

Elmore Family Newsletter
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Motto:
Our family is the family
where everybody is
somebody and Christ is
all

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.elmoreratliffreunion.com



RAISE A GLASS

White wines such as Chardonnay, Chablis, and Riesling must be served cold. I have not said U.S. wines are best, but are my favorites.

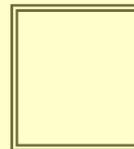
Fortunately, there are American wines as tasty as any wine in the world and thankfully less expensive. I serve California, Washington State, and New York wines and have always been pleased with my guests' reception of my choice.

Red wines such as Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Bordeaux, and Pinot Noir are easily found in your local wine store. Some need to be decanted, especially the older, bigger red wines. I encourage you to pour the red wine you are going to serve into a decanter, two hours before dinner, to achieve its optimum flavor.

Some guests still drink sherry. I serve Dry Sack and cocktail sherry before meals and sometimes a good port after dinner. It is important to remember that a good friend does not allow a guest to drive after too much alcohol. So have a good time and be wise.

Taken from *Great Food, All Day Long* by Maya Angelou

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"OUR FAMILY IS THE FAMILY WHERE EVERYONE IS SOMEBODY AND CHRIST IS ALL."

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It's A Family Affair

By Andrea Wren Smith

Elmore-Ratliff kinfolk from near and far have come together for a *joie de vivre* and to celebrate heritage and family, in Patterson, Louisiana. We will give new meaning to the phrase "*Laissez les bon temp roulet.*" For two days approximately 150 family members will let the good times roll with a reunion kick-off dinner at the Patterson Civic Center Friday evening, and a good ole back-in-the-day style family barbecue in the park. Sunday is reserved for a time of worship and reflection as kinfolk attend the churches of their choice and prepare for their travels home.

The highlight of the Friday evening dinner is the special program organized by Marilyn Perry LaSalle, granddaughter of Emily Elmore Perry and John Perry - kudos to "*Maddie*" for volunteering her talents and for putting together such a memorable event. Caterer Claudette Dugas owner of C&M Sweets and Treats remains true to our

The Future is Bright for Our 2013 Graduates

By Andrea Wren Smith

Congratulations to all of our 2013 Graduates on a job well done. In the spirit of the old Negro spiritual *This Little Light of Mine*, let your lights shine, let it shine, let it shine! We are proud of you and wish you all the best in your chosen fields.

Isaac LaRae Wren Beaulieu, the son of proud parents Donna LaRae Wren and Marvin Beaulieu of New Orleans, Louisiana, recently graduated from St. Augustine High School in New Orleans on Wednesday, May 15, 2013.

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Louisiana heritage by serving a scrumptious Creole Jambalaya complete with all the trimmings. Throughout the weekend, families will have a chance to mingle and catch-up with those they have not seen in a long time.

Saturday is a "*lagniappe*" day for everyone. It can best be described as a *laid back, fun-filled, eat-till-yuh-drop* kind of day. New bonds will be forged, friendships strengthened, and memories revisited. C&M Sweets and Treats will provide food and refreshments for a family fun day in the park as well. There will be tons of activities for the

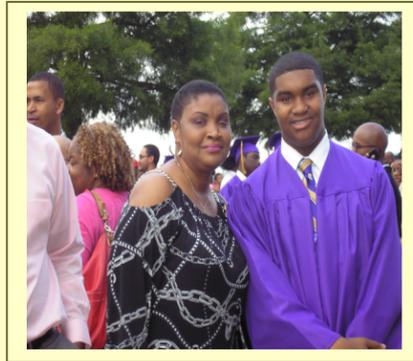
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Commencement exercises were held at the UNO Lakefront Arena. As an alumnus of St. Augustine, Isaac has been inducted into the fraternal order of the St. Augustine Josephites. Isaac will be attending Paul Quinn College (HBCU) in Dallas, TX. He will begin his studies this summer at Paul Quinn while participating in their Summer Bridge Program for incoming freshman. Isaac will be majoring in History with emphasis in Education. Isaac's parents are sending him off with their continued support, blessings and love.

2013 Graduates continue on page 2



Nine month old Braxton Emory Jimerson, the son of proud parents Robert Earl Jimerson, III and LaShondra Hilliard Jimerson attended The Little Gym and graduated from the Little Bugs class to the Little Birds class on Friday, May 24, 2013. At the graduation, Braxton showed his family members what he learned so far at The Little Gym such as crawl, walk, catch bubbles, forward rolls, wheelbarrow, and balancing on a ball. He received a ribbon for his fantastic accomplishments. Braxton is pictured with his parents, LaShondra and Robert, and his grandmother Mary Jimerson. **Go Braxton!!!**



Isaac and Mom after graduation pose for a picture together



Taking the Stress out of Planning a Family Reunion

<http://gatherings.info/Pages>

Few gatherings are as meaningful and memorable as family reunions. As families grow and the individual members follow their own paths, family reunions serve as mileposts. They're a chance to reconnect, share experiences and renew bonds. Here are some family reunion tips to make the most of your gatherings.

