

# National Black Book Festival

DOUBLETREE HOTEL  
(DOWNTOWN)  
400 Dallas St. • Houston, Texas

June 10-12, 2011  
[www.NationalBlackBookFestival.com](http://www.NationalBlackBookFestival.com) • 1-800-340-5454

## Featured & Special Guest Authors



Isaiah Washington



Judge Mablean Ephriam



Gregg Alan Williams



Tananarive Due



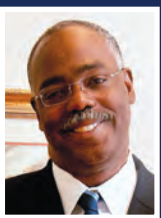
Judge Vanessa Gilmore



Pamela Samuels-Young



Michelle McKinney Hammond



Judge Oswald J. Scott



Carleen Brice



Joyce Carol Thomas



Vickie Stringer



J.M. Benjamin



SPONSORED BY:



[cushcity.com](http://cushcity.com)

# AMERICA'S PRESS

On-Demand Digital Book Printing

AMERICA'S PRESS has been printing commercially in the Houston area since 1963. We provide customized services for authors, self publishers, independent publishers, and small to medium-sized companies in Houston, the US, and abroad.

## WE PROVIDE:

- SHORT-RUN BOOK ORDERS
  - FLEXIBLE TURN-AROUND
  - SPECIAL AND STANDARD BOOK SIZES
  - PERFECT BOUND, SADDLE-STITCHED, PLASTI-COILED, AND OTHER BINDINGS
  - FRIENDLY CUSTOMER SERVICE
- ...AND MUCH MORE



"America's Press has saved our skin more than once! They consistently come through on time even when it seems impossible. Their experience gives them an eye for spotting common book printing issues, and they take the time to address these issues so the job is done right. Their friendly and accessible customer service is refreshing in these hurried times."

-Deltina Hay  
President, Dalton Publishing

"Lone Star Productions and Atriad Press have been using Americas Press as our exclusive printer for more than a year. During that time we have been consistently impressed with the superior quality of workmanship they deliver. And working with the people at Americas Press is always a pleasure, making certain that the client is happy seems to be their number one goal."

-Ginnie Bivona, President  
Atriad Press LLC  
Lone Star Productions



call us:  
(281) 557-4300

visit us online:  
[www.americas-press.com](http://www.americas-press.com)  
info@americas-press.com



our location:  
551 League City Parkway • Suite E  
League City, TX 77573

**PARTICIPATING PUBLISHERS**

Etched In Stone Publications  
Lift Every Voice Books  
Pantheon Collective  
Zoe Life Christian Communications

**PARTICIPATING AUTHORS**

**BEAUTY/HEALTH**

Angela H. Brown  
Rapper MD

**BIOGRAPHY**

Brandy Bullock  
Lawanna Lynn Campbell  
Ondrea L. Davis  
J. R. Holden  
Ted Johnson  
J'son M. Lee  
Allison T. Moore  
Justina R. Page

**BUSINESS**

Paul Bax

**CHILDREN**

Patricia Enyi  
Michael Hickman  
Amani Jackson  
Robert Lampkin  
Tanya Michelle  
Kristy K. Taylor  
Terlene Terry Todd  
Uncle E  
Adrienne Wilson

**CHRISTIAN FICTION**

Cheryl Faye  
Crystal N. Flanagan  
LaTonya G. Green,  
Kathy R. Jackson,  
Fon James  
Audrey McKay  
Mikasenoja  
Kay Jay Smith

**EROTICA**

Gregg Burton  
D. V. Hent  
MJL  
Claudia Moss  
Envy Red

**FAMILY/ RELATIONSHIPS**

T. C. Carrier  
April Gabrielle  
Belinda Grimes  
G. L. Henderson

Toneal Jackson  
Chanda Tracy Lightsey  
Sherry Price  
Raw - The Cheatologist

**FANTASY**

T. N. Jenkins

**HISTORY**

William T. Everett  
Robert Moore

**MAINSTREAM FICTION**

Dr. Anita August  
China Ball  
Dominique Barber  
Regina Blackburn  
Lydia Brew  
Karen C. Brown  
Sean Chandler  
Cathy Clay  
Michael Cowl Gordon  
Sandra Hamer  
C. S. Hayes  
Jacqueline Lockett  
John McCrary  
Monique Mensah  
Tamika Newhouse  
Natasha Owens  
Tia Reyes  
Michelle Janine Robinson  
Charles N. Smith  
Rose Mary Stiffin, Ph.D.  
Terri D  
Greg Alan Williams

**MOTIVATION/ SELF HELP**

James J. Adams  
Carol S. Batey  
Latisha Brown  
Charles E. Cox Jr.  
Vernelle Nelson  
Tara Ratney  
Oswald Scott  
Stephanie C  
Jennifer D. Vargas  
Andi Williams  
LaShell Williams

**MYSTERY/THRILLER**

Jemmie Adams  
E. M. Lacey  
Monique D. Mensah

**NON-FICTION**

Orchester Benjamin  
Gwendolyn Suarez Carriere  
Sheuvonda  
Nancy Townsend

**POETRY**

Stella Alexander  
Scott Antwan

Akira Bennett  
Frank Clay  
Toni Cole  
Terrell Dunnum  
Virginia, K. Jack  
Victor B. Johnson Sr.  
Nakia Laushaul  
Jeffery Martin  
Evan Quitelle  
Barron Smith  
Periete Todd  
Avery Washington  
E. Arabis Zemill

