of the contact person who can be reached if questions arise.

Iowa Bystander is Published Weekly By:
IPJ Media, L.L.C.
P.O. Box 98
Des Moines, IA 50301
Phone: 515-288-7677 or 515-770-1218
iowabystanderarticles@yahoo.com

Advertise your jobline in Bystander!

Iowa Bystander Mission

Advertising

Leading Iowans in caring for our natural resources

To learn about opportunities at the DNR visit employment.iowadnr.gov

EEO/AA

Iowa Bystander • Page 8 January 7, 2010
Former KKK Leader Ordained By Black Church

MIAMI, Okla. (AP) - On Nov. 29, Oklahoman Johnny Lee Clary knelt before the Church of God in Christ’s elders, who ordained him as a minister in what is one of the nation’s largest black churches. The fact that Clary is white made the moment historic. The fact that he is also a former Ku Klux Klan leader made it, at least in Clary’s view, something divine.

“We’re making history,” said Clary, 50, of Miami. “We’re building a bridge of racial reconciliation, and what better way to do that than with a former KKK leader ministering in a black church that boasts over 6 million members?” I hope I can have a great impact.”

Clary made a different kind of contribution to humanity as an angry teenager. He joined the Klan.

Ironically, his ordainment ceremony last month in San Diego shared some of the ritualistic acts of a long-ago Klan ceremony. Yet the two events now stand as the darkest and greatest moments of his life.

“The worst thing I ever did was swear an allegiance to the KKK,” Clary said. “I knelt before the Klan leaders as they sprinkled me with water. I then swore an oath to the KKK and the god of the KKK. But I then recalled. “I knelt before the Klan leaders as they sprinkled me with water. I then swore an oath to the KKK and the god of the KKK. But I then recalled. “I knelt before the Klan leaders as they sprinkled me with water. I then swore an oath to the KKK and the god of the KKK. But I then recalled.”

Clary rose through the ranks of the White Knights of the KKK, “Their god is Satan.”

Disillusioned, Clary reached for the Bible. The Word set him free, “I’m thankful to God that there is still ongoing evidence of His grace, forgiveness and power to redeem,” McKinney said. 

While he was in San Diego, McKinney said, Clary’s presence and his story of evangelism and racial reconciliation were warmly received by the predominantly black congregation. “And he’s certainly qualified to speak on either because of his own background and journey,” the bishop said.

Clary is now waiting to hear from Bishop McKinney where his travel schedule will take him. Eventually, he hopes to oversee his own Church of God in Christ congregation.

“Looking back now at my days in the Klan, I regret not saying anything when I knew someone’s property was going to be destroyed or people going to be terrorized. “Instead, I stood by and said nothing. ... Not anymore.”

White Men Got 51 Percent Of Minority Program Money

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) - The first audit of a Portland program designed to hire more minorities and women for public construction projects shows businesses owned by white men snagged 51 percent of the money.

Of the $13.7 million allocated since 1997 through the Sheltered Market Program, companies owned by white men received 25 percent. African-Americans got 11 percent and women received 10 percent. Native Americans got 8 percent, Latino/Pacific Islander businesses 3 percent and Asian Americans 1 percent.

When city officials adopted the program, the ordinance said it would remedy the disparity found in a 1996 study, which showed racial and gender bias in public construction.

Mayor Sam Adams championed the program as chief of staff to then-Mayor Vera Katz. He defended it Tuesday in an e-mail to The Oregonian. He says the results show improvement is possible, and there’s a lot more work to do.

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 9:45 & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Youth Elevate 9:30 a.m.
Real Life – Ministry for Singles 18-29
Each Sunday at 9:30 a.m.
Transportation to Sunday 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 6:00 p.m.
Merge - Ministry for Singles over 30
2nd Saturday of each month at 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Radio Ministry
Fri. 11:30 a.m. & Sun. 7:30 a.m. on Praise 940 AM
Website: www.cornerstonefamilychurch.org

Miracle Life Family Church Welcomes You!

“Church not as usual!”

