

Fundraiser helps women as 'nucleus of the family'

By Shirley Savage-Hampton
Sentinel-Voice

The Coker Foundation Inc.'s "An Intimate Evening with Alyson Williams" is a VIP reception, concert and dance featuring the R&B stylist on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at the Golden Nugget Hotel and Casino located at 129 E. Fremont Street downtown.

The foundation's focus is on education, health and wellness, financial readiness, cultural enrichment and civic involvement.

The foundation was started in December of 2004 by Rose and Howard Coker, M.D. The Coker's have been residents of Las Vegas for over 22 years, and they own the Diagnostic Centers of Medicine. They established the non-profit charitable organization to help improve the quality of life of those in need, according to Rose Coker.

"Realizing that women are the nucleus of the family, our goal was to help women improve their overall health

— physical, mental, spiritual and emotional. By improving the nucleus, you affect the entire family," she said.

The featured artist is an example of a woman who continues to rise in a challenging field. Alyson Williams is the daughter of bandleader and trumpeter Bobby Booker. She began her career as a background singer for veteran artists, including Curtis Hairston, Melba Moore, Bobby Brown and Barbara Mitchell. Her single, "Just Call My Name," was a hit on the Billboard R&B charts from her 1989 album "Raw." Williams was the first R&B female singer signed to Def Jam's label.

Andrew DeBarge is the special guest performer.

Proceeds benefit the foundation's community education and service programs.

The foundation held its first membership drive two years ago, attracting over 100 members.

In the spring, they host their annual "5,000 Steps to

Good Health" walk-a-thon. The foundation collaborates with members of the medical community to get families to start walking.

This year the foundation hosted a community education program entitled "The Family Love Letter," a joint sponsorship with AXA Financial Inc.

"With the help of their trusted financial advisors, men and women all over the nation are writing the most meaningful love letter to their lives. But this isn't the typical kind... where confessions are addressed to a romantic interest. The love letter is addressed to children, sisters, brothers and grandchildren. It's a 'Family Love Letter,' and its contents communicate a person's legacy," said Rose Coker.

She added, "We support involvement in community programs and sponsorships that enhance the quality of life for all."

More information and tickets are available online at CokerFoundationInc.org.

Burial

(Continued from Page 1)

forget you," she said to those interred beneath seven grassy mounds alongside the memorial. "And we will not forget you."

Mayor Michael Bloomberg told those assembled that forgetting might sometimes seem the easier route. New York City thrived during the slave trade and much of the early metropolis was built with slave labor.

The construction workers who stumbled across the site "brought to light one of the most uncomfortable and tragic truths in the history of our city," Bloomberg said. "Part of atoning for such a terrible injustice is to acknowledge it."

The Manhattan site was declared a national monument last year. At the dedication ceremony, Lt. Gov. David Paterson decried the lack of a national memorial in Washington, D.C., to mark the sacrifices slaves made throughout the nation. About half the skeletons unearthed at the site were those of children under the age of 12. The vast majority died as a result of violence, Paterson said.

Performances by dancers in slavery-era

costume and drummers in traditional garb punctuated the ceremony.

Actor Avery Brooks performed a spoken-word piece, and the trio Three Mo' Tenors gave a sorrowful rendition of "Make Them Hear You," from the musical "Ragtime." Actor Sidney Poitier joined in a processional through the site.

It was not always clear whether the grave site, much of which is still undisturbed beneath several square blocks of office towers, would be marked. When the skeletons were first discovered, protesters called on the government to stop construction of an office building planned for the spot.

After archeologists unearthed the bones of 419 individuals, there were numerous delays as the remains were studied and researchers and the government fought over funding. Eventually, the bones were placed in hand-carved caskets and buried in crypts alongside what is now the memorial. The project cost more than \$50 million.

Organizers are still hoping to add a museum, which is in the planning phase.