**RELIGIOUS/FAITH**

Shawn Childers  
Kontrena Clark  
Leah L. Davis  
Nikia M. Dillon  
Elreta Dodds  
Quinn Dodds  
Cheryl Lacey Donovan  
Samuel Enyia  
Robert Forbes,  
DeMonica D. Gladney  
Joy Harris  
Jenee E. Hudson  
Rowena Jackson  
Renee Jean  
Kimberly Jenkins  
Linda Bridgewater Johnson  
Angela Joseph  
Regina Mixon  
Willie L. Monnet Sr.  
Adrienne Mynatt  
Taiese L. Nevels  
Lisa Ray  
Marilyn Reed  
Jan Whitaker

**ROMANCE**

Anna Black  
Rashawn Johnson  
Rhonda Jackson Joseph  
Stephanie Morris  
Alicia Wiggins

**TEENS/YOUNG ADULTS**

S. Dodson  
Charmette Fontenot  
A. Hansley Jr.

**URBAN FICTION**

Olayinka Aikens  
Malachi Allen  
De'Monica N. Cooper  
Mark Saint Cyr  
Lawanna Damous  
Alvenia Derban  
Clifton Dutton  
Gina-Nacole  
Marcus Henry  
Tha Genarall  
Jason Williams  
K. C. Williams

# INSIDE

**National Black Book Expo ..... 4**

**Schedule of Events ..... 5**

**Profile: ..... 8**  
JUDGE MABLEAN EPHRIM

**Profile ..... 9**  
ISAIAH WASHINGTON

**Profile: ..... 9**  
GREGG ALAN WILLIAMS

**“40 Seasons of Jazz” ..... 9**

**Literary Breakthrough Conference ..... 10**

**Playing “The Game” to Win ..... 10**





The founders of the National Black Book Festival believe it's time for Houston to have a presence in the world of publishing.

Once again, thousands of book lovers, authors and industry insiders will converge on the nation's fourth largest city for the festival, which takes place June 10-12 at the downtown Doubletree Hotel.

The event is the brainchild of husband and wife team Willie and Gwen Richardson, the owners Cushcity.com, the world's largest African-American online retailer with over 20,000 products online. Willie is national director of the National Black Book Festival (NBBF) and Gwen serves as national coordinator.

Why is there a need for such a festival? "We noticed that there was nothing on this scale in terms of literary events in the Southwest region," Willie Richardson said. "These types of events always seemed to take place in New York, the D.C. area or Atlanta. We felt it was about time Houston made its mark in the book industry."



NBBF Founders Willie and Gwen Richardson

"Also, the events that do take place tend to not be as comprehensive, family-friendly and affordable for both the authors and the general public," added Gwen Richardson. "We wanted to make sure all of these elements were present at the festival."

She expects 3,000 to 5,000 people to attend the event. "To attract our audience,

we utilize a variety of marketing approaches and we specifically target book clubs and book readers in our marketing efforts," she explained. "We also consistently utilize social media, like Facebook, to get the word out on a year-round basis."

NBBF activities include book-signings, seminars, workshops, exhibits, a children's activity area, a reception, slumber party, get-acquainted breakfast, worship service, jazz brunch and poetry slam.

More than 100 authors from the U.S. and the Caribbean will attend, including actor Isaiah Washington, former Divorce Court host Judge Mablean and the urban fiction duo Ashley and Jaquavis.

Other noted authors scheduled to attend include Joyce Carol Thomas, Michelle McKinney Hammond, Lavoile Lavette, Carleen Brice, Tananarive Due, Pamela Samuels-Young and K'Wan.

Genres represented include mainstream fiction, urban fiction, mystery/thrillers, children's literature, Christian literature, non-fiction, self-help and poetry.

## BIGGER AND BETTER

Willie Richardson explained how NBBF is able to attract so many well-known authors. "For more than 12 years, Cushcity.com has been one of the leading online destinations that feature African-American literature. Over this span of time, we've developed a substantial network of thousands of authors from around the country," he said.

"We also begin working on each year's Festival about 16 months in advance, contacting high profile authors to get them locked in before their schedules get full," said Gwen Richardson. "We try to make each year's event fresh, new and bigger and better than before."

She also recalls how the Festival started. "About five years ago, the two of us were kicking around the idea of having an event where our vast net-

work of authors could meet, exchange ideas and promote and sell their books," she said.

"We were brainstorming one day and the concept of the National Black Book Festival was born. It made sense to have a national event, rather than a local or statewide one, since our network of authors hails, literally, from every region of the country."

One Houstonian who has been involved with the event from the beginning is Judge Oswald Scott Jr., author of *The Promise: A Black Man's Guide to Money, Power & Respect* and *Big Momma's Ten Commandments for Abundant Living*.

"The Festival has been a great event in terms of meeting other authors and finding out who's who among Black authors," Scott said. "There is no event in America that brings together this many Black authors covering every genre under one roof."

Poet and publisher Avery Washington agrees. Washington, the author of *Just Speaking My Mind* and *Letters to My Daughters*, said: "This type of Festival is needed to promote literacy in our communities and also to help showcase, educate and supply a platform for us to come together and celebrate the art of expression."

## ASPIRING AUTHORS

NBBF can be of particular benefit to writers who dream of becoming published. In addition to best-selling authors, prominent publishers, literary agents and marketing experts are participating in the festival.

Willie Richardson also has some advice for aspiring authors. "Don't expect to become a best-selling author with your first book," he said. "Being an author is like starting a business. Your book is your product and you have to get the public to know about you, like you and what you have to say well enough to pay about \$15.00 for a book."

Gwen Richardson offered more

insight. "It's normally after writing and publishing three to four books that an author has a true breakthrough, unless, of course, they are already famous," she said. "Then it's a celebrity book. But I think a lot of authors believe that, just because they wrote a book, someone is going to buy it. Nothing is further from the truth. A book, like any product, has to be marketed. Marketing is the key to any successful author's career."