Meeting currently at:
John & Cruby YMCA
1611 11th St., Des Moines
Thursday 7:00 pm
Sunday 10:15am
515-440-1235

Iowa Bystander

Church Directory

...how are they to hear without a preacher? Romans 10:14

Burns United Methodist Church
Address: 811 Crocker Street • DSM, IA 50309
Phone: Church 515-244-5883
Pastor: Pastor: Rev. Dr. Willy L. Mafuta
Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 12:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Maple Street Missionary Baptist Church
Address: 1532 E. Maple Street • DSM, IA 50316
Phone: 515-262-1931
Pastor: Rev. Keith A. Ratliff, Sr.
Sunday Morning Worship: 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.
Free Medical Clinic: 1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesdays - 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Mount Hebron Missionary Baptist Church
Address: 1338-30th Street • DSM, IA 50314
Phone: 515-280-9163
Pastor: Rev. Bobby Young
Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School Church: 9:30 a.m.
Tuesday Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Philadelphia SDA Church
Address: 1639 Garfield Avenue • DSM, IA 50316
Phone: 515-262-7467
Pastor: Rev. Marlon T. Perkins, Sr.
Sabbath (Saturday) Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sabbath (Saturday) Church School: 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting Service: 6:30 p.m.
Sunday Radio Ministry: 9:00 a.m., Praise 940 AM

Union Missionary Baptist Church
Address: E.Univ. & McCormick • DSM, IA 50316
Phone: 262-1785
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Henry I. Thomas
Sunday Morning Worship: 8:00 a.m., 10:40 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday: Prayer and Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

...how shall they preach, except they be sent? Romans 10:15

To get your church in our directory call Jon at 515-770-1218!
I have health questions, who can answer them?
- The Polk County Health Department

Don't have health insurance or a regular doctor.
I think something I ate made me sick.
Does my child need shots or a physical?
I don't want to get a mammogram or pap.
I need to get a mammogram or pap.

I'm worried I may have a sexual infection.

How can I make sure my child's school is not getting a sexual infection?

PHILODELEPHIA (AP) - A former assistant pros-
secutor became Philadelphia’s first black district attorney Monday and its first new lead prosecutor in nearly 20 years.

Seth Williams, 43, was sworn in at the downtown Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts as longtime incumbent Lynne Abraham looked on. A strong critic of Abraham, his former boss, Williams vowed to make changes to the office she had built up since 1991.

He lamented that Philadelphia has the lowest felony conviction rate among large urban areas in America and that it leads the nation in homicides by handguns. The DA’s office, he said, needs to do just as much to prevent crime as it does to punish criminals.

“Crime prevention is just as important as crime prosecution,” Williams said, vowing to make Philadelphia the safest big city in the country. “Four years from now, when I stand before you again, we will not have the lowest conviction rate in America.”

Williams, a former city inspector general, plans to create a system in which prosecutors are assigned to neighborhoods in an effort to build trust.

He says the department needs to develop more partnerships with community groups, help to re-
duce truancy rates and make better use of technol-
ogy in prosecuting crimes - including simple things such as misinterpreting witness statements.

As he was sworn in, someone in the crowd shouted out, “You’re making history!”

Mayor Michael Nutter noted that the city now had a black mayor, a black police commissioner and a black DA to deal with gun violence that is disproportionately affecting young black men.

“There black men must come to grips with what I have referred to in the past as the black genocide,” Nutter said, referring to himself, Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey and Williams.

“I leave the office in very good hands,” she said. “I leave the office in very good hands,” she said. She has not disclosed her plans. She said Monday that she planned to join a law firm soon and possibly announce another run for a different office in the near future.

“I would very much appreciate your help with connecting with students and parents to survey their interest in this type of school. The actual location of the school will be dependent partly upon where the majority of the interested students live. The more responses I get, the more I will be able to focus our search for an appropriate site and demonstrate a desire for this type of school. Below are two links that will give you more information about the Cristo Rey schools. The first is a link to the Cristo Rey Network website. Let me know if you are available for a discussion about the feasibility study:

http://video.google.com/videosearch?q=60+minutes+cristo+rey&hl=en&emb=0&aq=f#

www.cristoreynetwork.net

Kathleen Kauth, Feasibility Study Coordinator • Diocese of Des Moines
515-237-5011 or kkauth@dmdioese.org

Letter To The Editor:
My name is Kathleen Kauth, and I’m the Feasibility Study Coordinator for the Cristo Rey project through the Diocese of Des Moines. For the next year, I will be pulling together information and contacts to see if the Des Moines area would benefit and be interested in a new type of private school.

A Cristo Rey School is a Catholic, college prep school that is exclusively for the eco-

nomically disadvantaged – those students whose family meets the reduced lunch program criteria.

