



New York Chapter

Black History Month  
Special Edition



## 2009 Black Family Technology Awareness Week: February 15-21

### Inside this issue:

- Black Family Technology Awareness Week** 1
- Obama Inauguration - BDPA Member Testimonial** 1
- Preparing for the DTV Transition** 2
- African American Technology Contributions** 2
- Committee Updates** 3
- Black History Month Events Around New York** 3
- BDPA-NY Event Calendar** 4



BDPA-NY invites you to join us at our events planned as a part of 2009 Black Family Technology Awareness Week (BFTAW). BFTAW is a national public awareness campaign designed to encourage more African Americans to incorporate technology into their daily lives. The event focuses on closing the digital divide by helping bridge the gap between black families and technology. A complete listing of all BDPA-NY's events is below and online at [www.bdpa-ny.org/bftaw.htm](http://www.bdpa-ny.org/bftaw.htm)

**Monday, February 16**  
**2 pm—6 pm**  
**Kickoff Event and Education Forum**  
**Guest Speaker:**  
**Jesse L. Bemley, Ph.D.**  
*JPMorganChase*  
*3 MetroTech Center*  
*Brooklyn, NY*

This forum gives BDPA-NY Chapter an opportunity to share with our community and sponsors our exciting youth initiatives such as BDPA's IT Showcase and High School Computer Competition (HSCC) Program. Past winners of the IT Showcase will present and demonstrate their technical research skills by sharing their research papers. Also, our HSCC students will showcase a web application they developed.

**About Dr. Jesse Bemley:** Dr. Bemley, a former National BDPA Education Chairperson, developed the High School Computer Competition (HSCC) program in 1986, and spearheaded the efforts to get BDPA accepted as a constituent society of the *Institute for Certification of Computing Professionals (ICCP)*. With the ever-growing need to possess basic computer skills in the current job market, he recognized the large number of minority students with little or no computer literacy, and real-

ized that individuals without these skills would be left with very little employment opportunities. Dr. Bemley has worked since the early 80's to involve students, especially at the high-school level, in national and international computing and engineering conferences, meetings, and symposia. He has written numerous articles on various computer topics. Currently he is CEO of *Joint Educational Facilities, Inc. (JEF)*, an all volunteer non-profit community-based K-12 organization, teaching primarily junior and senior high school students advanced computer science and math topics with an emphasis on Intelligent Technologies.

**Tuesday, February 17**  
**BDPA-NY SITES Tours the United Nations**  
**10 am—3 pm**  
**For SITES Students Only**  
*United Nations*  
*New York, NY*  
*(continued on page 2)*

## Inauguration of President Barack Obama—A BDPA Member Testimonial



On January 20, 2009, history was made as, at a little past noon, Barack Obama was sworn in as the first African-American President of the United States. On a below freezing day in Washington, DC almost 2 million people of all ages, races, nationalities and backgrounds, filled the National Mall, to be as close as possible to the history taking place on the US Capital grounds. The Mall, an almost 2 mile stretch of open field, was full of onlookers gathered as far away as the Lincoln Memorial, including myself and my friend who traveled all the way from Tampa, FL. It was truly a sight to see everyone gathered, full of emotion, excitement, and hope, as America saw it's first new president in eight years, an African-American president many thought we would or could never see, especially those that remembered the turbu-

lent times of the Civil Rights movement. And though it was absolutely freezing, and many people had been on the Mall since 4:30 am (like my friend and I) the excitement and energy surrounding the inaugural festivities going on a short distance away (but watched closely on one of the many Jumbotron) caused many to not think about how long they had been standing or how cold they were. From Aretha Franklin's soul-stirring rendition of "Let Freedom Ring" to President Obama's inspiring inaugural address, it was truly a memorable experience. Not only am I very hopeful of America going in a brand new direction, but I hope that others will feel inspired, like myself, to continuously give back, and help better their own communities and neighborhoods, which, together with President Obama's leadership, can collectively make a great difference.