She added that it's important for an author to perfect his or her craft. "Get your book edited by a professional," she said. "Have your book cover critiqued before you publish your book. You want your finished product to look as professional as possible. Too many books, particularly self-published ones, are riddled with grammatical, spelling and syntax errors. The covers look like they were produced by elementary school kids, and the plots are nonexistent. Don't half step; strive for excellence!"

Avery Washington said his experiences as a publisher, "have opened my eyes to how inexpensive it is to become a published author if you do it yourself."

He said beware of certain self-publishing companies that might take advantage of eager writers. "Study your craft inside and out. Learn everything you can about publishing and compare your cost of doing it yourself to paying someone to do the very same thing you are capable of doing. You will see that there is a huge difference in cost."

Oswald Scott said aspiring authors must also network, and NBBF is a good place to start. "The National Black Book festival is the place to be for anyone who has written a book, is working on a book or has dreamed of writing a book," he said.

"You will not only meet some of the top writers in Black America but you will be around some of the top Black names in book publishing and marketing. You will have the opportunity to learn from some of the best and discover how others are finding success."

# Schedule of Events

## FEATURED AUTHORS

### SATURDAY, JUNE 11

10:00 A.M.

Joyce Carol Thomas

Author of 15+ children's books, including *The Blacker the Berry*

11:00 A.M.

Isaiah Washington

Actor, former star of "Gray's Anatomy" and author of *Man From Another Land*

12 NOON

Michelle McKinney Hammond

Author of 30+ books, including *Sassy, Single and Satisfied*; *Divanomics*; and *What Women Don't Know* (and *Men Don't Tell You*)

1:00 P.M.

Lavaille Lavette



Educator, speaker and author of *86400: Manage Your Purpose to Make Every Second of Each Day Count*

2:00 P.M.

Carleen Brice

Author of four novels, one of which was adapted for the Lifetime movie "Sins of the Mother"

3:00 P.M.

Tananarive Due

Author of 10+ supernatural thrillers, including *Blood Colony*, *Joplin's Ghost* and the classic, *My Soul to Keep*

4:00 P.M.

K'Wan



Author of 10+ novels, including *Section 8*, *Gutter* and *Still Hood*

5:00 P.M.

Pamela Samuels Young

Author of 5 legal thrillers, including *Buying Time* and *Murder on the Down Low*

### SUNDAY, JUNE 12

11:00 A.M.

NBBF SUNDAY JAZZ BRUNCH

Judge Mablean

T.V. Host, Actress and Author of *Life Lessons From Judge Mablean*

## SPECIAL GUEST AUTHORS

### SATURDAY, JUNE 11

10:00 A.M.

J. M. Benjamin

CEO of A New Quality Publishing and author of five urban novels

Vickie Stringer

CEO of Triple Crown Publications and the queen of urban novels

### SUNDAY, JUNE 12

1:00 P.M.

James W. Lewis

Winner, 2011 NBBF Best New Author Award

## OFFICIAL FESTIVAL EVENTS

All events will be at the Doubletree Hotel (Tickets must be purchased for events with \*)

### FRIDAY, JUNE 10

9:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

LITERARY BREAKTHROUGH CONFERENCE

Get Signed Get Published Get Publicity In Conjunction with the National Black Book Festival

7:00 P.M.

WELCOME TO HOUSTON RECEPTION\*

Speaker: Greg Alan Williams

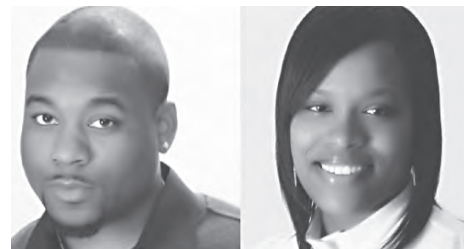
Actor and Author of *Heart of a Woman*

10:00 P.M. TO 2:00 A.M.

PRIVATE SLUMBER PARTY\*

with Authors, Ashley & Jaquavis

Ladies only - Ages 18 and up



(Ashley & Jaquavis will also sign books on Saturday, June 11 @ 4:00 p.m.)

### SATURDAY, JUNE 11

8:00 A.M.

GET ACQUAINTED BREAKFAST\*

Marketing Experts Show Authors How to Maximize Their Festival Experience

Panelists: Oswald Scott, Troy Johnson, Brian Smith and Dana Pittman

10:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.

CHILDREN'S FUN AREA

Hosted by Uncle E

6:00 P.M.

FACEBOOK FACETIME

Hosts: Fon James, David Brown and Karen Brown

Network during NBBF with your Facebook friends --festivities, food and fun! You may be the lucky winner of a Kindle e-reader!

7:00 P.M.

STAGE PLAY:

FACES WITHIN THE MIRROR\*

Location: Ensemble Theater, 3535 Main Street

Tickets: \$25.00

Produced by Mo'Vet Entertainment

www.movetertainment.com

### SUNDAY, JUNE 12

9:00 A.M.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

Worship Leader: Cheryl Lacey Donovan

Author of *The Ministry of Motherhood*

Worship Speaker: Renee Jean,

Author of *Verse in Motion*

11:00 A.M.

SUNDAY JAZZ BRUNCH\*

Speaker: Judge Mablean

2011 BEST NEW AUTHOR

AWARD PRESENTATION



Winner: James W. Lewis

1:00 TO 4:00 P.M.

MEET THE KINGS OF LITERATURE

Dwayne S. Joseph, Jihad, Rickey Teems II, Brian W. Smith, Moses Miller, Vincent Alexandria, Marc Lacy

4:00 P.M.

