



ONE BOOK

ONE NEW ORLEANS

2007 READING SELECTION

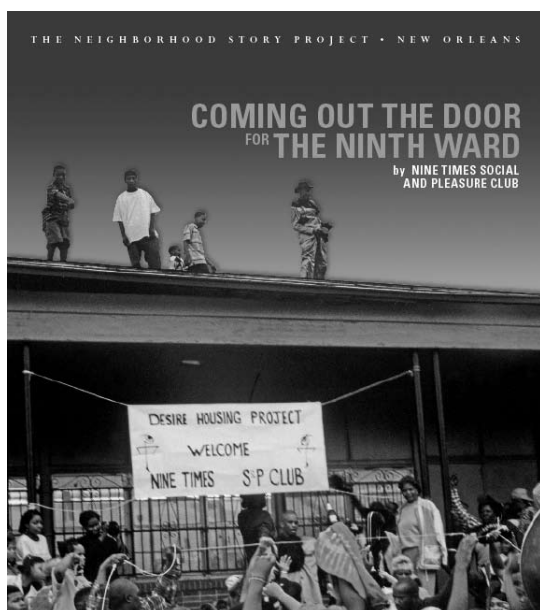
COMING OUT THE DOOR FOR THE NINTH WARD

by Nine Times Social and Pleasure Club

READER'S GUIDE



One Book, One New Orleans extends a special thank you to the Patrick F. Taylor Foundation for supporting the publication of this Reader's Guide.
Cover Photos: Jean Nelson; Tamara Jackson and Corey Woods; and Troy Materre. Photographs courtesy of the Neighborhood Story Project.



ONE BOOK, ONE NEW ORLEANS is proud to present *Coming Out the Door for the Ninth Ward*, by Nine Times Social and Pleasure Club, as its 2007 community reading selection. We are excited to showcase the first book written by a social and pleasure club about the second line community. Although images of second line parades are often used to represent our city, the voices of people who produce and participate in this tradition do not have

as many opportunities to be heard. In their book, *Nine Times* chronicle their lives growing up in the Desire Public Housing Development and the creation of one of the first parading organizations in the Upper Ninth Ward. Through stories and interviews, as well as photographs by Jules Cahn, Harold Baquet, Andy Levin, Ernie Green, and family photographs from *Nine Times* members, the rich tapestries of the Ninth Ward and second line communities come to life.

One Book, One New Orleans is a community-wide reading program of the Young Leadership Council and the Literacy Alliance of Greater New Orleans. Through this project, local residents age 16 and older share the experience of reading a single book. We have created this Reader's Guide to highlight some of the important events and discussions taking place around *Coming Out the Door*. Use the accompanying excerpt, discussion questions, interview, and events schedule to read and discuss the book, share the experience with others, and promote the joy of reading in our community. We hope it will inspire conversations about our cultural traditions in New Orleans, the importance of neighborhood pride, and safe and affordable housing for our city.

One Book, One New Orleans is a reading project hopes to inspire our community to read together and to help our family members, friends, students, and employees improve their literacy skills. In the greater New Orleans area, thirty percent of adults over age 16 are struggling with basic literacy. Their ability to help children with homework, complete a job application, find an intersection on a street map, read faith-based literature, or advance in the workplace is severely limited. As a city, we are also struggling with understanding each other across cultural differences that often feel like social divides in our day to day lives. Our book selection this year will help increase our written and cultural literacy—helping to build a common language and recognizing the strengths we all bring to the table. One Book, One New Orleans distributes copies of *Coming Out the Door* to community-based organizations, libraries, and public school classrooms to share the stories of our city with each other.

Sponsored by the Young Leadership Council, the Literacy Alliance of Greater New Orleans, Shell Exploration and Production Company, the Patrick F. Taylor Foundation, New Orleans Public Libraries, and Dillard University.

Support Literacy in New Orleans

THE LITERACY ALLIANCE of Greater New Orleans applauds the Young Leadership Council for their continuing leadership in making literacy enhancement a priority for the children and families of the New Orleans region. Low literacy is a common thread connecting our community's challenges, and everyone has a role to play in improving literacy.