*Submitted By Danielle Cauthen*



## Preparing for the DTV Transition



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The cut off date for the conversion from analog television to digital television (DTV) has been extended from Feb. 17, 2009 to June 12, 2009. The reason for the extension was due to the

large percentage of households that were not ready for the original cut off date. The purpose of the conversion from analog to digital television is to free up the airwaves for emergency responders.

If you currently get your television service by a cable, satellite or other paid service you do not have to worry about the transition. If you are relying on an antenna for your television transmission then you must take action prior to the June 12, 2009 cut off date. The following are the options that you can choose to make the transition:

- **Keep your analog TV and purchase a TV converter box**
- **Connect to cable, satellite or other paid services**
- **Purchase a television with a digital tuner**

The government has offered a coupon program as incentive for those who choose, or have to, keep their analog TV and purchase a converter box. You can either go to the website or call to request a coupon providing a \$40 discount towards the purchase of a converter box. There is a limit of 2 coupons per household and the coupons have a 90 day expiration period. Due to

the extension, if anyone currently holds a converter coupon which has expired, they will be able to reapply for the converter coupons. To apply for a coupon, the contact information is as follows:

**Website:** [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov)

**Phone:** (888) 388-2009 [toll free 24 hour]

**Phone:** (877) 530-2634 [English / TTY]

**Phone:** (866) 495-1161 [Spanish/TTY]

My experience in assisting my mother, who is a senior citizen, with this process showed me how it could be a bit confusing for senior citizens. The connection to the TV can be done easily. The next step is to have the converter box scan for channels. Close attention should be paid to this process so that you can determine which analog channels were converted to digital channels. You should know that loss of reception is possible under DTV due to the range of the DTV signal capacity. The most challenging change for a senior citizen may be the fact that the digital channels are not necessarily the same as the analog channels. For instance, in New York City, channel 9 (UPN) on analog television becomes channel 5.2 under DTV. Based on this information, I would like to challenge you to reach out to a senior citizen or someone with a disability and check to see that they are ready for the DTV transition, and, if they aren't, try to assist them. This would be one way that you are answering the service call from President Obama.

*Submitted by Denise Hamilton*

## Technology Contributions from African-Americans



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**Lewis Howard Latimer**  
(1848-1929)

invented an electric lamp; was the only African-American member of Thomas Edison's engineering laboratory.

**Granville T Woods**  
(1856-1910)

invented telegraph allowing moving trains to communicate with other trains and train stations, thus improving railway efficiency and safety.

**Garrett Augustus Morgan**  
(1877-1963)

received a patent for traffic signal featuring automated STOP / GO signs, which were later replaced by traffic lights



**Frederick McKinley Jones**  
(1892-1961)

invented a self-starting gas engine and a series of devices for movie projectors; invented first automatic refrigeration system for long-haul trucks

**David Crosthwait, Jr**  
(1898-1976)

designed the heating system for Radio City Music Hall in New York

**Patricia Bath**  
(1942-)

Invented the Laserphaco Probe for the treatment of cataracts.

**Mark Dean**  
(1957-)

led team of IBM scientists who developed the ISA bus—a device enabling computer components to communicate rapidly, making PCs fast and efficient for the first time; also led design team that

## Black Family Technology Awareness Week cont.

*(Continued from page 1)*

Our future technologists will have the opportunity to take a tour of the Technology Center at the United Nations (U.N.), located in New York City. This exposure not only will add to their enthusiasm about technology but will provide them with the opportunity to network with U.N. IT Professionals.

**Thursday, February 19**  
**BDPA Entrepreneurs - Drive Your Business Using Technology (Sponsored by UBS)**

**3 pm – 7 pm**  
**UBS**  
**1285 Avenue of the Americas**  
**New York, NY**  
**Panelists: Erika Cunningham (UBS), Jacqueline Muna Musiitwa (Hoja Law Group), Shawn Ames (Voeazul), Bryan Tomlinson (BT Designs), Mike Street (Street Force), Ramon Ray (Smallbiztechnology.com)**

This event allows BDPA Entrepreneurs the opportunity to share with sponsors and community how they use technology to build and support their

businesses. This event also allows the community and local businesses to learn the role technology can play in their business growth.