Conference

(Continued from Page 1)

the proficiency exam process and how parents can assist students preparing for entrance exams. In addition, the college selection and application process workshops aim to help parents. Workshops offering ways to handle unexpected costs of post-secondary education and financial aid, as well as sexual safety-oriented education seminars will also be offered to the parents.

NULYP President Tanya Flanagan said, "It is very im-

portant that youth are armed with the necessary information to become successful adults and have role models to help them achieve their goals. This conference will provide an excellent venue for delivering vital messages about careers and life to the youth and their parents. We feel the university is the ideal atmosphere in which to do this."

A guest speaker and special presentation will be held during the lunch hour. In the afternoon there will be addi-

tional workshops and a closing ceremony where scholarships recipients will be announced. The day will conclude with a program, "Vegas Flavor Improv," modeled after MTV's "Wild-N-Out."

According to NULYP's Chair of Programs and Development Asha Jones, "Doing these seminars is giving us an opportunity to show appreciation for what was done for others by others like Sherman Rutledge in the community when we were coming up."

Jena Six trials proceed as NAACP rants vs. Sharpton

By Valencia Muhammad
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - With all the focus primarily on Mychal Bell, one of the most high-profile youth defendants in the Jena Six case, many people around the country wonder what has occurred with the remaining teens charged with aggravated second degree battery for beating a White teenager.

Bell, the first defendant to be tried in court, received lots of international attention with notables including Rev. Al Sharpton, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Martin Luther King III, congressional and civil rights leaders leading the fray. Radio personalities Michael Baisden and Tom Joyner organized a successful march with 100,000 participants converging on the small town.

Now that Bell has been released and awaits future court appearances, the trials of the other defendants have come under the microscope.

—Theodore Shaw: According to Robert McDuff, one of three legal representatives for Shaw, there will be a hearing on Nov. 7 and the trial begins on Jan. 28. Shaw has not received any education since he was expelled by the school board December 2006.

—Ryan Simmons: The least amount of charges applied to Simmons, according to his attorney, William Whatley. His family moved away from Jena, La. No trial date has been set.

—Robert Bailey: More charges were filed against Bailey than any other defen-

dant. According to his attorney, Jim Boren, there will be a motion hearing on Nov. 7. Bailey is set for trial on Nov. 28. The day after the rally, his mother, Caseptla Bailey, said her son has not received any education since he was expelled. Several attempts to reinstate Bailey have failed. The family still lives in Jena, La.

—Bryan Purvis: According to his mother, Tina Jones, he has moved to another state. Purvis has a hearing on Nov. 7. He attended private school last year and attends public school this year.

—Carwin Jones: Originally unnamed, Jones is the youngest student of the group. He has retained a team of attorneys.

Discord among civil rights leaders: NAACP feuds with Sharpton

At the Jena Six Rally on Sept. 20 that overflowed the town of Jena, La., there was a little known jockeying for power among the civil rights elite.

The Louisiana State Chapter of the NAACP was quietly feuding with Sharpton, president of the National Action Network based in New York. A letter was sent by the NAACP to the governor of Louisiana after the march in protest of Sharpton's demand that the NAACP and only a select group of people be allowed to participate in press conferences.

For three days, several NAACP representatives stood near the courtyard. When Sharpton drove up in his limousine, they said he greeted the NAACP leaders, walked passed them with his entourage and

(See Feud, Page 10)



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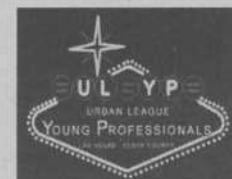
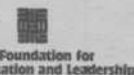
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OCTOBER 13, 2007
IN THE STUDENT UNION ON THE CAMPUS OF UNLV

CONFERENCE IS FREE TO THE PUBLIC

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 8:00AM
CONFERENCE BEGINS AT 9:00 AM AND WILL END AT 5:00 PM
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FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 702-813-0851 OR GO TO OUR
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