We believe that increasing literacy is a challenge the entire community must meet.

- Our economic well-being depends on it—As education increases, the likelihood of employment and higher wages increase.
- Our families depend on it—The greatest predictor of a child's future academic success is the literacy level of the child's mother.
- Our neighborhoods depend on it—we need neighbors with the skills and resources to invest in our community as it rebuilds.

The Literacy Alliance of Greater New Orleans is working to develop a coordinated, well-integrated system of effective, high-quality literacy services across the region. What can you do to help?

- Become a volunteer tutor.
- Support a family member or friend who wants to continue their education.
- Develop a partnership with your local learning center.
- Invite adult learners to your workplace to learn about jobs and requirements for success.
- Sponsor in-kind or underwriting contributions towards literacy activities.
- Invest in basic skills training for your entry level employees.
- Support your children in their studies so they can stay in school.
- Read to your very young children every day.

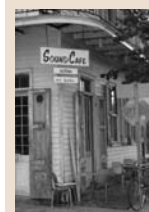
Education is not just for our children.

Learning is lifelong and vital to our recovery and our individual fulfillment.



Rebuilding New Orleans: The Second Line Model

Presented by One Book, One New Orleans and the New Orleans Social Aid & Pleasure Club Task Force



October 25, 2007

7 PM

Sound Cafe

2700 Chartres Street

A conversation about the role of social and pleasure clubs and brass bands in New Orleans featuring Tamara Jackson, President of the New Orleans Social Aid & Pleasure Club Task Force and the VIP Ladies; Waldorf "Gip" Gibson, President of the Furious Five and Vice President of the Young Men Olympia; Ronald W. Lewis, President of the Big Nine and the Director of the House of Dance and Feathers; and Benny Pete, Leader of the Hot 8 Brass Band.

Preface to *Coming Out the Door for the Ninth Ward*

by **Nine Times Social and Pleasure Club**



LEFT TO RIGHT: Sketch of the Desire Public Housing Development, courtesy of the Historic New Orleans Collection; the first Nine Times parade, courtesy of the Materre family.

“TO BETHANKFUL for your blessing you have to speak what it is. We thank God for raising us in the Ninth Ward’s Desire Housing Project. We couldn’t ask for anything different. Many places don’t get a chance to be mentioned, so when the opportunity came for us to write about the village, we took it to let the world know the blessing that came from Desire, the third biggest housing project in the United States.

Images of drug dealers and violence are regularly put on projects all over the world. Until you actually go there and see, you will never know the love, the family, and the potential that exists in there—not only in sports, but educationally and culturally as well. We have a chance to say some things about the ones who otherwise may never have been recognized—the old timers that paved the way without knowing it.

Bringing some pride back to the community is a job for someone, and you never know who it is or what it is. It doesn’t have to be a super speaker on black history all the time. We established Nine

Time Social and Pleasure Club in 1998 as a second line club with togetherness, familyhood, and fun. One thing about the tradition is, everyone wants to parade where God raised them up—whether it’s uptown, downtown, Carrollton, Algiers, or New Orleans East. The Ninth Ward is where we’re from and that’s where our smoke is coming from.

The first year we paraded, spirits awoke and we had some fun in that mighty Desire. You can imagine how much it hurt us as former tenants, and now club members of Nine Times, when the project was torn down with no future plans on what would be done with the village.

After Katrina, Nine Times Social and Pleasure Club members were displaced everywhere. Like so many others, we were doing the best to communicate. Once the majority of our members were back in town, we began to rebuild our club and plan for another parade. We also came together to write this book. While we’ve planned and participated in a lot of events together, we’d never done anything

like this before. It wasn’t always easy—sometimes it seemed like it would never end—but the process strengthened us to share some of our most important memories. We wrote about how we made it through our childhood in Desire and grew up to be independent. We looked back at our early experiences with second lining and traced the different paths that led us to join together as Nine Times.

To widen our perspective on the Ninth Ward and the second line culture of New Orleans, we talked to family members, friends, and people who helped us get established. We also asked club members who are still out of town, or just recently joined the club, to contribute some stories. Everything you read is true, and comes from the heart.

