



New 2002 Board Members

Back Row: left to right: Doris Bluitt, Maude Small, Charmaine Traylor, and Otis Lloyd. Front Row: Oweada Mapps and Arbra Phillips



The Craft House is open for tours Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

By prior arrangement, house tours are conducted on weekends and after 3:00 p.m.

Mary Vaughn, Design and Production
Mamie McKnight, Editor For additional information,
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Heritage Gifts for Holiday Giving

Take advantage of new Heritage Gifts for Holiday Giving now available in the Craft House Gift Shop. You are encouraged to do "one-stop shopping" in the Craft House Gift Shop. A number of new items are being added to the collection and will be on sale during and following the Membership Meeting in November. BDR publications and 20th Anniversary items are included in this collection. Call **214.670.8637** for specifics.

Get Well Wishes and Condolences

We extend get well wishes to all BDR members and volunteers who experienced personal or family illness recently. Also, we express condolences to those who experienced the loss of loved ones during this past year. Board member Ada Adams is recuperating well following surgery recently and Mamie McKnight is on the mend following her second eye surgery in September. We were all saddened this summer by the death of Mrs. Lewis, the mother of Board President Velma Patch.

"Black Dallas Remembered, Inc. is supported, in part, by the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs."



FALL, 2002



Dr. Mamie L. McKnight
BDR Executive Director



**Juanita J. Craft
Civils Rights House
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ROOTS AND WINGS

BDR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

**CELEBRATING TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE
1983- 2003**

Black Dallas Remembered, Inc.

"As Precious As Fine China"

<http://www.blackdallasremembered.org>

Black Dallas Remembered, Incorporated, a local heritage research and preservation group, was formally organized in 1983. Twenty years later, the accomplishments of the group have been no less than remarkable. Throughout this next year, we ask the entire community to join us in celebrating past achievements, planning greater successes in the future, and **GIVING THANKS TO YOU AND OTHERS** who gave us "roots to grow and wings to fly."

The 2003 anniversary year theme is: "*black Dallas Remembered: As Precious as Fine China.*" Fine china is symbolic of twenty-year celebrations and is most appropriate as a metaphor for the mission and values of Black Dallas Remembered. The organization is valuable not only in revealing our past but enhancing our capabilities for dealing with the present and future. A calendar of anniversary year events will be announced during the Annual BDR Membership Meeting.

In the meantime, to all BDR members, friends and supporters:

**THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO IN SERVICE TO OTHERS
AND SINCERE BEST WISHES FOR A JOYOUS,
PEACEFUL AND SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON.**



Sincerely, Mamie L. McKnight



GREETINGS

We were honored to have had several volunteers join us for our Annual Membership Meeting. Your support of this meeting has been a powerful motivator to our members. We are proud of the efforts put forth by Black Dallas Remembered (BDR) in keeping the community aware of African Americans presence and contributions made to the City of Dallas and the metroplex.

In July 2000, BDR assumed the operation of the Juanita J. Craft Civil Rights House in order to increase the public's awareness, knowledge, and appreciation of the significance of Juanita Craft in the Civil Rights movement. Also in 2000, the Dallas City Council approved the designation of the Juanita Civil Rights House as a Dallas Historic

Landmark.

I gratefully acknowledge those board members and individuals who generously extended themselves to serve in various capacities to keep BDR in the forefront of all citizens. Again, thanks for your support.

Velma Patch. BDR Board President

Production Underway!

*New BDR brochures by Beverly Collymore *Website and Internet set-up by Mary Vaughn *New Quarterly Newsletter Design and Production by Mary Vaughn * **BDR Enters High Tech Age!**

Black Dallas Remembered, Inc.
at the J. Craft Civil Rights House
2618 Warren Street
P.O. Box 398334
Dallas, TX 75339-0334



ROOTS AND WINGS

FALL, 2002

BDR Quarterly Newsletter

Soraya Anderson, a part-time Program Assistant at the Craft House since last June, is a valuable addition to the staff. Made available to BDR by the Office of Cultural Affairs, Soraya assists the Executive Director with activities at the Craft House,



as well as providing on-site office management Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. She helps facilitate the numerous requests for tours of the house, as well as other available services.

