

Benitez cited for efforts to commemorate Slavery Remembrance Day

Special to the Dallas Weekly

Venita Benitez did her research and discovered that globally August 23rd is recognized as the International Day for the remembering the Slave Trade and its Abolition.

According to Ms. Benitez, it came about on the nights of August 22 and 23 in 1791, in Santo Domingo (now known as Haiti and the Dominican Republic) the beginning of the uprising that would play a crucial role in the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.

The transatlantic slave trade lasted over 400 years, from the late 1400s until its abolition in the 1800s. International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is

intended to inscribe the tragedy of the transatlantic slave trade in the memory of all peoples. In accordance with the goals of the intercultural project. "The Slave Route", it should offer an opportunity for collective consideration of the historic causes, the methods and the consequences of this tragedy, and for an analysis of the interactions to which it has given rise between Africa, Europe, the Americas and the Caribbean.

Ms. Benitez says Slavery Remembrance Day is important because it helps us to commemorate the lives and deaths of millions of enslaved Africans and their descendants who were central to the rise of Britain and America as

an industrial power and to remember that the racism that developed from slavery created an unequal relationship between Africans, Europeans and Americans.

This day celebrates the resistance, rebellion and revolution that ended slavery, as well as the rise of popular movements for racial justice and social change that said both then and now, "Never again."

The International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition was first celebrated in a number of countries, in particular in Haiti (August 23, 1998) and Goree in Senegal (August 23, 1999). Cultural events and debates were organized the following year, beginning in Haiti where, on

the nights of August 22 and 23 of 1791, slaves in Bois Caïman launched an uprising. This rebellion would play a critical role in the abolition of slavery. The year 2001 saw the participation of the Mulhouse Textile Museum in France in the form of a workshop for fabrics called "Indiennes de Traite" (a type of calico) which served as currency for the exchange of slaves in the 17th and 18th centuries. The Director-General of United National Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) invited the Ministers of Culture of all Member States to organize events every year on this date, involving the entire population of their country and in particular

young people, educators, artists and intellectuals. The United States of America became a Member State of the UNESCO on October 1, 2003. The UNESCO's General Conference of 1997 adopted a resolution proclaiming August 23 of each year for its remembrance.

"As a descendant of British/American Slavery in America, I am proud to celebrate Slavery Remembrance Day as a reminder to those slaves who fought for their freedom and organized themselves despite the overwhelming forces ranged against them," said Ms. Benitez. "I am honored and grateful to receive from Mayor Tom Leppert a Special Recognition letter on the eve of August 23,

2007 acknowledging Slavery Remembrance Day from the City of Dallas.

And she wants to share her information.

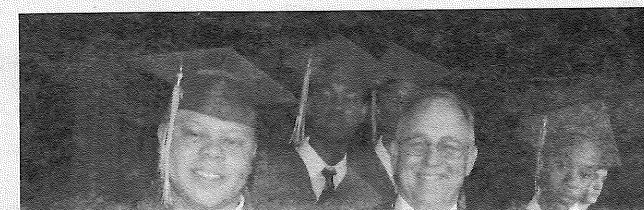
"My future hopes and desires are to raise enough money yearly to take children of all races and gender, from the Metroplex, interested in visiting the International Slavery Museum in Liverpool, England, to explore the slave trade and Liverpool's involvement addressing issues such as freedom, identity, human rights, racial discrimination and cultural change to help forward their global education and growth as citizens of America."

McCowan, continued from front page

The campus was named in honor of Curtistene S. McCowan, a former DeSoto ISD Board Trustee and current community volunteer, who has served two three-year school board terms including two

Alton Frailey and interim Superintendent Lloyd Treadwell spoke of the many ways Mrs. McCowan has influenced the district and the community.

In addition, guests heard



Heaven 97 hosts free Gospel concert

As America approaches the sixth-year anniversary of the world-changing terrorist future. Among the gospel artists expected to deliver soul-stirring musical performances