

Family Matters

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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

The 2008 Gillyard, Johnson, Mahoney Family Reunion is fast approaching. The planning team is working hard putting the finishing touches in place to ensure a weekend full of fond memories as we go "Back Down Memory Lane." I've listened to you, as I've reviewed surveys from our past reunions.

Please remember that during the weekend, you are encouraged to dress in styles reminiscent of the many fads we've worn or admired over the years. This is your opportunity to bring back that leisure suit, platform shoes, and don't forget those afros and Keri curl hair styles. I can just imagine seeing those hot pants with our family tee-shirts at the family picnic.

Be sure to read the article "Style

Memories" and see possibilities of styles you may choose to wear for the reunion.

Beginning with this newsletter, we are pleased to introduce a new regular feature for our newsletter, "Family Spotlight." This feature is an excellent opportunity to learn more about family and this month, we spotlight, Darrell Mims (see below).

Remember registration for the reunion is open. You can mail your reservation and fees to Velma Dumas, P.O. Box 8592, Shreveport, La., or you can pay on line by logging on www.gillyard-johnson-mahoney.com, click on "Buy Tickets." It's just that easy. I look forward to seeing all of you, at our reunion, August 1 -3, 2008.

Inside This Issue

Team Leader's Corner	1
Important Dates	1
Family Spotlight	1
Debt Elimination	2
Family Milestones	2
Black Family Pledge	3
Style Memories	3
Family Quiz	4

Family Spotlight



This month the spotlight shines on **Darrell Mims**. Darrell is the son of the late Exxie B, and the grandson of Celeste Clinton, which means that Charlie and Cynthia Gillyard were his great grandparents. Darrell is a musician with over 40 years of experience, known for his George Benson influenced guitar and vocal style. He also plays a unique blend of jazz and blues on lead and bass guitar, keyboard, flute and alto and tenor saxophone. He recorded with the late Mary Wells, Little Johnny Taylor and Tyrone Davis. Darrell is currently recording "Bits and Pieces" a jazz CD, showcasing his

diverse musical range. He resides in Shreveport, La., and he performs regularly at festivals, clubs and recording sessions around the local area, with Professor Pork Chop, the Lou Wells Orchestra and Jazziana. Darrell is family. Get to know more about him at the Gillyard, Johnson, Mahoney Family Reunion. **Shine on Darrell, You are family!**

Important Dates

- ◆ June 30, 2008 T-Shirt Sizes and Reunion Fees Due
- ◆ August 1-3, 2008 Reunion Dates

Debt Elimination

2006 Call to Action Update

This month's article features information regarding strategies for eliminating debt.

Is debt overwhelming your finances? If you have nightmares about being surrounded by creditors, it's time to put down all credit cards, tighten the proverbial belt and start living not only within your means, but under them until you've paid back what you owe. Take control of your debt and commit to the following strategies so you can start using credit to get ahead, rather than always playing catch-up.

Know Where You Stand - Ignorance may be bliss, but it won't solve your problems. The only way to get out of a debt predicament is to know how much you really owe creditors. Once you've tallied your debt, add up your income and subtract fixed expenses. The amount leftover is money for discretionary spending and paying down debt.

Create a Plan - Take a short self-inventory to determine the best repayment plan. There are two main approaches to paying off debt: - **High to low**. You pay off the card with the highest interest rate first. This gets the most out of every cent you send. - **Big to small**. You pay off the card with the biggest balance first, regardless of

interest rate. This creates big results fast, but may not be the best bang for your buck.

Set Aside Some Savings - saving is a crucial aspect of a sound strategy to pay down debt. If you have three to six months of living expenses saved up, you're golden; otherwise, build an emergency savings buffer.

Pay More Than The Minimum -It is crucial to pay down more than the minimum each month. If you can't afford to pay down more than the minimum, sit down to figure out where you can save more. Leave no stone unturned.

Improve Your Terms - Creditors may waive fees, reduce interest rates or agree to more flexible repayment terms.

Seek Help - If you don't have the time or know-how to get results on your own, turn to a good credit counseling company rather than stalling or feeling frustrated by your ineffectual attempts at changes.

