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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Event to celebrate women

Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice

The 6th Annual Celebration for Women takes place Saturday at the West Las Vegas Cultural Arts Center and the adjoining West Las Vegas Library Theatre in honor of National Women's History Month.

Organizers are putting on the free event to encourage women, men and children to unite, listen, learn and share in loving the diversity that makes up our culture. The workshops will begin at 9 a.m. and include a complimentary lunch. The arts center and library are located at 974 W. Lake Mead Blvd.

The day will feature Dr. Jacqueline Sawyer as the keynote presenter. Sawyer is a professor in New York. Her talk will focus on the importance of self-love, appreciating historical events and embracing present opportunities and experiences. She will stress smart strategies that promote developing personal potential and learning to conquer fear by asking for help.



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Dr. Jacqueline Sawyer from New York will deliver the keynote address for the 6th Annual Celebration for Women at the West Las Vegas Cultural Arts Center on Saturday.

Her lecture will also touch on how listening skills unlock the door to guidance and help devise road maps for positive action.

"Helping women to learn how to love themselves and accept every part of themselves [is crucial]," Sawyer said, adding that her motiva-

tion for talking about such holistic concepts lies in wanting women "to accept and not reject any part of themselves, because we are uniquely and wonderfully made in the image of our Creator."

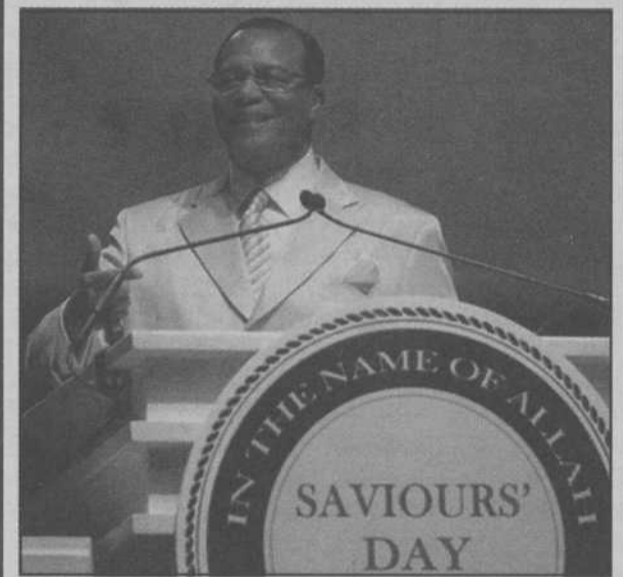
Among the presenters are: Kenya Pierce, Professor of

Sociology, Women's Studies "The Journal"; Rev. Yvonne Smith on Reiki Healing; Mary Ann Anderson, "Embracing Who You Are," and Douglas L. Garner, UNLV doctoral student, "Emotional Intelligence."

Other speakers include: Michelle Thompson, Dr. Bernardine Shaw Brunson, and Sylvia Spencer-Brown, a youth counselor with Greater New Jerusalem Family Life Center.

The day will feature special entertainment by a jazz quartet, a variety of vendors, a dance performance, along with a tribute film, "Beah: A Black Woman Speaks," by Beah Richards, and poetry by Toni "Clarity" Ellis and her daughter, Tatianna.

For more information contact TuWanda J. Locke at (702) 275-0127 or email Dr. Rochelle Hooks at Rochelle.hooks@csn.edu. You may also visit www.artslasvegas.org or www.lasvegasparcsandrec.com for more information.



Nation of Islam leader Min. Louis Farrakhan, delivers a speech in observance of Saviours' Day on Sunday in Chicago. He supports Barack Obama for president.

Leader backs Obama for job

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Speaking to thousands of members of the Nation of Islam at their annual convention in Chicago, Min. Louis Farrakhan praised presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama as the only hope for healing the nation's racial divisions. Farrakhan, 74, the longtime leader of the Nation of Islam, said the war in Iraq, the nation's faltering economy and the increased number of natural disasters were signs of "a nation in peril."

He said those problems provide the broader context for Obama's rise.

"We are witnessing the phenomenal rise of a man of color in a country that has persecuted us because of our color," Farrakhan told the crowd of nearly 20,000 gathered at McCormick Place on Sunday.

"If you look at Barack Obama's [diverse] audiences and look at the effect of his words, those people are being transformed from what they were," he said. "This young man is the hope of the entire world that America will change and be made better."

Although Farrakhan's praise for Obama may generate increased support from the Black community, the Obama campaign's response was cool.

"Sen. Obama has been clear in his objections to Min. Farrakhan's past pronouncements and has not solicited the minister's support," said Obama spokesman Bill Burton. Farrakhan's two-hour speech, titled "The Gods At War — The Future is All About Y.O.U.th," closed the Nation of Islam's annual Saviour's Day Convention, which commemorates the birth of the movement's founder, Wallace D. Fard Muhammad.

Farrakhan said he refused to be a stumbling block to Obama's success. "Why do you hate him so that you want to make me a stumbling block?" Farrakhan asked. "I want to see that brother successful, and I don't want them to use me or the Nation of Islam."

After Farrakhan's speech, some Nation of Islam members, such as Jabari Muhammad, said Farrakhan's comments had changed their opinions of Obama. Muhammad, who traveled from New Orleans for the convention, said

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Separate, unequal societies remain

By Hazel Trice Edney

Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - It was the summer of 1967 and riots raged across America.

Watts, Milwaukee, Detroit, Plainfield and Newark were all sites of explosive racial violence, rooted in social ills emanating from racial discrimination.

As elected officials and civil rights leaders scrambled for answers, President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed an 11-member commission, headed by Illinois Gov. Otto Kerner Jr., that issued its observations 40 years ago this week, Feb. 29, 1968.

The commission pointed out that it was a climate of race-based discrimination in police practices, unemployment and underemployment, inadequate housing, inadequate education and poor



"We still cannot fall into an attitude of 'we have made it.' We cannot afford to embrace an attitude of 'everything is okay.'"

— Myrlie Evers-Williams
Former NAACP Chair

recreation facilities and programs that had led to the anger. It also pointed to ineffectiveness of the political structure and grievance mechanisms, disrespectful White attitudes, discriminatory administration of justice, inadequacy of federal programs, inadequacy of municipal services, discriminatory consumer and credit practices, and inadequate welfare programs.

However, the most

memorable conclusion in the document that has become known as the Kerner Report is as follows: "Our nation is moving toward two societies, one Black, one White — separate and unequal."

Civil rights leaders this week declared that this Kerner conclusion was prophetic. Moreover, even with the historic possibility of a Black or female Democratic president, the vastly separate and unequal societies in

which America continues to exist, will not become equal and just without specific plans and action.

"In 40 years there has been no plan to heal the breach. There has been more abandonment and less investment in these 40 years," said Rainbow/PUSH President Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr.

"Today, we still have essentially two societies — one half in a surplus and the other half in a deficit. Essentially, in the city and suburbs, there is Black and Brown on the one hand and White on the other. Our infant mortality rate is higher. Our life expectancy is shorter, less access to good jobs, less access to the board of directors, less access to capital. Our cities have been, essentially, abandoned. Manufacturing jobs are out, investment out, guns and automatic weapons made legal;

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