Soraya is a graduate of the DISD Business Management Magnet High School. As an employee of the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs, she worked with a number of special projects, including the *Pegasus Project*, in which a number of artists designed Pegasus sculptures. These sculptures are now in various locations throughout the city. Soraya is at the Craft House on Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Annual BDR Assessment and Status Report

In assessing BDR's achievements during the past twenty years, all agree that they have been remarkable. More specifically, the past two years at the Craft House have enabled the organization to move to a higher level of service to the community. Through participation in the Office of Cultural Affairs' LEAP program major programmatic and operational goals have been to transition BDR from an all volunteer organization to one that includes staff and the operation of a house museum.

During this past year, the second of a three year transition period, the major goals have been to strengthen the Board's business, fundraising, technological, and marketing capabilities. The 2001-02 Annual BDR Report includes more specific information about the goals and the extent to which they were achieved, as well as the recommendations for the future. An executive summary of the report will be distributed during the Annual Membership Meeting. The complete report will be included in the revised Board Manual for 2002-03.

Did you notice the Juanita Craft banners on M.L. King, Jr. Blvd. during the State Fair? Wonderful! These were requested by Councilman Leo Chaney. Thanks Mr. Chaney.

New Volunteers Extraordinaire

During the Volunteer round-Up and Orientation, September 14, 2002, several new or returning volunteers made commitments to assist with several programs and activities at

the Craft House. Returning volunteers attending the meeting were: Mildred Thomas, Mary Vaughn, Richard Thomas, and Richelle Thomas. Richelle, a junior at the Arts Magnet, will meet her National Honor Society community service requirements at the Craft House. She will also serve on the Youth Empowerment Academy (YEA!) Board. Mary Vaughn volunteered to work on the newsletter and her consulting firm will set-up BDR's website. Richard Thomas will assist again with Project FAST and Mildred Thomas will volunteer wherever she is needed.

We are delighted to have Nikki and Torrey Carroll volunteer. They have many talents and will serve in a number of ways this next year.

Craft House Tours and Mobile Heritage Tours On The Upswing!

The requests for tours of the Juanita Craft Civil Rights House are definitely on the upswing. Highlighted this summer by the visits of two groups of conferees to their National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials, the tours of the House have included family reunion groups, church groups, study groups as well as individual visitors.

Requests for Craft House and African American Heritage Tours are being booked well into mid-2003. Beginning last February with the numerous school presentations and tours, social studies and government teachers have made inquiries about including the Craft House visit into their schedules for the year. Other information about the hours and fees for the tours are elsewhere in this newsletter.



African American Heritage Mobile and Walking Tours are tailored to the desires of each group. Costs are based on length of tour, expenses and a minimum per capita fee for each participant. Training guides conduct each of their tours and information about the sites on the tour are provided each tourist.

Eighth Young and Gifted Concert A Winner, June 29th

Though small in stature, Kenna Parker is a dynamo in creative event marketing. For the past two years she has served as marketing consultant for the Young and Gifted Concert. As a result of her creative planning and extensive media blitzing, she has raised the stature of this annual fundraiser for the Craft House to that of a major public affairs event in Dallas. Kudos to Kenna, Willis Johnson, Mollie Belt and the numerous others who supported this event. Calls for participation have already been received for next year's event.



Spectacular Anniversary Year

Following a very successful planning session in August of this year, the BDR Program Committee developed the 2003 Calendar of Events which was approved by the Board in October. Chaired by Board Member Ada Adams, the Program Committee monitors all programmatic and volunteer activities. Except for the Executive Committee, all committee/task force chairmen and advisors are members of the Program Committee.