The school is open to all faiths, and is designed to have a flexible curriculum that will bring students up to and beyond grade level. We expect that those students who begin may be 2-3 grade levels below where they should be, and the vast majority will not be Catholic. These are kids who just aren’t having great success in public schools, but have the desire to do more and go on to college. In 2009, there were 22 Cristo Rey Network schools open. They had a graduation rate of 94% of those who graduated, 96% were accepted to college.

The most unique part of this program is the Corporate Work Study Program. To pay for the majority of their tuition, four students job-share one FTE entry level, clerical job by working 5 days a month at a business in their neighborhood. The students have a longer school year and longer school day – they do not miss any class time. The school runs an employee leasing program and secures the jobs – the students are employees of the school, not the business. To ensure the students’ success, the school teaches them basic business skills, and works with the business and the student to make sure things are running smoothly. Student transportation to and from work is the responsibility of the school. Students throughout the Cristo Rey Network have a 98% attendance rate at their jobs. And each year, greater than 93% of the businesses extend their involvement for their students.

It really is an amazing concept. The benefits to exposure to a corporate environment, the mentoring and the responsibility of being involved with funding their own education are tremendous. The students will be able to see a causal link between what they learn at school, and how it applies in the ‘real world’.

They will then take those real world skills back to the school setting, improving their chances of success in college.

I am looking to be contacting business and community leaders, as well as students (5th through 7th grades) and their parents, and presenting this information to them during the course of this study. I will be asking for participants to take a Community, Student or Parent survey to determine the need and interest level in this type of private school.

I would very much appreciate your help with connecting with students and parents to survey their interest in this type of school. The actual location of the school will be dependent partly upon whom the majority of the interested students live. The more responses I get, the more I will be able to focus our search for an appropriate site and demonstrate a desire for this type of school.

Below are two links that will give you more information about the Cristo Rey schools. The first is a clip from the “60 Minutes” news show about the Cristo Rey Network. The second is a link to the Cristo Rey Network website. Please let me know if you are available for a discussion about the feasibility study:

http://video.google.com/videosearch?q=60+minutes+cristo+rey&hl=en&emb=0&aq=f#

www.cristoreynetwork.net

Kathleen Kauth, Feasibility Study Coordinator • Diocese of Des Moines
515-237-5011 or kkauth@dmdioese.org

I leave the office in very good hands,” she said. She has not disclosed her plans. She said Monday that she planned to join a law firm soon and possibly announce another run for a different office in the near future.

“I would very much appreciate your help with connecting with students and parents to survey their interest in this type of school. The actual location of the school will be dependent partly upon whom the majority of the interested students live. The more responses I get, the more I will be able to focus our search for an appropriate site and demonstrate a desire for this type of school. Below are two links that will give you more information about the Cristo Rey schools. The first is a clip from the “60 Minutes” news show about the Cristo Rey Network. The second is a link to the Cristo Rey Network website. Please let me know if you are available for a discussion about the feasibility study:

http://video.google.com/videosearch?q=60+minutes+cristo+rey&hl=en&emb=0&aq=f#

www.cristoreynetwork.net

Kathleen Kauth, Feasibility Study Coordinator • Diocese of Des Moines
515-237-5011 or kkauth@dmdioese.org

3rd Tuesday of Every Month
4:00 to 6:30 p.m.
Immunizations
Physical Assessments
Diabetes Education/ Support Sessions
6:00 - 7:30pm

* diabetes resources
* counseling
* Literature/supplies

Corinthian Baptist Church
9th & Freeway
Blank Children’s Hospital
Iowa Department of Public Health
Corinthian Baptist Church
Free Clinics of Iowa

For further information phone 243-4073

Philadelphia (AP) - A former assistant pros-
secutor became Philadelphia’s first black district attorney Monday and its first new lead prosecutor in nearly 20 years.

Seth Williams, 43, was sworn in at the downtown Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts as longtime incumbent Lynne Abraham looked on. A strong critic of Abraham, his former boss, Williams vowed to make changes to the office she had built up since 1991.

He lamented that Philadelphia has the lowest felony conviction rate among large urban areas in America and that it leads the nation in homicides by handguns. The DA’s office, he said, needs to do just as much to prevent crime as it does to punish criminals.

“Crime prevention is just as important as crime prosecution,” Williams said, vowing to make Phila-

delphia the safest big city in the country. “Four years from now, when I stand before you again, we will not have the lowest conviction rate in America.”

Williams, a former city inspector general, plans to create a system in which prosecutors are assigned to neighborhoods in an effort to build trust.