We’ve come a long way, but the struggle isn’t over. We have our sights set on November 19, 2006, when Nine Times will come out again on the 3400 block of Louisa Street. From there we’ll go up Louisa Street through Press Park, over that bridge to visit our people on the other side, to Franklin Avenue on our way back home to Desire Street, down Desire to that Florida Project back over the tracks and—get ready—it’s time to go through that mighty Desire once more. Keep this in your prayers and it will happen.

Raphael Anthony Peter Parker, Jr.

Troy Materre

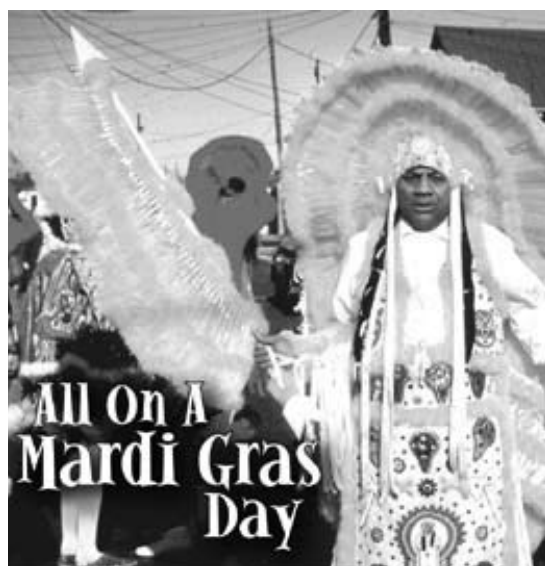
Gerald Platenburg

Corey Woods

Michael Simmons

Jean Nelson

Charlena Matthews



Conversation with Documentary Filmmaker Royce Osborne

October 29, 2007

7:30 PM

Prytania Theatre

5339 Prytania Street, New Orleans

Royce Osborne will present footage from his new documentary *Walkin to New Orleans* along with his classic film, *All On Mardi Gras Day*.

Director will discuss his films after the showings.

Across the Generations:

Brass Band Members Dialogue through Conversation and Music

November 6, 2007

6 PM

Musicians’ Union Hall

2401 Esplanade

New Orleans



Featuring Keith and Philip Frazier from the Rebirth Brass Band, and Ray Johnson, band director at John McDonogh Senior High with John Mac band members.

The Neighborhood Story Project

by Abram Himmelstein

This book, like the Neighborhood Story Project itself, has many beginnings.

THE FIRST BEGINNING

The first beginning was four weeks before the storm. Rachel and I were standing in front of Waukesha Jackson's home on N. Miro Street, in the Upper Ninth Ward. We were celebrating the release of her book, *Where Would the World Be Without Women, Stories From the Ninth Ward*.

We felt blessed—the first five Neighborhood Story Project books had come out, Waukesha and her mother, Pam, had reunited, and all the Ninth Ward residents who participated in the book were around us, celebrating. Waukesha's neighbor, Ms. Evella Pierre, was helping throw the party, and the Nine Times Social and Pleasure Club had decided to surprise Waukesha with a second line as a thank you for including them in her book. Members dressed up in beautiful suits and hired the brass band.

Waukesha, Rachel, and the rest of the block danced, but I was too stunned by the beauty, and too overwhelmed to see the best block party of my life celebrating this book. When the second-line was over, and the DJ had begun, Troy Materre, one of the members of Nine Times, leaned over and told us, "It's got us wanting to do our own book." It sounded like a good idea, but we were breaking for the summer and had to think about starting the writing program up again at John McDonogh Senior High for the fall.

BEGINNING AGAIN

After the levee failure, John McDonogh didn't reopen for the school year. Rachel was working with Helen Regis and members of Nine Times on an article for *American Anthropologist*. The guys were excited about the article, but also wanted to do a book of their own. Rachel and I talked about it, and decided to make it the Neighborhood Story Project's main project for the year.