SPOKEN WORD POETRY SLAM

Poet/Host: Victor B. Johnson Sr.

## WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS

Doubletree Hotel

### SATURDAY, JUNE 11

12:00 p.m.

How to Bounce Back From Set-backs

Presenter: Author Bernice Dickey

2:00 p.m.

Bringing Out the Book In You

Presenter: Author Cydney Rax

2:00 p.m.

The Immorality of Institutional Racism in America



Presenter: Author Elreta Dodds

3:00 p.m.

Career Coaching Your Child to Success

Presenter: Author Kristy K. Taylor

5:00 p.m.

Changing the World Through the Power of the Written Word: Christian Publishing Workshop

Presenter: Sabrina Adams, Zoe Life Christian Communications

## BOOK LAUNCH PARTIES

### SATURDAY, JUNE 11

12:00 Noon

Judge Vanessa Gilmore

Book: *You Can't Make This Stuff Up: Tales From a Judicial Diva*

1:00 p.m.

Dr. Janice Moss

Book: *In Love, In Pain*

2:00 p.m.

Justina R. Page

Book: *The Circle of Fire*

3:00 p.m.

Rose Mary Stiffin, Ph.D.

Book: *Walk In Bethel*

4:00 p.m.

Dr. H. L. Stewart

Book: *Poppy: A Story of Courage, Determination and Faith*

### SUNDAY, JUNE 12

2:00 p.m.

Jenee' E. Hudson

Book: *Strip Tease: A Liberation to the Woman's Soul*

3:00 p.m.

Olayinka Aikens

Book: *Unfinished Business: The Smooth Operators Return*

INFORMATION · RESOURCES · NETWORKING · FELLOWSHIP

the **NATIONAL**  
**BLACK Pre-LAW**  
conference

The Nation's Premier Information-Sharing and Networking Empowerment Event for Aspiring Black Lawyers

**2011**  
7th Annual Event

www.blackprelawconference.com

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17 - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2011  
**HILTON UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON  
HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER  
4800 CALHOUN RD, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77024**

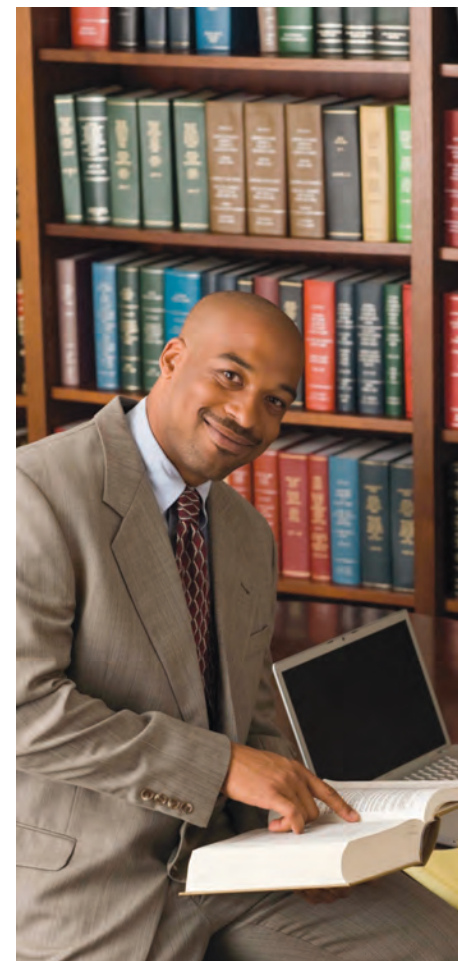
Full three-day conference (workshops, panels, keynote and special guest speakers) · national law school recruitment fair · networking opportunities · mock law school class · law school help advice clinic · practical assistance sessions · LSAT test-taking strategies session · LSAT diagnostic exam and more!  
**FREE regular registration!**  
Deluxe and Premium options also available.

**OPPORTUNITIES TO WIN PRIZES AND GIVEAWAYS!**

**THINKING ABOUT A LAW DEGREE (J.D.)? EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES!**

THE HOUSTON SKYLINE: A BEAUTIFUL AND DIVERSE CITY

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.BLACKPRELAWCONFERENCE.COM · E-MAIL US AT BLACKPRELAWCONFERENCE@GMAIL.COM · CALL US AT 281-247-4026 OR 281-296-3504



**STREETCORNERBOOKS.COM**

*For Black Men Who Want To Live The Good Life!*

WISDOM ST.  
KNOWLEDGE ST.  
STREET CORNER BOOKS

**Brothers, What Do You Want out of Life?**

- More Money
- A Good Job
- Nice Home, Car, Clothes
- Problems Solved
- A Better Life

Throughout our lives we have been taught and learned many things unfortunately for most of us, we were not taught nor have we learned the knowledge for getting wealth, success and happiness.

At Street Corner Books you can discover knowledge that will show You how to live the Good Life. There you will find articles, books, videos and resources that will give You the power to achieve the life you are searching for.

If you want to keep something from a Black Person put it in a book...

**J MEDIA GROUP, LLC**

12726 Walnut Bend Court  
Missouri City, Texas 77489  
281-499-2137

jmediagroupllc@yahoo.com

INNOVATIVE.NEW.CULTURE

The Black Brand C.I.A.