1. **Make sure there is interest**

Before you get started planning a family reunion, you must determine if there is an interest. Call a few of your closest relatives and get their input. If

they express interest, ask them to help you plan the event.

2. **Get help and form committees or teams**

Involving people in the planning process makes it easier for you and gives others a stake in the event's success. Make a list of areas you will need help with. Organize teams and match the abilities and interests of your relatives with functions such as food, finance, transportation, games and activities, and hospitality. Have each team keep records and compile them in a binder for your next reunion.

Continue on page 3

"As families grow and the individual members follow their own paths, family reunions serve as mileposts."



Some families require nothing more than tents, a grill and a park to have a good time.

children and the young at heart.

Our 2013 reunion theme is "Our Roots Grow Deep." And they've grown deeper since the last family reunion in 2000. Families have grown and are spread out across the United States and in other parts of the world. Mary Elmore Brandon's great-grandson, Delmas Green, III resides in Australia. Lamont Smith, grandson of Chaney Elmore Wilson is stationed in Afghanistan. Although, many could not celebrate with us, we know that they are with us in spirit, as well as our oldest living relative, Mrs. Sadie Elmore Wilson.

Family Reunion Coordinators, Betty Wilson Preston, Sheena Wilson Coleman, Beverly Wilson Hines, and Andrea Wren Smith would like to thank everyone who served on teams to help make this the best family reunion ever. We'd also like to especially thank Mayor Rodney Grogan and Police Chief Patrick LaSalle for their contribution as well. It is our wish that everyone have a fantastic time as we honor our past and celebrate our future as an established African American family.

Saturday in the Park Rules

1. Families that are bringing their own tents must set up in the designated area (near Pavilion 1) decided upon by the Family Reunion Coordinators.
2. There will be a \$1.00 charge for parking on park grounds.
3. No glass containers or bottles allowed. Alcoholic beverages are allowed but only in cans. These are park ground regulations.
4. Ice chests are allowed on park grounds.
5. Caterer will begin to serve picnic lunch from 12 noon to 1 p.m. Children ages 7 and younger must be accompanied by an adult to receive their food.
6. Remember to wear a hat and bring sunscreen. It will be hot! There will be plenty of water and Gatorade to keep everyone hydrated.

BRAVEHEARTS



We would like to salute our family members who have served and is currently serving in the United States Military:

- Steven Elmore – U.S. Army
- Arthur Elmore – U.S. Army
- Stephen Brown – U.S. Marines
- Sgt. Lamont Smith – U.S. Air Force currently serving in Afghanistan (1996–present)
- Paul L. Wilson, Sr. – U.S. Navy
- Gillis Wilson, Sr. – U.S. Army
- John Perry, Jr. – U.S. Navy
- McKinley Perry – U.S. Army
- Delmas Green, Sr. – U.S. Army
- Prince Wren, Jr. – U.S. Army & U.S. Air Force
- Ernest Wilson, Jr. – U.S. Army
- Dana Wren – U.S. Air Force
- Brian Smith – U.S. Army
- Mack Hines – U.S. Army
- Ronald Gardner – U.S. Army
- Blake Wilson, Jr. – U.S. Army Reserve
- Reshone Sorrell – U.S. Army
- Nathan Elmore – U.S. Army
- Paul L. Wilson, Jr. – Vietnam War Army Veteran

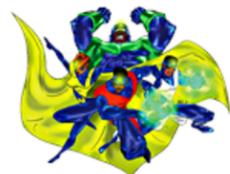


Family Business Showcase

{Please support our African American family owned businesses}



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If a novel offer us a way of seeing the world that we could not imagine before, *Ssh! It's a Secret* does just that!



Written by **Jus' Venus**, readers will become entranced with the lives of Shelby Johnson and the singer superstar Peter whose friendship survives despite the odds. A must read for your summer reading enjoyment! Go to www.amazon.com to buy your copy today!

Taking the Stress out of Planning a Family Reunion

Cont. from page 2

3. Make a Checklist

One of the best ways to stay organized is to create a timeline and checklist for items that must be accomplished for your family reunion.

4. Decide the type of reunion you want

All families are different. Some require nothing more than tents, a grill, and a park to have a good time. Others prefer banquet hall with a band or DJ. Keep in mind that the earlier you invite people, the more will be able to attend.

5. Choose a date and location

Summertime is traditionally the time of year for family reunions. Three-day weekends give out-of-town relatives more time to travel, but lodging rates may be lower during off-peak times. However, some hotels may be able to block off a specific number of rooms at special rate for a limited time.