Family Take Action:

- ELIMINATE DEBT!

Family Milestones

Birthdays

April 8 th	Johnnie Griffin
April 15 th	Cassandra Griffin
April 25 th	Frederick M. Gillyard
April 28 th	Rosetta McMillan

"Happy Mother's Day" to all our mothers.

May is that time of the year for graduations. No graduation news was submitted. However, Family Matters

would like to wish any graduate whose name did not reach us:

CONGRATULATIONS



2008 GRADUATE

Email Birthdays, Marriages, Births and other News and Milestones to bettiegillyard@aol.com by July 15, 2008.



Black Family Pledge

By: Dr. Maya Angelou

Because we have forgotten our ancestors our children no longer give us honor.

Because we have lost the path our ancestors cleared, kneeling in perilous undergrowth, our children cannot find their way.

Because we have banished the God of our ancestors, our children cannot pray.

Because the long wails of our ancestors have faded beyond our hearing, our children cannot hear us crying.

Because we have abandoned our wisdom of mothering and fathering, our befuddled children give birth to children they neither want nor understand.

Because we have forgotten how to love, the adversary is within our gates,

and holds us up to the mirror of the world, shouting, regard the loveless.

Therefore, we pledge to bind ourselves again to one another; to embrace our lowliest,

To keep company with our loneliest, to educate our illiterate, to feed our starving, to clothe our ragged,

To do all good things, knowing that we are more than keepers of our brothers and sisters. We are our brothers and sisters.

In honor of those who toiled and implored God with golden tongues, and in gratitude to the same God who brought us out of hopeless desolation,

We make this pledge.

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Because we have lost the path our ancestors cleared, kneeling in perilous undergrowth, our children cannot find their way.

Because we have banished the God of our ancestors, our children cannot pray.

Maya Angelou

Style Memories

Bettie Gillyard Griggs, Historian

I am a self proclaimed “family-aholic”. I love talking about everything to do with family including family style and fashion. Do you remember your favorite back to school or Easter outfit? This year’s reunion will be the perfect opportunity to share that style with others.

As I view pictures taken of family over the years, I am not at all surprised that fashion, as it always does, comes and goes. Several decades become fashionable all over again.

With family in mind, I recently reviewed the 1902 Sears and the 1931-1932 Ward’s catalogs and took a look at not only what was being worn, but the cost of fashion that our parents and grandparents wore or told us about. The catalogs show an authentic record of what our ancestors were wearing during decades of tremendous change.

As I’ve recorded oral histories, several family members have recalled the flair for fashion of their mom, dad, aunts or uncles. Clothes define who we are, express who we want to become and help us remember where we came from. As historian, I enjoy studying undated pictures and dating the pictures based on the clothing and other items captured by the photographer. Take a look at these styles that I’ve seen on family pictures, and

consider wearing them as we go “Back Down Memory Lane,” August 1- 3, 2008.



1920s



1950's



Beehive



Afro



Bell Bottom Pants



Platform Shoes

Family Historian
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Family Quiz

Get answers at the 2008 Gillyard-Johnson-Mahoney Family Reunion

Family Reunion Colors:

Black, White, Gold

Family Reunions Mission:

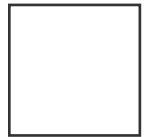
To focus on the things that shape us rather than the circumstances that divide us; to strengthen and preserve family as God orders our steps.

We're on the web:

www.gillyard-johnson-mahoney.com

1. In what Texas County was Cynthia Trammel Gillyard born?
 - A. Jefferson
 - B. Limestone
 - C. Harris
2. In the 1870 Census, you can find Caesar Mahoney's name recorded as:
 - A. Sam Mahony
 - B. General Mahony
 - C. Major Mahony
3. Which of the following was not a name of one of the six children born to Monroe (Bernard) Johnson and Mary?
 - A. Willie Johnson
 - B. Iona Johnson
 - C. Charley Johnson
4. In what year did Cynthia Trammel and Charlie Gillyard marry?
 - A. 1876
 - B. 1886
 - C. 1896

Family Historian
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**RECIPIENT NAME
STREET ADDRESS
ADDRESS 2
CITY, ST ZIP CODE**