To RSVP or for more information e-mail Cheryl Nedwell at [bftaw@bdpa-ny.org](mailto:bftaw@bdpa-ny.org).



## BDPA-NY Committee Updates



### Community Outreach & Education

Saturday, January 24, was the Kick-off for our 2009 Student IT Education and Technology (SITES) Program. We are happy to report that approximately 15 youths registered for the program. Training will begin next week at Medgar Evers Preparatory High School in Brooklyn, NY. This was an awesome experience as BDPA

members got an opportunity to network with those students, who may represent New York at our upcoming 2009 Regional Conference. If you are interested in sharing your technical expertise with our youth, please send an email to Denise Hamilton at [educ@bdpa-ny.org](mailto:educ@bdpa-ny.org).

### Membership Management & Human Resources

In addition to participating in the Career Fair at the Wall Street Project, these commit-

tees want your input. Have you published anything? Have you spoken at a seminar? Are you interested in sharing your technical expertise? We network every third (3rd) Thursday of the month. If you are interested or would like additional information, please email Renetta English at [vpmm@bdpa-ny.org](mailto:vpmm@bdpa-ny.org). Also for a list of program topics for 2009, please visit our online calendar at [www.bdpa-ny.org/calendar.htm](http://www.bdpa-ny.org/calendar.htm).

### Communication

BDPA-NY is now on Facebook! You may join the group by visiting [www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=55847293240](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=55847293240). Also, if you have experience with web design or writing, please send an email to Danielle Cauthen at [comm@bdpa-ny.org](mailto:comm@bdpa-ny.org).

## Black History Month Events Throughout New York City

February 6–19

### Faded Glory: Oscar Micheaux and Black Pre-War Cinema

Tickets: \$11 public, \$7 member/student/child, \$8 senior

Walter Reade Theater

The Film Society of Lincoln Center  
New York, NY

Visit [www.filmlinc.com](http://www.filmlinc.com) for more information

February 7– March 21

### Film Series: African-Americans and American Politics

Free admission

Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

New York, NY

Visit [www.nypl.org/research/calendar/prog/sch/schser.cfm?id=363](http://www.nypl.org/research/calendar/prog/sch/schser.cfm?id=363) for a complete listing of films

February 8-27

### Black History Month in Central Park (presented by the Central Park Conservancy)

All Events Free Admission

Central Park

New York, NY

Visit [www.centralparknyc.org/site/PageNavigator/events\\_BlackHistoryMonth](http://www.centralparknyc.org/site/PageNavigator/events_BlackHistoryMonth) for a complete listing of all events

Thursday, February 12

### Brooklyn Sings, Brooklyn Swings: Chanda Rule

2:00 pm

Free admission

Brooklyn Public Library—Central Library,  
Dweck Center  
Grand Army Plaza  
Brooklyn, NY

February 13– February 15

### National Black Fine Art Show

Tickets- Adults \$15 (Students \$10), 2-Day Pass \$25, Child 16 & under free w/ an adult.

7 W. 34th St.

New York, NY

Visit [www.nationalblackfineartshow.com/Info.html](http://www.nationalblackfineartshow.com/Info.html) for more info

Saturday, February 14

### Annual Langston Hughes Celebration

11:00 am

Queens Library—Langston Hughes Branch  
100-01 Northern Boulevard  
Corona, NY 11368

February 15 – May 17

### Dance Theater of Harlem Open House

All performances at 3:00 pm  
Tickets- Adults \$18, Child \$14

466 West 152nd Street

New York, NY

Visit [www.dancetheatreofharlem.org/ohs.html](http://www.dancetheatreofharlem.org/ohs.html) for a complete list of shows and to purchase tickets

Tuesday, February 17

### Alliances in the Arts, L'd Up: Look, Listen and Learn - Performance and film

6:00 pm–8:00 pm

Admission Free

New York University

Jerry H. Labowitz Theatre for Performing Arts

715 Broadway

New York, NY

Visit [events.nyu.edu/index.cgi?cmd=showevent&ncmd=listday&cal=cal8](http://events.nyu.edu/index.cgi?cmd=showevent&ncmd=listday&cal=cal8)