The 2002-03 committee chairs are: Jimmie Moore and Lela Wicks, Archives: Arbla Phillips, Community Education; Maude Small, Preservation; Velma Bedford, Historical Research/Publications; Merle Matthews, Special Events; Charmaine Traylor, Budget and Finance; Bessie Moody, Constitution and Bylaws; Lela Wicks, Courtesy; Barbara Steele, Development and Fundraising; Ronald Morgan, Membership; and, Billie Richards-Alexander, Training and Evaluation. Board Advisors in several areas also assist staff in planning and implementing operational and programmatic activities.

Thanks to Supporters and Donors

We take this opportunity to express appreciation and gratitude to all 2001-02 BDR supporters and donors. Public recognition of these individuals and groups will be made during the Annual Membership Meeting, November 16, 2002 at the Craft House.

Notable among the donations are: porch chairs by State Representative Harriett Earhardt, personal garments of Mrs. Craft, a clipping file on Mrs. Craft by Kathryn Moore, and buckets for gardening projects by children in the Project FAST program. A very significant gift was made by the Youth Council of the Dallas Chapter of the NAACP. A plaque containing the Youth Council membership card and other materials given to them by Dr. Trudie Kibbee Reed, President of Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Arkansas. The group also loaned BDR some of their regional and national awards for display at the Craft House. Our thanks also to Robert Lydia, President of the Dallas Chapter of the NAACP and former member of the Juanita Craft's Youth Council, and his wife Linda, current director of the Youth Council.

Spring 2002 Events Tremendously Successful

The year started with the City Hall Exhibit in January. The Celebration of the 100th Birthday of the late Mrs. Craft on February 9th. the tours and presentations to more than 30 school groups in February. The First Annual W.J. Durhan/C.B. Bunkley/L.A. Bedford, Jr. Civil Rights Symposium in April. and the AZnual African American Heritage and Preservation Workshop in May. All of these events were exciting and well attended.

The birthday party in February was a very successful community event. So much so, that it has now become the annual Black History Month activity at the Craft House. Success of the first Civil Rights Symposium was assured with superb leadership by Demetris Sampson, Chairman. Emma Rodgers, Tom Perkins. Beverly Collymore, and supported by Publisher Mollie Belt of the Dallas Examiner. et. al. It was highly rated by the more than 100 attendees with requests for continuing dialogues focused on youth.

Presented annually by BDR for the past 15 years, the heritage and preservation workshops are conducted to develop skills in preserving personal and community heritage. This year it focused on developing a statewide network of African Americans who are interested in learning and sharing their heritage projects. Participants came from several other areas of the state. All of these activities are now annual events at the Craft House.

National Election Year Voter Education and Registration Activities

Charmaine Traylor and Velma Bedford are both deputized to give BDR leadership for participation in Voter Education and Registration drives through the November Election and beyond.

Thanks Monya Logan, Billie Roberts and Dallas Symphony Education Staff for launching the Young Strings Program at J.J. Rhoads Learning Center. Black Dallas Remembered will give support to the program as needed. Thanks also to Joyce Sterling, DISD Area 2, Dr. Norman Dyer, Regional Office of EPA, and his staff for their valuable assistance in getting the Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson Project FAST underway.

Craft House Tour Fees:

Children 5 years and younger: Free

Children 6 to 12 years: \$2.00

Students 13 through 18 and Seniors: \$3.00

All other Adults : \$4.00

Special school group tour rates are available. Group tours must be arranged at least two weeks in advance. All mobile and house tour fees are used for maintenance and upkeep at the Museum.

Wish List

A major item on the on-going BDR Wish List is a larger corp of trained docents for the Craft House, increased funding, plans for the J. Craft Memorial Gardens and, more volunteers and staff to meet the growing demand for outreach programs and services.

We are grateful to the City of Dallas Park and Recreation Department for the beautiful flowers planted at the Craft House this summer. We also appreciate the added care and treatment of the trees. Thanks on behalf of the late Mrs. Craft. We appreciate your attention to this important part of her legacy - a beautiful environment.

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R Inc.