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**BRENDA LAWRENCE** (center), Southfield mayor and SAC member, presents a proclamation to Paulette Boggs (left), foundation president, and Marcia Griffin, DST SAC president.

## Torch of Wisdom Foundation invests in the community, celebrates at open house

In September 2011, the Torch of Wisdom Foundation, Inc. (TOWF), a 501(c)(3) public charity, acquired a commercial office building, located at 21819 West Nine Mile Road in Southfield. It is believed that this is the first female African-American-established foundation to make such an investment in Oakland County.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Southfield Alumnae Chapter, under the leadership of President Marcia Griffin, established its offices at the Torch of Wisdom Foundation Plaza, joining current tenants in the facility.

The Torch of Wisdom Foundation held its official grand opening and dedication of the facility to the community on Dec. 8. On hand to celebrate were Southfield Mayor Brenda Lawrence, who presented a City of Southfield procla-

mation to the foundation. State Rep. Rudy Hobbs presented a proclamation to the sorority. Nancy Quarles, Oakland County Commissioner District 23, and Janie Fulton, chair of Women's Fund, Southfield Community Foundation, gave remarks and welcomed the foundation into the community. The event chair was Priscilla Phifer, foundation board member, and Debra DeBose and Denise Allen, co-chairs, representing the Southfield Alumnae Chapter.

Established in 1993 by a group of civic-minded women, the foundation exists to support education, cultural arts and community enrichment initiatives. The charity provides grants to support scholastic achievement and public service programs. The foundation is seeking funding to install an elevator to make it handicap accessible, thus expanding its reach for use by all groups.



**PAULETTE BOGGS** (from left) and Marilyn Hobbs present a proclamation to the sorority on behalf State Rep. Rudy Hobbs, to Marcia Griffin, SAC president, along with Hobbs' granddaughter, Amber Hobbs.



**THE SOUTHFIELD Deltas Council of Chaplains** are (from left): Venus Brown, Lurecie Stokes, First Vice President, SAC, Danita Wimbush, Chaplain President Georgan Redmond, past SAC president Arlene Hanton Young, Past SAC president Carolyn Parnell Stansbury and Debra DeBose, open house co-chair.

## Prayer Workshop: 'Spending Time With The Father'

Glory and Praise Tabernacle Church Of God In Christ, 16573 Meyers Rd., will host an in-depth prayer enrichment workshop.

Dr. Leroy Jolly, noted author and prayer warrior, will cover over 50 lessons on prayer, commencing Sunday, Jan. 6 at 4 p.m. The goal is to move to spend one hour in prayer each day with our Heavenly Father.

Classes continue at 6 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, Jan. 7-9. Lessons include "Obstacles To Prayers Being Answered," "What God Is Able to Do (I, II, & III)"; "The Marriage Between Prayer and Faith" and "Live With A Prayerful Heart." Elder Krafus Walker is host pastor.

Visit <http://prayer.equippedtogrow.com> for sample lessons and additional information.



**JUSTICE MICHELINE RAWLINS** (standing, left) and Judge Denise Paige Hood. Seated are models Marla Williams (left) and Sharee Hall. They are at the Distinguished Women in International Service annual luncheon.

## DWIS holds annual charitable luncheon

The Distinguished Women in International Service (DWIS) hosted its annual charitable luncheon at the Motor City Casino Grand Ballroom. Proceeds from the endeavor help the organization's charitable outreach program, which benefits women and children in southeast Michigan and southwest Ontario.

This year, DWIS partnered with the Promised Land Project and awarded two scholarships to budding authors. In addition, they awarded two scholarships to two performing

arts students.

DWIS also has provided support for the Diaspora Conference, the Black Butterfly Black Monarch program, Adopt a Family at Christmas, the W.E.S.T. Center, Hour a Day Book Club and Cooke Elementary School, to name a few.

The event, a fashion extravaganza, opened with President Judy Summers giving the welcome; and the Chairman Justice Micheline Rawlins giving the greeting.

The colorful fashion show, featuring a parade

of first ladies of their churches, was commented by Sheila Barker. Tony Stoval provided fashions from Hot Sam's, Mr. Cedi brought the Cedi Collection, and Ricky Welch showcased the latest in furs by Silver Fox Furs. D.J. Rick Love provided the music.

DWIS' mission is to connect southwestern Ontario with Detroit area communities to promote and engage in service projects designed to expand friendship, global knowledge and common historical events.

## Detroit minister Portia Lockett pens ode to Jesus and the story of His birth

When God gives you an assignment, He also gives you a choice. Portia Lockett, co-founder of anSpire International Ministries, heard the word of God in a dream in 2001. From that dream, she wrote the lyrics to a song called "Happy Birthday Jesus." After writing the song, she continued on with her life — some ups and downs — as a minister, motivational speaker and eventually a licensed and ordained chaplain at the Detroit Medical Center.

However, in 2012, God spoke to her again and she realized that the time had come to release the song and share with family, friends believers and everybody else who would listen. "Happy Birthday Jesus" was released on YouTube on Wednesday, Dec. 5, and since then has received rave reviews and also been viewed by more than 1,000 people via YouTube, Twitter and Facebook.

"The assignment for 'Happy Birthday Jesus' was to share the story the way God gave it to me and then get it out there on YouTube and give people the opportunity to see and feel the passion of the birth of Christ," said Lockett.

Lockett, who had never produced a song, nor been the lead singer — in-



**PORTIA'S LOCKETT'S** album "Happy Birthday, Jesus."

stead preferring the background — said that once she started the process, the lyrics and music simply flowed out of her soul.

"I always felt comfortable singing background with harmony," said Lockett. "But when God wants something to happen, He puts you in a place of stretching you. Being out of your comfort zone really allows God to use you. I feel that this is the beginning of something great for me and anSpire Ministries."

"Happy Birthday Jesus" is the first single from Lockett and the launch of her new career direction as a writer and producer of Gospel music. She hopes that one day people will sing the song as a traditional Christmas tune, along with favorites such as "Silent Night" and "Oh Holy Night." AnSpire International Ministries also seeks to continue to encourage women to reach for their dreams, 365 days a year.

"Happy Birthday Jesus" by anSpire featuring Portia Lockett is available on iTunes and cdbaby.com.

For more information on anSpire, go to [www.anspireinternational.com](http://www.anspireinternational.com) and or call Ministry Marketing Solutions at 248.426.2300.

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