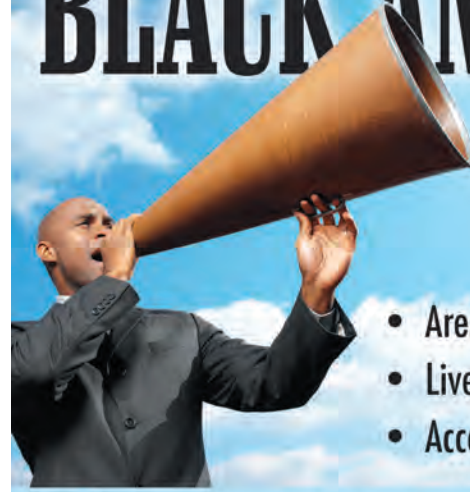
Cynosure.Intelligence.Awakening

WWW.BLACKBRANDCIA.COM

Cynosure: something that strongly attracts attention by its brilliance, excellence, splendor, distinction.  
Intelligence: the gathering or distribution of information, especially secret information.  
Awakening: a realization to the disagreeable facts.

\*The Black Brand CIA is a Harrington Interests subsidiary

# BLACK AMERICANS



## CAN YOU HANDLE THE TRUTH?

- Are you ready to achieve your goals?
- Live your Dreams; and
- Accomplish your Heart's Desire?

Do You Believe it is the government, racism, or the system that is keeping You from achieving your dreams and goals?

### An Amazing Discovery That Will Change Your Life Forever

Like it or not, we live in a world that is govern by laws and principles and if we want to achieve peak performance in anything we must master the laws and principles that govern the thing we desire.

At Black American Success we believe Black Americans can do, be, and have whatever they desire, and we share the tools, resources and knowledge that will help them to achieve their dreams, goals and desires.

Do you believe God like some people more than he likes Us?

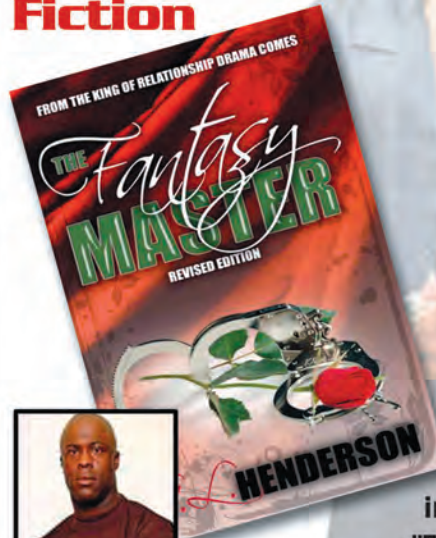
Go to [www.BlackAmericanSuccess.com](http://www.BlackAmericanSuccess.com) and begin to explore the secrets on how you can begin to live the life of Your Dreams.



"Where Dreams Come True"

# G. L. HENDERSON

The King of Relationship Drama Fiction



Award-winning author and host of the top rated internet radio show "The G.L. Henderson Radio Hour"

[glhenderson.net](http://glhenderson.net)



# Graphic DESIGN

THE ONLY LIMIT IS YOUR IMAGINATION!



[WWW.ATELIERBAROQUEHOUSTON.COM](http://WWW.ATELIERBAROQUEHOUSTON.COM)



## MABLEAN EPHRIAM

Mablean Ephriam was born to Robert and Mable Ephriam in Hazlehurst, Mississippi. She is no stranger to achievement. Through hard, consistent and dedicated work, she strives to perform and do her God-given best. Since a child, she has always had that “spirit” of excellence and liberality about her. The ninth of ten children, you could always find her somewhere reading, studying, and asking countless questions that could drive you crazy. When she wasn’t doing that, she could be found fighting for the rights of strangers and family members. Her strong thirst for knowledge, equality and unselfishness parlayed into a rewarding, challenging, sometime agonizing and exhausting career in the practice of Family Law.

Twenty-five years ago, Judge Ephriam was admitted to the California Bar and in 1992 she was admitted to the United States Supreme Court. At the age of 13 years, she knew she wanted to become a lawyer. She set a plan in motion and went to work - allowing no obstacles to defeat or dissuade her. She worked her way through the system, beginning in law enforcement for the Federal Bureau of Prisons as a Correctional Officer in the Women’s Prison at Terminal Island. From there, she became skillful in preparing documents for civil litigation and workers’ compensation as a secretary for the Law Offices of Eric Parkan. A few years later, she progressed to the Law Offices of Stanley Sanders and Sandy English as a paralegal, where she engaged in researching and drafting contracts and partnership agreements in corporate and business law. Moving right on up the ladder, yet remaining focused, Judge Ephriam became a Certified Law Clerk and performed duties that were second nature to her - research, writing and arguing criminal misdemeanor appeals.

Taking a break from school, she became a young wife and mother of three. She then decided it was time to enter law school. She enrolled in the night program at Whittier College School of law in Los Angeles earning her Juris Doctor Degree in 1978. She participated in Moot Court and her team won second place in statewide Moot Court Honors Program. This was accomplished without neglecting her family and making sure that her children kept their school studies up to par. The completion of law school was just the beginning of an illustrious career heightened by countless awards and recognition.