We started having writing workshops on Monday nights. Beginning with writing about boyhoods in Desire. Beginning again with teenage years at Carver. For ten months, club members wrote down the moments that went into starting Nine Times. Then they began the interviews, catching people as they came back to town and started rebuilding. Corey Woods interviewing Adolph Bynum as he started cleaning out his house. Troy getting his mother to write a piece for the book just before she passed. Jean Nelson arranging

an interview with To Be Continued Brass Band while they played for tips on Bourbon Street. Michael Simmons interviewing his mother about growing up in the Ninth Ward. Gerald Platenburg interviewing Linda Porter from the Lady Buck Jumpers.

On November 17, 2006, we celebrated the book release. And then, after writing a book to span the distances, Nine Times brought us together with their first parade back in the Ninth Ward since the storm. With the theme "Rebuilding from the Ground Up," we retraced the map of places and relationships documented in the book.

BACK TO THE BEGINNING

We are two years gone from the block party for Waukesha's book. The first five books written by teenagers at John McDonogh have been republished. They have become textbooks in high schools and colleges across the country—portraits of New Orleans neighborhoods in the last months before the levees failed. The Nine Times book has gone into its second printing as well, thanks to One Book, One New Orleans.

The Neighborhood Story Project is set up in our new office in the Seventh Ward. From this old corner store, we're teaching writing again at John McDonogh Senior High, and working on the beginnings of several new books about New Orleans.

The Neighborhood Story Project is a partnership between the University of New Orleans, John McDonogh Senior High, and the Literacy Alliance of Greater New Orleans. For more information: www.neighborhoodstoryproject.org



ABOVE: Michael Redditt Standing on the bricks of Desire at the end of the Nine Times Parade 2004. Photograph by Rachel Breunlin

Letting the Whole World Know

Representing the Ninth Ward Through Writing and Parades

Rachel Breunlin, co-director and editor at the Neighborhood Story Project, and Troy Materre, one of the Nine Times authors, discuss the process of writing and publishing Coming Out the Door for the Ninth Ward, as well as some of the larger social issues it brings up.

Rachel: What was it like for y'all to write this book?

Troy: Writing this book was a new experience for all of us. I got to know a lot more about my club members' lives, their culture, and where they come from. The book basically brought us together as brothers.

R: How was writing in the workshops different than writing in school?

T: In school, you basically had to write for a grade. Writing this book was like writing for your pride: Expressing your feelings, writing things people never knew about you, and letting the whole world know.

R: The interviews created a space where you had the opportunity to talk to people that you've known for a long time in a different kind of way, too.

T: The interviews really brought the book together. You learn things about people you don't know. You ask them things about their life and you're like, "I didn't know that!" With the interviews, you give your readers other people's perspectives about you, your neighborhood, and club. But they also let people know we did it for the community, the culture—not just for us. We let everybody get a piece of this. We interviewed people uptown to downtown, from different clubs, second lines bands, family members.



TOP ROW FROM LEFT: Waukesha Jackson dancing with Nine Times at her block party, Gerald Platenburg at one of the NSP writing workshops, Jean Nelson (left) interviews her club member Ella Ward, and Michael Simmons (with hand up in the air) parades for the first time with Nine Times at Jazz Fest. **BOTTOM ROW FROM LEFT:** Corey Woods interviews Adolph Bynum, Nine Times members prepare to read at their book release party, and Raphael Parker sells books at the Lady Buck Jumpers Parade-. All photographs by the Neighborhood Story Project.

LANGUAGES

R: We decided to keep a good portion of the text in this book in the vernacular Black English that many New Orleanians speak. There's the standardized language that you learn in school, and then the language that you speak in your home, and in your community. We wanted to honor both, and decided not to use apostrophes and other notations to call attention to the difference.

T: Ebonics. That's what they call it.

R: In school, did you ever talk about the differences?

T: No one did talk about it. You spoke the "correct" English in the classroom, and you spoke the English you felt when you left that schoolyard.

R: Growing up, how did you feel about that split?