He says the department needs to develop more partnerships with community groups, help to re-
duce truancy rates and make better use of technol-

ogy in prosecuting crimes - including simple things such as misinterpreting witness statements.

As he was sworn in, someone in the crowd shouted out, “You’re making history!”

Mayor Michael Nutter noted that the city now had a black mayor, a black police commissioner and a black DA to deal with gun violence that is disproportionately affecting young black men.

“There black men must come to grips with what I have referred to in the past as the black genocide,” Nutter said, referring to himself, Police Commis-

sioner Charles Ramsey and Williams.

In 2005, Williams narrowly lost to Abraham, the city’s first female DA, when he challenged her in the Democratic primary. Last year, Abraham an-

nounced that she did not plan to run again.

In May, Williams defeated four other primary challengers and then easily beat little-known Re-

publican Michael Untermyer in the November gen-

eral election. During the campaign, Williams had the backing of several key African-American groups, some of which have criticized Abraham for her aggressive pursuit of the death penalty.

Abraham earned the nickname “one tough cookie” from former Mayor Frank Rizzo and was once dubbed “America’s deadliest DA.”

She has not disclosed her plans. She said Monday that she planned to join a law firm soon and possibly announce another run for a different office in the near future.

“I leave the office in very good hands,” she said. “Change is inevitable.”
Both Sides Can’t Be Right

I have been hearing all this talk about health insurance. I have gone to a lot of research to try to get to the truth. What seems to be true is; as in many instances, who ever has the most money wins.

It seems that our leaders in D.C are allowing pharmaceuticals a free hand in pricing and quality of drugs. These people took the money from their tax cuts and bought up the smaller drug companies to eliminate competition, and now they can set prices and rules to fit their wants and needs. They persuaded our elected officials to pass a law that states: only a drug can treat, prevent, cure or diagnose an illness, any illness.

Have you ever noticed that many non-drug preparations have a statement on the package to this extent: “This statement has not been evaluated by the food and drug administration. This product is not intended to treat, prevent, diagnose or cure any illness.”

This statement came off the side of my omega-3 fish pills container. Do any of you remember when folks were going to Canada to purchase drugs because they were a lot less expensive there than here in the U.S. The big drug companies were all bent out of shape about this arrangement and these were the exact same drugs that we were paying through the nose for.

The pharmaceutical companies appealed to our elected officials to put a stop to all this. I do believe they won out.

When these giant companies are given large tax cut, like the ones given by President Reagan, George Bush the first and G.W Bush they take the extra money and buy out smaller companies that are in competition with them and put a lot of nice people out of work. This has a far reaching effect more than the average person could even imagine.

I can’t really understand why these people are so opposed to the President’s plan unless they realize that this would mean that they would have to get out of bed with the huge drug companies and do right by the people of this country and not just the rich.

It has been suggested that we should limit the number of terms a Congressman can serve, like the Office of President. I believe that when these people are seated for long periods of time they have a chance to establish these long running relationships with big money people and they forget that we the people are the ones that put them in the office and that they owe their allegiance to us, not special interests.

All this brings to mind a television show, a weekly program called, “racket squad.” At the end of each show the star, Reed Hadley, would come on and say, and I quote, “there are people out there that will pat you on the back with one hand and pick your pocket with the other.”

Does this sound like anybody in Washington, D.C.

R.L. Parkey, Sr.

“Three Little Pigs” At Playhouse’s Friday Funday

The Des Moines Playhouse presents “The Three Little Pigs,” Friday, Jan. 15. This story is part of the 2009-10 season of Friday Funday, a creative participatory story theatre program for children ages 4-6. Performances are at The Playhouse, Friday, Jan 15, at 9:30 and 10:30 AM, and 1:30 PM. Admission is $5 per person, adults and children. Reservations are suggested and can be made by calling The Playhouse ticket office at 515-277-6261.

January’s featured story is “The Three Little Pigs.” Once upon a time there were three little pigs. Or were there? What if the three little pigs had a big sister who was just a little bit on the bossy side?

Join the Clubhouse at The Playhouse Gang each month, September-May, as they dramatize a favorite story using their imaginations and the costume pieces and props they find in their magic trunk. Audience members learn the Clubhouse pledge and secret handshake, and listen for the word of the day. They even help act out the story. Shows are approximately 45 minutes in length.

