

Family Matters

June 23, 2008
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The Official Newsletter of the Gillyard, Johnson, Mahoney Family Reunions
www.gillyard-johnson-mahoney.com

Family Reunion Team Leader's Corner

Velma Dumas



We are only 39 days away from the third, Gillyard, Johnson, Mahoney Family Reunion. I want to take this opportunity to highlight some important details regarding the reunion.

Full payment of reunion fees is due **June 30, 2008**. Please mail fees to Velma Dumas, P.O. Box 8592 Shreveport, La. 71148, or log on www.gillyard-johnson-mahoney.com and click on "Buy Tickets" to pay fees. To arrange other payment options, call **Velma at (318)636-2108**.

In 2004, our Call to Action, Healthy Living, Healthy Lifestyles, called on family members to take action regarding their health. This year during our Meet and Greet, health screenings will be provided for family members. Dominique Gillyard, co- team leader and registered nurse has put together a team of health care professionals who will provide screenings for high blood

pressure, blood sugar, Body Mass Index (BMI) and other health related screenings. We want to continue to promote healthy lifestyles by educating our family on health-related problems, important and unique to African Americans.

Our Historian and the Family Research team have completed "Family Favorites" a recipe book; and a 12 month Family Wall Calendar. Over 30 family members contributed recipes for the cookbook. The recipe book and calendar are treasured family keepsakes and will be available during the reunion.

I encourage each of us to take time out to review and meditate on our Mission Statement: **"To focus on the things that shape us, rather than the circumstances that divide us; to strengthen and preserve family as God orders our steps. We value: God's Plan, Family, Tradition, Service"** and let's celebrate and embrace family August 1-3, 2008. I look forward to seeing all of you.

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Important Dates

**June 30, 2008
Reunion
Fees Due**

**August 1-3, 2008
Reunion Dates**

Family Spotlight



This month the spotlight shines on Kimberly Gillyard. Kim is the daughter of Doris Breakenridge Gillyard and the late Ishmell Gillyard and also the granddaughter of Robert Gillyard Sr. Kim resides in the Dallas area where she was also raised. She has worked in the Human Resources profession for the past 10 years and currently serves as a Corporate HR Manager for Sourcecorp Incorporated, a document imaging company. She is a very active member of the First Baptist Church of Hamilton Park in Richardson TX, participating in the choir, singles ministry, and employment ministry. Her hobbies include spoiling her niece and nephew, reading, and traveling whenever and wherever she can. She is passionate about education and pursuing continual learning opportunities. She has completed studies in management, psychology, strategic leadership and human resources. Among her plans of things to do next, is to pursue a degree in Library Science. Attend the family reunion, August 1-3, 2008, and learn more about Kim. Keep shining, Kim. **You are family!**

The following article was summarized from yahoofinance.com.

Baby Boomers are finding that their aging parents are in need of health care assistance. In answering our 2006 Call to Action, Financial Planning/Management, this month we take a look at the cost of caring for our aging parents. Luckily, there are many options available today to help your parents grow old gracefully, either in their own home or in a facility, and several ways that you can finance the cost of the care. Before you start, speak with your parents to clarify expectations and options regarding your role as a caregiver. You should also seek advice from other family members and friends who are already caring for an aging loved one, and learn how different types of residential care facilities operate.

One of the biggest worries of those caring for an aging parent is how to pay for the care needed. You can claim your parents as your dependent if his or her gross income meets federal guidelines, giving you a tax exemption for each parent cared for and allowing you to write off much of the medical expenses. (Note: The dependent exemption phases out at higher income levels. Check with your tax advisor). If sending your parent to a nursing home is inevitable, be sure you research each home extensively. Keep in mind, too, that the government offers limited financial help for those

Families paying for nursing home care. And with the average nursing home care costing upwards of \$6, 175 per month, financial planning has become even more crucial to the economic well-being of adult children responsible for the care of their elderly parents. Don't wait until the last minute. Start planning now to ensure the future care of your parents.



Summary

- As the population ages, many Baby Boomers may be called upon to care for an aging parent.
- There are a range of options available to senior citizens, including continuing-care retirement communities, moving a parent into the child's home, or modifying a parent's home to make it safe.
- Certain tax breaks may be available if you can claim your parents as a dependent.
- Research all your options, and consult the various resources available for the elderly.



Take Action

- Increase contributions to your emergency and retirement accounts in order to continue safeguarding your own financial future.

Family Happenings

Happy Birthday to You!