Because she is such an unselfish, people-conscientious woman, who is well respected by colleagues and well known for her contributions, she has earned such awards as: 1997 Alumni of the Year-Whittier College; 1996 Zephyr Ramsey Award-Harriet Buhai [bew-high] Center of Family Law; 1996 Spencer Brandeis Award from the Family Law Section-Los Angeles Bar Association (she was the youngest recipient and first Black woman); 1996 Award of Excellence-State Women’s Department, Churches of God In Christ 1st Jurisdiction; 1995 Woman of the Year-California State Assembly 48th District; 1993 Distinguished Service-Women’s

Lawyer Association of Los Angeles (WLALA); 1990 Outstanding Leadership-Board of Directors, Harriet Buhai Center & Outstanding Contribution to Pro Bono Legal Services-Board of Governors, California State Bar Association; 1985 Outstanding Service-National Association of University Women and the 1978 Achievement Award-State Youth Department, Churches of God in Christ 1st Jurisdiction. If that is not enough, Judge Ephriam has volunteered in numerous organizations and worked many jobs, such as: Hearing Examiner-City of L.A. Civil Service Commission; Board of Directors-Union Rescue Mission (first black woman); Member of American Bar Association and National Bar Association; Lecturer-Upward Bound Program, CSUBL; Motivational Speaker-L.A. City Schools; Co-Founder-Harriet Buhai Center for Family Law which provides



free legal services for economically disadvantaged persons); Board of Directors-Southern California Women’s Dept./Retirement Center Committee, Churches of God In Christ - So. Calif. 1st Jurisdiction, Advisor to Pastor Ron Hill-Love and Unity Church of God In Christ; member and Past (1982-1983) President of Black Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles.

In October of 1998, Twentieth Television selected this experienced, distinguished law practitioner and mediator to sit as Judge on the newly, revised half hour syndicated show “Divorce Court”, where there is no script, nor actors, just real cases and real litigants with Judge Ephriam rendering legally-binding decisions. This all came about by God’s divine will. Judge Mablean did not seek the position. Through word-of-mouth regarding her legal talents and referrals from strangers, Fox executives sought Judge Ephriam, liked what they saw and the rest is (herstory).

After ending her seven season run on Divorce Court (1999-2006), Judge Ephriam is a much sought after public speaker for Women’s Conferences, Churches, Community and Civic Organizations, Colleges and Schools, Dealing with Relationship Issues and motivating others to pursue their dreams.

Additionally, she is working on the mission of her nonprofit foundation, The Mablean Ephriam Foundation, to build stronger families, educate minds, increase economic power among disadvantaged and lower economic persons and thus create better communities. She is most thankful for the opportunity to provide day-to-day care to her 95 year old mother who is in need of her assistance.

This hard-working woman is an entrepreneur. She is the owner of Mablean’s Limousine Services; co-owner of Jubilane Guest House, a Bed & Breakfast in Johannesburg, South Africa; and founder of an awards program, Honoring Unsung Fathers. Judge Ephriam attributes her success to God, her family and close friends. Her faith, religion and trust in God keep this mother of four and grandmother of nine, meek and humble.

## ISAIAH WASHINGTON

Award-winning actor, author and activist Isaiah Washington shares his story of discovery, triumph and finding true purpose with his upcoming bestseller "A Man From Another Land: How Finding My Roots Changed My Life", with contribution from Lavoile Lavette. The book, published by The Hachette Group, was released on April 27, 2011 and is available online at <http://www.amazon.com> and most major outlets.

"I wrote this book because I want current and future generations of African Americans to know that our spiritual, cultural and economic freedom is in our DNA", says Washington. In addition to the DNA connection, this literary movement takes a look at the importance of finding purpose, mentoring, self identity and redemption for all people.

Washington, the first African American to be granted dual citizenship based solely on DNA testing, says "it is my hope people will attribute their life's experiences to destiny, which defines us all, instead of serendipity and luck, after reading A Man From Another Land." Following his own destiny, Washington started the Gondobay Manga Foundation after discovering his direct genetic link to the people of Sierra Leone.



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Isaiah Washington is an award winning actor from stage to television to the silver screen; having most recently starred in the successful television series Grey's Anatomy, and appeared in Soul Food, Touched by an Angel and New York Undercover, in addition to others. His movies credits include, but are not limited to, The Least of These, Exit Wounds, Out of Sight, Love Jones, Jungle Fever, Get on the Bus, Clockers, Crooklyn and Strictly Business. Washington also founded the Gondobay Manga Foundation, which advocates for cooperative planning to achieve positive and timely improvements in the lives of the people of Sierra Leone.

## GREG ALAN WILLIAMS

Please come and meet, Greg Alan Williams, Emmy Award winning actor and award winning author.

Veteran of more than 150 films and primetime television episodes, people across America recognize Greg Alan from projects such as, Remember The Titans, with Denzel Washington, The District, opposite (the late) Lynn Thigpen, and The Sopranos, alongside James Gandolfini.

Author of the books, A Gathering of Heroes and Boys To Men & Maps For The Journey, Greg Alan's new novel, Heart of a Woman, breathlessly probes the depths of grownup love, men's fear of intimacy, and, the loving possibilities that await every woman's heart.

An official ambassador of The Mini Twelve Step House, one of Los Angeles' oldest residential rehabilitation centers for women, during the month of February, Greg Alan will donate 100% of his royalties from the sale of Heart of a Woman to the Mini House. Since 1971, this culturally rich community has helped hundreds of addicted and abused women of color and others, rethink and redirect their lives. ([www.mini12step.org](http://www.mini12step.org))



A great fit for media interviews, book signings, speaking, hosting, and featured artist presentations, Greg Alan is more than a celebrity. As a riveting speaker, he has shared the podium with the likes of Noble Laureate, Elie Weisel and the Rev. Joseph Lowry, President Emeritus SCLC. A broad list of keynote venues include: The American Federation of Teachers, US Department of Health and Human Services, Harvard, Howard, UCLA, Purdue, the NAACP, ADL, and the American Red Cross.

## "40 Seasons of Jazz"

As part of the 40th Anniversary celebration of Jazz Education Inc.'s Summer Jazz Workshop, Houston's Public Central Library will host the "40 Seasons of Jazz" photo exhibit June 6 to July 9.