[0.cal12&id=190674](http://0.cal12&id=190674) for more info

Saturday, February 21

### Harlem Serenade: A Moment in Time

1:00pm-5:00pm

Free w/ Regular Museum Admission

American Museum of Natural History

New York, NY

Visit [www.amnh.org/programs/specials/blackhistory/](http://www.amnh.org/programs/specials/blackhistory/) for more info

Friday February 27 and Sunday March 1  
Strange Fruit in Concert

Harlem School of the Arts (w/ New York City Opera)

Tickets:\$15

645 St. Nicholas Ave

New York, NY

Visit [www.harlemschoolofthearts.org/strangefruit2.html](http://www.harlemschoolofthearts.org/strangefruit2.html) for more info

**Celebrate  
Black  
History  
Month**



Photos courtesy istockphoto



**BDPA-NY Contact Information**

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 Fax: 212-591-6093  
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**BDPA-New York 2009 Executive Board**

- President.....Judaea Y. Lane ([pres@bdpa-ny.org](mailto:pres@bdpa-ny.org))
- VP of Finance.....Wanda Jackson ([vpf@bdpa-ny.org](mailto:vpf@bdpa-ny.org))
- VP of Membership Management.....Renetta English ([vpmm@bdpa-ny.org](mailto:vpmm@bdpa-ny.org))
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- Recording Secretary.....Kevin Fountain ([recsec@bdpa-ny.org](mailto:recsec@bdpa-ny.org))
- Immediate Past President.....Jeffry Kimble ([ipp@bdpa-ny.org](mailto:ipp@bdpa-ny.org))

**About BDPA**

Founded in 1975 by Earl Pace and the late David Wimberly, BDPA (formerly Black Data Processing Associates) is a premier networking organization for minorities and IT professionals alike. BDPA is a global, member focused organization that positions its members at the forefront of the IT industry. We are committed to delivering value to our members strategic partners, and to the community. BDPA-NY aspires to be a leading chapter in the national BDPA organization. Our members include individuals who are employed with corporations, government agencies, educational institutions, entrepreneurs, as well as high school and college students.

The New York Chapter, 501(c)(6), is the 4th largest chapter of 56 Chapters across the United States. Chartered in September 1982, our chapter has successfully reached out to our community through networking, education programs, seminars, workshops, and the annual conferences. Also, we serve as community partner for the Community Technology Centers and engage everyone to learn about technology, careers, and higher education.

**2009 BDPA-NY Event Calendar**

**February 16-21**  
**Black Family Technology Awareness Week**

**February 19**  
**BDPA Day on the Hill**  
 Washington, DC

**March 19**  
**Program Meeting**  
 Mobile and Wireless Market Trends

**April 16**  
**Program Meeting**  
 Supplier Diversity

**May**  
**Date TBD**  
 Scholarship & Recognition Ceremony

**July 16**  
**Program Meeting**  
 Social Marketing Strategies

**August 5-8**  
 2009 National BDPA Technology Conference  
 Raleigh, NC

**August**  
**Date TBD**  
 IT Social Mixer and Membership Drive

**September 17**  
**Program Meeting**  
 Enterprise Architecture

**October 15**  
**Program Meeting**  
 Networking and Community Services

**November 19**  
**Program Meeting**  
 Business Intelligence

**December**  
**Date TBD**  
 IT Holiday Mixer

*Program Meetings begin at 6:30pm and are held (unless otherwise specified) at*

**UBS**  
 1285 Avenue of Americas  
 New York, NY 10005

**Subway Directions:** Take the **B, D, or F** to **47-50 Rockefeller Center** (closest stop), the **E or V** to **53rd St/5th Ave**, or the **N, R, W** to **49th St**.

*To attend a meeting/event it's extremely important to RSVP to [hr@bdpa-ny.org](mailto:hr@bdpa-ny.org). Please visit [www.bdpa-ny.org/events.htm](http://www.bdpa-ny.org/events.htm) for up-to-date info*

