



Elizabeth Caples
President

FOCUS



Benjamin K. Richmond
President/CEO

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Diana Ross and The Supremes gave a fabulous performance at the Old School Dinner Dance.

Rockin' Good Times at Old School Dinner Dance

Lots of great tunes and good food were shared with friends and family at our Old School Dinner Dance on January 28.

Although our sales were down compared to prior years, much fun was had in celebrating our "Motown Review." Even Diana Ross and the Supremes entertained us with a "once in lifetime" fabulous show! Thanks to chairperson, Bobby Atchley and committee members for their hard work in planning this event. Also, thanks to Carol Belser and her staff at Kroger for the table

centerpieces. She wowed us again! And more thanks to Geneva Perkins and Emma Spears who generously donated items to the committee for door prizes.



THIS MONTH

Valentine's Day Treat Bags - Feb 6
VITA Super Saturday - Feb 11
Guild Meeting - Feb 13
Health Fair - Feb 25

NEXT MONTH

Guild Meeting - Mar 13 @ Univ. Club

2005/06 Officers and Executive Committee

President -
Elizabeth Caples (231-6713)

1st Vice President/Program Chair -
Patty Van Vooren (502-829-9323)

**2nd Vice President/Membership
Chair -** Sheila Carson (425-9189)

Recording Secretary -
Deathra Shipley (587-1793)

Asst. Recording Secretary -
Shirley Fuqua-Jackson (239-8317)

Corresponding Secretary -
Bobby Atchley (821-4926)

Treasurer -
Mary Mahin (558-0554)

Member-at-Large -
Hazel Calloway (776-5229)

Committee Chairs

Courtesy - Jerry Wright

Finance & Budget - Mary Mahin

Membership - Sheila Carson

Program - Patty Van Vooren

Public Relations - Claudia Geurin

The mission of the Louisville Urban League Guild is to unite, strengthen, and support the Louisville Urban League in its endeavors with volunteerism and community service.



Rare paintings displayed in honor of Black History Month

The extremely rare portraits of a free, pre-Civil War African American couple are featured in the galleries of the Kentucky Historical Society. Now, the Society's recent acquisition of the original 1814 emancipation documents of the woman featured in the portrait provides amazing context.

The two handsome portraits of a state-ly nineteenth-century couple hang side by side on permanent exhibit in the Kentucky Journey gallery at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History. They bear little resemblance to the dim, stained canvases found in a barn a few years ago. Acquired and conserved with extreme care by the Kentucky Historical Society in 2000, these Patrick Henry Davenport paintings of Dennis and Diademina Doram were a significant addition to the Kentucky Historical Society collection.

Though portraits of prominent nineteenth-century couples are not unusual, the Doram portraits are extremely rare. This affluent couple was African-American, living free and apparently prosperously in the antebellum south.

Recently, one of the Dorams' descendants, Mrs. Viola Gross, donated sixty-five original documents pertaining to the Doram-Rowe family. "This provides amazing context," notes Mary Winter, recently retired director of collections and research services. "To stand in our permanent gallery and look at Diademina's portrait and to know that now in the same building we have the original 1814 emancipation document that recorded her freedom is nothing short of astounding."

Dennis Doram was among Danville, Kentucky's most respected businessman, involved with several establishments, including the Caldwell School for Women, a rope factory, and a

hemp business. By the 1840s, the Dorams had several thousand dollars in the bank and owned hundreds of acres.

The emancipation document confirms that on April 11, 1814, Gibson [Taylor], a free man of color, paid Moses O. Bledsoe of Saint Louis, \$700.00 for the freedom of his wife Cloe and her children. This emancipation document was then recorded in Mercer County, Kentucky, for "Diademina one of the children of said Cloe" on December 30, 1835, and certified on March 7, 1836.

Many of the original documents provided are evidence for the family's acquisition of land in Danville and Boyle County along the Dix River, thus establishing the Dorams as Danville's most affluent African American family. The collection also includes depositions, indentures, receipts, court records, and original poetry.