T: You kind of have mixed emotions about it. Your mother, your grandmother, your aunts—all the old people—tried to make you speak the proper English so you would know how. In certain times, you've got to speak it. You've got to know how to move between them if you are going for a job, speaking in front of people, or if you are trying to teach a child the English they're going to learn in school. It's just part of the world.

R: When I teach writing in high school, I teach my students how to write in the standardized English because that's the language of power. But I want them to know why it's a political issue. The people

who are in power will say, "Our English is the best. Your English is not as good as ours," which isn't true. I want my students to know how to respond to those statements by emphasizing the importance of appreciating and understanding Black English as it's own dialect. Moving between dialects is a process of translation, code-switching.

T: I think just because they're different doesn't mean it's broken English. It's how you say it, and how you feel about using it.

R: Each dialect has it's own cultural capital.

T: I hope people who read this book understand where we're coming from. The way we wrote it is how we felt in our heart and that's the best way to write it to get people to understand how we were brought up.

R: Cause language is part of culture. When they read *Coming Out the Door*, I hope they'll appreciate the rhythm and style of the language. Although it's a predominantly oral language and is known to celebrate new ways of saying things, the grammar patterns are just as consistent as so-called Standard English.

PARADES

R: While we were working on the book, I kept thinking about the strength Nine Times gets from parading together. You prepare to go out in public and put on this massive event each year. You can't worry what people think: you just do your best, and support each other. For years, you've been

making these statements to the world. I guess what I'm saying is the book isn't the first one.

T: You got a lot of people who are going to read the book haven't been to a second line, never been to a project in New Orleans—don't know nothing about Desire because there ain't no Desire anymore. They're going to learn a lot.

R: The Nine Times parade keeps the memory of Desire alive, even though the project was torn down.

T: When we parade, it's like a family reunion. A lot of people who lived in Desire who normally don't go to parades will come to Nine Times. They're happy to see everybody, and proud of what we're doing. "Keep up the good work," you know.

R: It gives people something to be proud of even if the neighborhood itself isn't there anymore. It's a powerful statement that y'all make even though you don't frame it in political terms. When it's coming close to your parade time, I hear people say, "That's my people," even if they don't know you personally.

T: Yeah, they say that. Or if they see you, they ask, "When that day!?" Even if they don't know your name, they know you're from that Ninth Ward: "Yeah! My people gonna throw down!"

R: I think about 2004 when y'all stood on the bricks of Desire in a lot next to Magee's Lounge after the parade was over. It was dusk, and the light was luminous.

LETTING THE WHOLE WORLD KNOW

T: Yeah, that was one of the most memorable moments right there for us. We got up there and it felt like we accomplished another year. Standing up there, opening up the fans, it felt like we were touching Louis Pierre, our club member who was killed in 2003. Showing him, “We done it again, Lou!” Everybody said, “Man, that was nice how y’all got on them bricks. I think that was the most beautiful thing up there I ever saw.” All we could see were flashes from cameras.

R: What did it feel like to stand on the bricks of your own community? It’s a powerful metaphor.

T: That was another thing. It made us feel like we were on top of the house again.

R: During the first year’s parade, when Raymond Williams was dancing on top the building. That’s the image we used for the cover of the book.

T: Yeah, on top of the Desire Center. It was a reclaiming of our roots.

R: What was it like to not have that community anymore?

T: Emptiness. That project community is a different kind of community than a regular residential community. When we grew up in the Desire, it wasn’t just your mother or your father being your guardian, it was your neighbors, and the neighbor’s neighbors. You couldn’t get out of hand with an adult.

R: When y’all were writing the book after the storm, we found out that the Lafitte wasn’t reopening, the St. Bernard, the new Florida and Desire. There continues to be a big debate about the worth of public housing in the city.

T: There were a lot of people that were left out. A lot of people that feel that’s their home—that’s all they got. It’s hard to pick up and start somewhere

new that you don’t know nothing about. Like I said, it becomes an empty place.

BOOK RELEASE

R: Y’all wanted to parade in the Ninth Ward again in 2006. We decided to organize the book release around it.