‘Precious’ Leads Nominees For NAACP Image Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP) - The heart-wrenching story of an illiterate and abused teen in New York’s Harlem who finds hope in a classroom of misfits tops nominations for the 41st civil rights group NAACP’s annual Image Awards.

“Precious: Based on the Novel ‘Push’ by Sapphire” added to its awards-season momentum with a leading eight nominations, earning nods for director Lee Daniels, star Gabourey Sidibe and supporting actors Mariah Carey, Mo’Nique, Paula Patton and Lenny Kravitz. “Precious” was also nominated for outstanding motion picture and outstanding independent film.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People’s Image Awards honor diversity in the arts and will be presented Feb. 26.

Other movies nominated Wednesday include “Invictus,” “Michael Jackson’s This Is It,” “The Blind Side” and “The Princess and the Frog.” “Blind Side” stars Sandra Bullock and Quinton Aaron, “Princess” star Anika Noni Rose, and “Invictus” star Morgan Freeman also were nominated for their performances.

Sophie Okonedo (“Skin”) and Taraji P. Henson (“Tyler Perry’s I Can Do Bad All By Myself”) round out the best actress category, while Denzel Washington (“The Taking of Pelham 123”), Idris Elba (“Obessed”) and Jamie Foxx (“Law Abiding Citizen”) are up for best actor.

Jay-Z tops the nominees in the music category with five nods, including outstanding male artist and album for “The Blueprint 3.” His collaborations with Alicia Keys, Rihanna and Kanye West were also recognized.

Rihanna and Keys were also nominated for outstanding female artist, along with India.Arie, Mary J. Blige and Whitney Houston. Competing with Jay-Z in the male artist category are Anthony Hamilton, Charlie Wilson, Maxwell and Ne-Yo.

In TV categories, nominated dramas include “Cold Case,” “Grey’s Anatomy,” “HawthoRNe,” “Lincoln Heights” and “The No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency.” “Glee,” “30 Rock,” “Ugly Betty,” “Everybody Hates Chris” and “Tyler Perry’s House of Payne” were nominated for outstanding comedy series.

Eunice Johnson, Who Ran Ebony Fashion Fair, Dies

CHICAGO (AP) - Eunice Johnson, the widow of Ebony magazine founder John Johnson and a fashion maven who ran thousands of traveling runway shows aimed at black audiences, has died. She was 93.

Johnson died Sunday of renal failure at her Chicago home, said Wendy Parks, a spokeswoman for the Chicago-based Johnson Publishing Company Inc., on Monday.

Johnson had been the director and producer of the Ebony Fashion Fair since 1961. The traveling high fashion charity event that showcases black designers and models is staged in nearly 200 cities each year. Ads for the show have featured singer Aretha Franklin, and actor Richard Roundtree made his debut as a model with the show.

“I don’t know of anyone who brought fashion to the community the way she did,” said former model Dori Wilson, who is now a publicist in Chicago.

Wilson said Johnson traveled worldwide to collect clothes for the shows and that designers created special pieces with Johnson and her audience in mind.

“She was a lady who had tremendous style and elegance,” Wilson said.

Along with her husband, Johnson developed a popular makeup and skin-care line - Fashion Fair Cosmetics - specifically for women of color. The products are sold in many high-end department stores.

She was a secretary-treasurer of Johnson Publishing, which produces JET and Ebony, two of the longest-running black-oriented magazines in the country.

“Mrs. Johnson has always been a woman ahead of her time,” the publisher said. “Mrs. Johnson made a tremendous impact on the fashion industry, showcasing the best in style on African-American models of various shapes, sizes and skin tones.”

Johnson, an Alabama native, is credited with naming Ebony magazine.

John Johnson died of heart failure in 2005 in Chicago. He founded both magazines after World War II.

In a statement, Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley called Johnson “a wonderful mother, faithful wife and business partner and an extraordinary Chicagoan who gave liberally of her time and finances both locally and abroad.”

Her daughter, Linda Johnson Rice, is head of the publishing company. Rice declined to comment on Monday.

“Mrs. Johnson will be sincerely missed, and her life and work will continue to be defined by her contributions to the world of fashion and design for years to come,” the company said.

You did the right thing by getting her vaccinated for H1N1 but if she’s under 10 she needs two doses to be fully protected.

H1N1 is still in our community and if your child is under 10 and only had one vaccination, they could still get sick.

Free clinics held at Moore Elementary
(52nd & Douglas)
Mon-Fri 11-6:30, Sat 10-2

515-323-5330
polkcountyiowa.gov/health