"We are deeply indebted to Mrs. Gross for donating this rare and significant collection," notes Kent Whitworth, the Kentucky Historical Society's executive director. "It provides amazing connections, perspective and inspiration as we try to present, protect and preserve the history of Kentuckians."

In honor of Black History Month, the Kentucky Historical Society offers the following events and resources that spotlight African Americans and their role in Kentucky's history throughout February. For more information on these events, or for access to African American resources available from the Kentucky Historical Society, log on to <http://history.ky.gov>.

Online Resource

Since 1998, more than 200

Kentuckians have shared their memories of the civil rights movement in interviews with the Kentucky Oral History Commission. Now their powerful stories, in their own words in video, audio and transcript format are available online on our Kentucky Civil Rights Movement database at <http://catalog.kyhistory.org/>.

Museum Theatre

Nothing New for Easter: Shopping for Civil Rights

Saturdays, 2:00 p.m., Center for Kentucky History

Travel back to 1960s Louisville with young Mattie Eleanor Lewis as she takes her place in the growing civil rights movement. Free with admission. To learn more, contact Greg Hardison, ext. 4454.

Brown Bag History

"Shadows of the Past"

Wednesday, February 1, noon, Center for Kentucky History

Celebrate African American History Month with historian Louis Stout for a look at the history of African American high school athletics programs before racial integration took place. For adults. Free. Contact Joanie DiMartino, ext. 4467.

Genealogy Workshop

African American Genealogy

Saturday, February 11, 12:30-4 p.m., Martin F. Schmidt Library, Center for Kentucky History

Successful African American genealogy requires the overcoming of several

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LUL Guild Events

Our Health Fair

Our annual Breast Cancer Screening and Health Fair will be held on Saturday, February 25 at the LUL. Volunteer opportunities are still available by contacting Claudia Geurin.

Easter Egg Hunt/Cook-out

Our annual Easter Egg at THP will be Saturday, April 15. More details soon!



Rare Paintings

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Successful African American genealogy requires the overcoming of several research challenges, including the limitations of available records and the use and adoption of surnames in past centuries. This course explores resources available for African American research and the methods employed by successful genealogists. One and a half hours of research time is included. For more information, contact Beth Shields, ext. 4421.

Corporate Spotlight: Parsons Brinckerhoff

Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB) is an engineering consultant firm and a worldwide leader in planning, engineering and program and construction management.

Among the oldest continuously operating engineering firms, PB was founded more than 120 years ago and has 200 offices serving 80 countries worldwide, including offices in Louisville and Lexington, Kentucky.

PB was founded by William Barclay Parsons in 1885 in Manhattan. The first project was the design of New York City's first subway, the IRT. Completed in 1904, this line - extending from lower Manhattan to Harlem - remains the world's most heavily used rapid transit system.

Even then, the firm had a global reach; Parsons' second major project was to chart a 1,000-mile railroad in China, from Hankow to Canton, a line that is also still in use today.

In 1906, Henry M. Brinckerhoff, a pioneering highway engineer, brought his expertise in electric railways to the firm. Known for his co-invention of the third rail, which revolutionized rapid transit, Brinckerhoff designed the network of roads at the 1939 World's Fair in New York.

From then until now, PB has evolved and expanded. Recognized as one of the world's leading transportation engineering firms, PB now provides comprehensive services for all types of infrastructure projects including power, buildings, environment and telecommunications.

In 2003, Parsons Brinckerhoff was

awarded the American Council of Engineering Companies of Kentucky Engineering Excellence Grand Conceptor Award for the design of the William H. Natcher Bridge that spans from Owensboro, Kentucky to Rockport, Indiana. PB was also the recipient of the Honor Award given by the American Council of Engineering Companies for the same project. PB was recently selected to design the new East End approach in Louisville and a new Brent Spence Bridge which connects Interstate 75-71 in Kentucky to Interstate 75 in Ohio.