T: A lot of people asked us why we were going to parade down there; said, “There’s nothing down there.” It’s where we came from. We can’t abandon our roots just because of the storm. We got to show people, “We still here.” It was the best weekend we could have had. Leading up to the book release, we were doing a few readings here and there, slinging publicity posters at the second lines, signing them as we gave them. People who saw us were like, “Man, what y’all doing? Y’all ain’t coming out with no book!” Okay, then come to the book release party!

R: So talk about that night a little bit.

T: You can’t describe that night. That night is a night of all nights. We dressed up in our cream, our Kangols tilted to the side, pulled to the back. *We lookin good.* We all went around all nervous. The other guys said they weren’t, but they were. What really calmed us down, we got in that circle—as we always do—and said our prayer. Afterwards, it seemed like everybody’s sense of nerves just went. *It’s here. It’s our time to shine. Let’s do it.* And we did what we came to do. You got the whole place congratulating you. Every place you walk you’re signing books, you’re getting hugs. You just felt like a celebrity that night.

R: There were so many great moments that night, but after the reading, two stand out in my mind. One, when y’all were signing autographs, people who were interviewed in the books started signing books as well. All the people who were inter-

viewed loved it and felt like it was their book, too. And then at the end of the night, the brass band music started, and the crowd—over 500 people—lined up on either side of y’all and you danced down that line.

T: We just know how to cut up, that’s all.

R: The One Book, One New Orleans reading period is a second debut for the book. What do you hope people will get out reading *Coming Out the Door*?

T: We’re bringing back a lot of memories. For people who grew up in Desire, I hope when they read the stories and look at the pictures, they think about what a good time they had. And for people from outside Desire, hopefully they will take a look at their own communities. Step back and think about all the good times they’ve had in their neighborhood.

R: What advice would you give to people who want to write about their communities?

T: Think about the positive. Write what’s in your heart. Let your heart be that guide through that pencil. Write.

R: Even when they don’t want to write. Sometimes it’s hard.

T: When we first started this project, it got you thinking about all these things from way back. I kept saying, “Man, that’ll be nice in the book.” After awhile, you go to thinking you have enough for a whole book. It teaches you how to appreciate people.

The Literacy Alliance of Greater New Orleans Presents:

What’s Your Neighborhood Story?

Tuesday, November 13

For more information please email:
nicolosi@exchange.loyno.edu

Come share the stories of your community in a writing workshop run by the Neighborhood Story Project.



The Patrick F. Taylor Foundation recognizes the importance of literacy to our community as a whole, not just its children.

We are pleased to bring this timely book to the forefront.



**PATRICK F. TAYLOR
FOUNDATION**

www.TaylorPlan.com

2007 Event Schedule

All One Book, One New Orleans events are free and open to the public.

For more information: www.onebookoneneworleans.org

OCTOBER

Thursday 25

Rebuilding New Orleans: The Second Line Model

7 PM at the Sound Café
2700 Chartres Street, New Orleans

A panel discussion featuring Tamara Jackson, President of VIP Ladies Social and Pleasure Club and the New Orleans Social Aid & Pleasure Club Task Force; Waldorf "Gip" Gibson, Vice President of the Young Men Olympia and President of the Furious Five; Ronald W. Lewis, President of the Big Nine Social and Pleasure Club and Director of the House of Dance and Feathers; and Benny Pete, Leader of the Hot 8 Brass Band.

Monday 29

Walkin to New Orleans and All On Mardi Gras Day
7:30 PM at the Prytania Theatre
5339 Prytania Street, New Orleans

Screening of Royce Osborne's new documentary *Walkin to New Orleans* as well as his well-loved classic *All On Mardi Gras Day*.