The photo exhibit is free to the public and includes an historical perspective of the 40 seasons making the Summer Jazz Workshop from its humble beginnings in 1972 to today.

Jazz Education Inc. was founded by Jazz artist Bubba Thomas, who saw a need to fill a void where music education and youth were concerned. With a grant from The National Endowment of the Arts, he started a 8-week "Summer Program for Youthful Musicians" at St. James Episcopal Church.

Today's HEB Tournament of Champions Summer Jazz Workshop is an five-week instructional program for middle school, high school and college students which includes master classes, lectures, field trips, small and large

ensembles, public speaking and more. Participants are exposed to many subjects not fully covered by private and/or public school programs.

Led by an all-star faculty, 100 students are instructed in theory, writing, orchestration/arranging, improvisation and jazz idiom/ career development at beginning, intermediate and advanced levels.

Since its inception the Summer Jazz Workshop has graduated nearly 10,000 students. Many distinguished alumni continued on with professional jazz careers including Brandon Lee, Rex Gregory, Amber Sarpy, Horace A. Young, William G. Thomas II, Jason Moran, Kyle Turner, Walter Smith III, Chris Dave, Roseanna Vitro, Stephen Richard, Joe Carmouche, Stephanie Sanders, Gilbert Seden, Jr., and Ramon Del Villar.

The photo exhibit is open during normal Central Library hours. For more information visit [www.jazzeducation.org](http://www.jazzeducation.org) or call 713-839-7000.

**21ST HOUSTON INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL**  
**AUGUST 5-7, 2011**

**DISCOVERY GREEN** HOUSE OF BLUES  
 WORTHAM THEATER

**MINDI ABAIR | FOUR PLAY | WILL DOWNING**  
 KYLE TURNER | JOE CARMOUCHE | TEXAS BRASS BAND  
 FRANK LACY | THERESA GRAYSON | SJW ALL-STARS

**GATES OPEN 4PM GET TICKETS NOW**  
**WWW.JAZZEDUCATION.ORG**

# Get Signed    Get Published    Get Publicity

# Literary Breakthrough Conference

The Literary Breakthrough Conference is held in conjunction with the National Black Book Festival. This year the conference will take place on Friday, June 10, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Doubletree Hotel, 400 Dallas St. in Houston, Texas.

If you are serious about taking your book(s) to the next level, this is the conference for you. Early registrants receive a 15-minute, one-on-one session with the panelist of your choice.

Top book industry experts share information and strategies on how to make your literary breakthrough and turn your existing or future book(s) into a bestseller!

Conference includes three powerful sessions, lunch and a closing reception. Literary Breakthrough Conference sessions are as follows:

- **Book Publishers:** Hear from editors at major publishing houses on what they are looking for in a book proposal; how they determine which author and which books to publish; and how they determine whether an author receives a 2-book deal or a 5-book deal.

- **Book Marketers and Promoters:** Hear from book marketing experts on how to receive maximum, targeted exposure for your book; how to get radio stations, newspapers and televisions to contact you for interviews; and why you should/should not aspire or expect to be on Oprah.



- **Book Industry Agents:** Hear from influential book agents on how to locate and identify the best agent for you; submit your book proposal; and how much of a book advance a first-time or repeat author should expect.

#### **BOOK PUBLISHERS SESSION** 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

**Malaika Adero**, Vice President and Senior Editor of Atria Books (Simon & Schuster), is also founder of Up South, Inc., an organization that promotes and presents authors and artists. A writer as well, she has authored books, essays and poetry.

**Vickie Stringer**, CEO of Triple Crown Publications, is the queen of urban novels. After writing her first novel, she sold thousands of copies independently and subsequently launched Triple Crown, one of the largest urban fiction publishers.

#### **BOOK MARKETERS/PROMOTERS SESSION** 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**J. M. Benjamin** is CEO of A New Quality Publishing, a New York-based firm which specializes in urban fiction. J.

M. has utilized guerrilla marketing and grassroots techniques to sell thousands of books, vital information for self-published authors and budding publishing firms. Some of the company's successful titles include Dutch: The Sequel and Heaven and Earth.

**Pam Perry** is the Chief Visionary of Ministry Marketing Solutions Inc. and the nation's premiere Christian literary PR Coach. She has worked with clients such as TD Jakes, Bill Winston and Dr. Suzan Johnson Cook. She is an online media strategist working on movies like "The Secret Life of Bees" for Fox SearchLight films.

#### **LUNCHEON KEYNOTE SPEAKER** 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

**ReShonda Tate Billingsley** Bestselling Author, Movie Producer ReShonda is the national bestselling author of 18 books. Her sophomore novel, Let the Church Say Amen, is being made into a movie of which she is Executive Producer and actress Regina King is the director.

A former television and radio news reporter, ReShonda has been in the journalism business for more than two

decades. Currently, the co-host of From Cover to Cover literary talk radio show and an editor for the Houston Defender Newspaper, ReShonda has worked as an anchor and reporter for NBC, ABC and FOX television stations in Beaumont, TX, Oklahoma City, OK and Houston, TX. She left her job at FOX News in Houston in 2007 to write full-time.

#### **LITERARY AGENTS SESSION** 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

**Maxine Thompson** is a literary agent, writer and editor. As a literary agent, she has brokered more than 60 book deals for herself and other authors. Several of her clients' books have been Black Expressions Book Club selections.

**Regina Brooks** is the founder and President of Serendipity Literary Agency LLC. Equally at home in the technical world of engineering as in the literary world of writing and editing, Ms. Brooks has over a decade of experience in senior positions at major publishing houses including John Wiley & Sons Inc. and the McGraw-Hill Companies.