In 2002, PB introduced the Community Involvement Challenge in U.S. offices to build on the mission of demonstrating good corporate citizenship. Office teams were created and individual points awarded for volunteer time, blood drives and monetary donations. The result was \$85,697 worth of cash or goods, 11,579 hours of volunteer time, and 203 pints of blood. The 2003 program expanded to offices in the U.K., Australia and New Zealand; the 2004 program includes Asia as well.

Over a century ago, founder William Barclay Parsons said: "Engineering requires two abilities. First, the technical skill and second, the mind and the knowledge to conceive that which is useful and will be for the convenience of mankind in the long run... It is not the design that governs a project, but its adaptability to the economics and social needs of the time." Today, PB continues to address the social and economic needs of communities through the science of engineering.

LUL Guild Calendar

February

- 6 Valentine's Day Treat Bags for THP
- 6 p.m.
- 11 VITA
- 13 Guild Meeting - 6:15 p.m.
- 18 VITA
- 25 VITA
- 25 Breast Cancer/Health Fair
- 27 Derby Cruise Committee Meeting -
6 p.m.

March

- 4 VITA
- 11 VITA
- 13 Guild Meeting
- 18 VITA
- 25 VITA

April

- 1 VITA
- 3 Derby Cruise Committee Meeting -
6 p.m.
- 8 VITA
- 10 Guild Meeting and Easter Baskets -
6:15 p.m.
- 15 Easter Egg Hunt and Cookout

May

- 6 **Derby Moonlight Cruise** -
8:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.
- 8 Guild Meeting - 6:15 p.m.
- 20 LUL Diversity Soiree - Galt House Hotel

June

- 12 Guild Meeting/Annual Reports/Elec-
tion of Officers - 6:15 p.m.

LUL Guild

Announcements

Derby Cruise Committee

And they're off! Our first meeting will be Monday, February 27 at 6:00 pm.

Sponsorships/Donations

The Program Committee requests everyone's help in securing sponsorships/donations. Any amount or donated item will be greatly appreciated. Our dues do not cover our everyday expenses, so it is up to all of us to find ways to supplement our revenue.

March Meeting

Our March 13th Guild meeting will be held at the UofL University Club complete with hor d' oeuvres and refreshments. Special thanks to the UofL and LUL board member and past Guild member, Dr. Mordean Taylor-Archer for giving us this special opportunity.

VITA

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program provides working families with free tax preparation. The VITA program allows families and individuals to receive every tax benefit available to them, including the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

By supporting this program, we can directly help boost a working family's income plus a savings in tax preparation fees. By increasing income to working families, the VITA program directly effects the family's or individual's ability to become or remain self-sufficient.

Please contact Bobby Atchley if you would like to volunteer a couple of hours on a Saturday to help the tax preparers with copying, etc., between January 28 and April 15 (and especially on February 11 "Super Saturday").




Five Star Service Guaranteed

presents

Financial freedom for your FUTURE!

February 2006

A four week long financial and educational series in partnership with the Louisville Urban League, CW Johnson Xpress, Norton Healthcare and WAVE-TV to empower the people.



Topics of discussion at each location:

- Homebuyer Education, Lender Referrals and Assistance in Apartment Rentals
- Budget/Credit Counseling (How to Stop Living Paycheck to Paycheck)
- Information to open checking, savings and investment accounts
- Ask the WAVE 3 Troubleshooter and other consumer agencies about scams and personal consumer problems

WAVE 3 Troubleshooter
Charla Young

Each series will be broadcasted live on WAVE-TV from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.
Food will be provided for all participants.

SAVE the DATE!

Wednesday, February 1, 2006
St. Stephen Church • So. 15th Street
4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 8, 2006
Forest Baptist Church • 4500 Petersburg Road
4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 15, 2006
Bates Memorial Baptist Church • 620 E. Lampton Street
4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 22, 2006
Brown Memorial C.M.E Church • 809 W. Chestnut Street
4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.







**Louisville
Urban League**

Empowering People
Changing Lives.