Discussion Questions

- This book incorporates the voices of seven primary authors. How distinctive are their voices? Who did you relate to the most as a character and why?
- What were your favorite interviews in the book and why?
- What were your impressions of the Desire Public Housing Development before you read the book? How have they shifted, if at all?
- How does the writings on public housing contribute to the conversations about the future of public housing in New Orleans?
- How do second line parades create a sense of place and community in New Orleans neighborhoods? Have your impression of the parades changed since you've read the book? How?
- In the book, Nine Times members refer to each other as brothers and take care of each other like family. How have you defined family—does it include people who aren't related by birth?
- How are the images of urban neighborhoods portrayed in the book different from those portrayed on television shows and music videos?
- We often hear that music is important to the culture of New Orleans. How does this book strengthen or weaken this assertion?
- Since the publication of the book, the Second Line Task Force filed a lawsuit to keep the cost of parades down, arguing that the increases in fees was a violation of social and pleasure club's freedom of speech. They successfully settled out of court. Do you agree with this verdict?
- How has the book made you think about your own neighborhood? What stories would you like to tell about your places?
- How does *Coming Out the Door* contribute to our discussions of rebuilding in New Orleans?

Wednesday 31

Young Leadership Council General Membership Meeting & Social
6 PM at 228 Poydras Street

The YLC welcomes new members to learn more about the organization while listening to the Hot 8 Brass Band.

NOVEMBER

Tuesday 6

Brass Band Music Across the Generations
6 PM at the Musicians' Union Hall

Keith and Philip Frazier of Rebirth Brass Band, and Ray Johnson and the John McDonogh Marching Band talk about the evolution of brass band music in New Orleans.

Tuesday 13

What's Your Neighborhood Story?

Writing workshop hosted by the Literacy Alliance of Greater New Orleans and the Neighborhood Story Project. For more information contact nicolosi@exchange.loyno.edu or www.onebookoneneworleans.org

Featured Events



Meet the Authors

Thursday, November 15
Dillard University's
Lawless Memorial Chapel
7 PM

Nine Times authors read from and sign their book *Coming Out the Door for the Ninth Ward*.



Dance through the Ninth Ward

Nine Times Social and Pleasure Club's Annual Second Line Parade

Sunday, November 18, 2007
12 PM

Magee's Lounge, 3434 Louisa Street



Thanks to Our Sponsors

One Book, One New Orleans thanks our sponsors and community partners for their generous contributions and support of this program.



The Young Leadership Council (YLC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, civic organization created to develop leadership through community projects. YLC volunteers operate more than 20 community projects that focus on arts and culture, community service, economic and leadership development, youth education, and youth enrichment. www.youngleadershipcouncil.org



The Literacy Alliance of Greater New Orleans is committed to creating a community-wide ownership of and response to the issue of adult literacy in our community. www.literacyalliancegno.org



Shell Exploration & Production Company believes with leadership comes responsibility. Wherever Shell operates, they aspire to empower lives in the surrounding communities. They address issues affecting neighbors and families, such as literacy, education, and workforce development to afford everyone an opportunity to compete and perform at their best. See the Shell Report to learn more: www.shellus.com



The Patrick F. Taylor Foundation promotes the common good of all the people of our nation, primarily by promoting universal and unlimited educational opportunities based solely on each individual's ability and willingness to learn.



Eight of New Orleans Public Library's twelve branches were destroyed during Katrina. Now six locations are operating nearly full-time, including one branch that had been flooded (Alvar Street Branch in Bywater). Six temporary libraries are opening with funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Repairs are getting underway at other locations. This fall, we will have a master plan for rebuilding a library system that will be better than before the storm.



Dillard University is a private, historically black, comprehensive undergraduate institution, having as its purpose the development of graduates who are broadly educated, culturally aware, concerned with improving the human condition, and able to meet the competitive demands of a global and technologically advanced society. To achieve this purpose, the university strives to create and maintain an academic climate that is conducive to the pursuit of scholarship through programs of excellence anchored in the liberal arts.

One Book, One New Orleans would also like to thank all the participants in the panel discussions and other events for their support of the program. We'd also like to thank the Neighborhood Story Project, Hot Iron Press, Baty Landis and the Sound Café, Matt Sakakeeny, Helen Regis, the New Orleans Social Aid & Pleasure Club Task Force, Ray Johnson, and the John McDonogh Senior High Marching Band for their behind the scenes help. This Reader's Guide, along with the other promotional material for this year's One Book, One New Orleans programming, was designed by Gareth Breunlin [breunlin@hotmail.com].