- May 23rd Emmanuel Mahoney
- May 29th Dorothy Clinton
- June 2nd Gloria Gillyard
Kaylon C. Marshall
- June 9th Bryson Martin
- June 11th Daisy Reed
- June 15th Jaida Davis
- June 18th Gregory Bogan
- June 25th Sonya Gillyard
Reina Gillyard

June 26th

Dorothy Gillyard

June 28th

Lionel Davis

A Belated Happy Father's Day
to all our fathers

Fathers

With thanks to
Wonderful Fathers
However far the journey,
However long we live,
We'll find among
Life's greatest gifts
The love that fathers give.

Poems about Family

By: Sylvia Lucille Gillyard and Unknown Author

The Family Tree

Author unknown

I think that I shall never see
The finish of a family tree.
As it forever seems to grow
From roots that started long ago.
Way back in ancient history times,
In foreign land and distant climes.
From them grew trunk and branching
limb,
That dated back to times so dim.
One seldom knows exactly when
The parents met and married then,
Nor when the twigs began to grow
With odd named children row on row ...
Though verse like this is made by me,
The end's in sight as you can see.
'Tis not the same with family trees
that grow and grow through centuries!

(Author unknown)

Family

By: Sylvia Lucille Gillyard

Family is
people who love you.

Family is people who help you,
especially through hard times.

When things go wrong, family will
drop everything to get to you. Family
never whines.

Family will never give up on you.

Family is like a shining star with five
points. Each point represents
something different.

And though there may be family
differences, yet the family shines
brightly, just as the shining star,
which lights the heavens.



*I think that I shall never see
The finish of a family tree*

Sylvia Lucille is 14 years old and attends
Virgil Middle School in Los Angeles, CA.

Storytellers

Bettie Gillyard Griggs, Historian

Recently a colleague of mine, who shares my passion for genealogy, shared this passage by an unknown author with me, "We are the chosen. In each family there is one who seems called to find the ancestors; to put flesh on their bones and make them live again. To tell the family their story and to feel that somehow they know and approve. Genealogy is not a cold gathering of facts; instead, it is breathing life into all who have gone before. We are the story tellers of the tribe. All tribes have one. We have been called as if it were in our genes. Those who have gone before cry out to us: Tell our story, and so we do. In them we find ourselves." She said to me, "Bettie, this is who we are. We are the Storytellers."

As I've researched and reviewed documents, and conducted oral interviews, I've grown to a deeper understanding of our ancestors. Before I started my ancestral journey, I knew little or nothing at all about my grandparents. Now, I've put flesh on their bones and now they live as their stories are told. I have heard their cries and I have shed tears. I have laughed with them and I have shared their pain, joys, triumphs, their need to be

understood and their need to be forgiven.

I admire their strength and love and how they as humbled farmers shielded our Moms and Dads, Aunts, Uncles, from the pain of "going without." It is no doubt that because of that, we have learned more important lessons. We've learned the importance of sharing and the importance of stick-to-itiveness.

As I tell our family stories, it helps me to define who I am. These stories define me as an individual with hopes, dreams; and purpose; and as part of a larger family, with shared purpose and dreams. These stories are like treasured family keepsakes, and that is what calls those young and old to step up and put flesh on the bones.

I've found myself. I can see the common thread of past generations, but now as I tell their stories, I weave my own unique story, that someday, someone else will also tell.

Family Circle Quiz

Find the hidden words. They may be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, forwards or backwards

Family Historian
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Family Reunion Colors:

Black, White, Gold

Family Reunions Mission:

To focus on the things that shape us rather than the circumstances that divide us; to strengthen and preserve family as God orders our steps. We value God's Plan, Family, Tradition, Service.

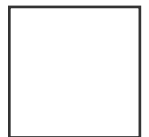
We're on the web:

www.gillyard-johnson-mahoney.com



ANCESTOR, AUNT, BABY, BROTHER, BROTHER-IN-LAW, CHILD, CLAN, COUSIN, DESCENDANT, DESCENT, FAMILY, FAMILY TREE, FATHER, GENERATION, GRANDFATHER, GRANDMOTHER, HEIR, HEIRESS, HOUSEHOLD, INLAWS, ISSUE, KINFOLK, LINEAGE, MATRIARCH, MOTHER, NIECE, OFFSPRING, ORIGIN, PARENT, PATRIARCH, PROGENITOR, PROGENY, RELATION, RELATIVE, SISTER, SISTER-IN-LAW, TRIBE, UNCLE.

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