**Janell Walden Agyeman** is a veteran in the New York publishing industry circles and a native of Kansas City, Missouri. Among her past and current clients are Tananarive Due (science fiction and fantasy author), Sharon Draper (Coretta Scott King Literary Award winning author) and syndicated columnist Leonard Pitts Jr. She runs the Miami branch of the Marie Brown & Associates Literary Agency

## Playing "The Game" To Win!



Michael "Beau" Williams

Could the reason why are so many young men not achieving success is that they lack the knowledge of how to navigate life's journey.

"It is not their fault that a lot of them continue to believe that there is no way out of the hopelessness, despair, and the poverty they find themselves in says Michael "Beau" Williams and Judge Oswald J. Scott, Jr. two dynamic and enthusiastic speakers who are motivating their audiences by telling them that they can Win!

Throughout their lives they have been taught many things. They were taught how to read and how to write. They learned how to walk and how to talk. Unfortunately for many young men they have not learned the knowl-

edge on how to achieve their dreams and goals. And it is there lack of this knowledge that is keeping them from achieving the life they are seeking.

In their workshop entitled "Playing The Game To Win!" Michael Beau Williams and Judge Oswald J. Scott, Jr. share with their audience rules for succeeding in America that will give any man greater success in life.

In the Workshop You Will Learn:

- The Importance of Dressing for Success
- The Power of believing in Self
- How Taking Responsibility is the Key to Winning
- Secrets to Landing Your Dream Job

So if you or a young man you know are searching for a breakthrough on how to overcome the obstacles that you or them may be facing in your respective, lives or are looking for the motivation and inspiration to believe you can achieve your goals and your dreams then Playing The Game To Win may provide you or them with the spark needed to put you on the path to winning.

For information on their next workshop or to contact them about speaking at your upcoming event you may reach Beau Williams at (281) 630-1487 and Judge Scott at (713) 227-8060; or you email them at: [www.info@streetcornerbooks.com](mailto:www.info@streetcornerbooks.com) or [www.michael@tiesrequired.com](mailto:www.michael@tiesrequired.com).

# Oswald J. Scott, Jr.

## Attorney at Law

- Wills
- Estate
- Probate
- Heir Property
- Guardianship



**713.227.8060**

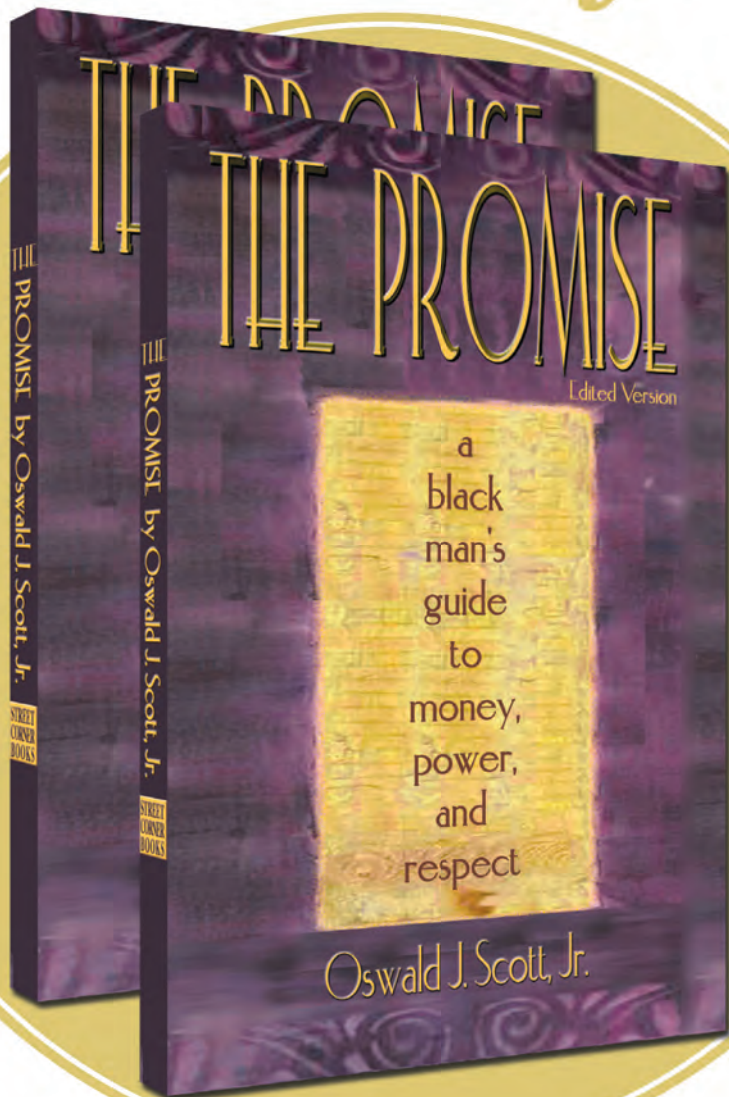
713.227.8181 fax  
email: [oswsco@msn.com](mailto:oswsco@msn.com)

P.O. Box 941731  
Houston, Texas 77094

Not Certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization

# THE PLIGHT OF THE BLACK MAN

*Just Changed!*



## THE PROMISE...

Any man who learns and uses these secrets can achieve whatever he wants.

One  
Book

Two  
Versions

The **One Book**  
**Every Black Man** in America  
**Should Read**

What are the secrets that once learned and practiced will give any man *Money, Power* and *Respect*?

For a limited time only you can download a free copy of THE PROMISE  
at [www.getthepromise.com](http://www.getthepromise.com)