6. Establish a budget



If you're hosting a potluck buffet or small gathering in your backyard, your expenses can be relatively low. Larger reunions may require more funding. Keep accurate records of all expenses. You may want to set up a special checking account to help you keep track of revenue and expenses.

7. Plan a theme

A theme can serve as a rallying cry. Use it in all your communication about the reunion to create consistency, excitement and a sense of belonging.

See *Planning a Family Reunion Page 5*

Planting Seeds for Success

By Andrea W. Smith

So you're off to college, or getting ready to start a new business venture, or making plans to travel to a foreign country, or maybe you haven't decided exactly what it is you want to do yet because you've been blessed by God with multiple talents and gifts. Well, whatever your plans are I know they are exciting, mystifying, and at times probably overwhelming, and doubtful. But it is perfectly okay to have those emotions. You wouldn't be human if you didn't. Graduates in particular who leave home to go to college, probably are the most anxious. Metaphorically speaking, you are starting on a new path, leaving family and friends behind, treading in unknown territory, paying it forward, investing in their future, paving new roads, and building new

bridges. My graduation gift to you is a few seeds of wisdom that when it is time for you to gather in the harvest of your hard work, you will reap bountifully. I call it "Seeds for Success."

1) Connect with other students who are of the family of faith.

Find a place of Christian worship in your new community and attend regularly. For the Lord says, "I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me." Proverbs 8:17. Pray and ask the Lord to surround you with friends who are of the same mindset as yourself. There should be campus ministries where you can go and make the connection with other young people. Not only will you be blessed by them but you will in turn be a blessing to them. He promises to guide you in the

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Seeds of Success

way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths. Proverbs 4:11.

2) Identify your talents and gifts, set your goals, and stick to them.

Maybe you've always dreamed of becoming an engineer, or you have a knack with computers, or you've always been intrigued with nature as it exists in the lush, tropical rainforests of South America, or you realized you are at your best when you are helping others. My point is this, whatever your dreams are, whatever talents you may possess, figure out which of those talents you excel in and the one that will bring you and others the greatest joy. Once you've identified

"I guide you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths. When you walk your steps will not be hampered when you run you will not stumble."

your talents, be diligent and determined in your studies, join a study group, find a competent tutor should you have difficulty with a subject, find a mentor who is willing to go the distance, and communicate your objectives to them. Pray for strength and guidance on a daily basis, because the Lord is faithful. For He is your shield and your exceeding great reward.

3) Never give in to peer pressure.

You've entered into a new arena. You're on your own and probably for the first time. Although mom and dad is just a phone call or a text message away, you're experiencing freedom like never before. No more lawns to mow, no more curfews, no one to hassle you about your clothes, or the people you date. The list seems endless.

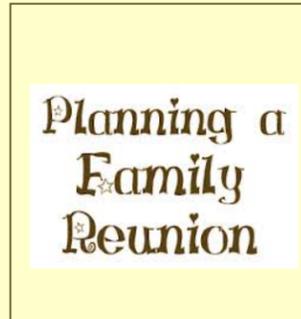
Even though it feels like the hedge has been removed, be aware, it is now that you are at your most vulnerable. Never go along to get along. Remember a true friend, a godly friend will never ask or try to convince you to do something that is wrong, or get you involved in something that would ultimately jeopardize your character and your future. If you're rejected by them because of your beliefs, remember Jesus was also rejected because he would not *go along to get along*. Rejoice and be exceeding glad for great is your reward in heaven.

4) Strive to build a godly character.

From the time you were born until now, your parents or guardian tried to instill in you godly virtues and principles. You probably heard, honesty is the best policy, you reap what you sow, choose your friends wisely, your word is your bond, it is better to give than to receive, stay away from drugs and alcohol, all that glitters is not gold, the battle is always fought and won on our knees. These are excellent sayings to live by and practice because they are for your benefit. The Lord says, "A good name is better than gold." Therefore, always be respectful of your elders, heed authority, give an attentive ear to wisdom, give freely, live discreetly, and enjoy life, be thankful for your blessings, and be quick to forgive. The last seed is the most important. Remember, "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you."



2000 Family Reunion from page 3



8. Plan your food

Having the right food can make or break your reunion. Check with your family about food allergies or aversions before choosing food. If your reunion will be held at a restaurant, get a list of options and create a couple of menus that fit within your budget.

9. Send Invitations and Letters

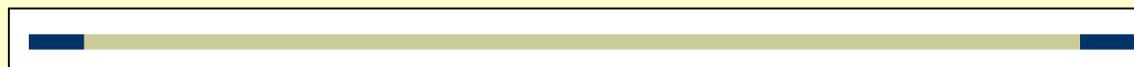
Send your first invitation or letter as soon as you've decided on a date and location. That way your relatives can put the reunion on their calendars early, and they'll be more likely to attend.

10. Plan activities

Planning a few games and activities for your reunion can help relatives relax and feel comfortable. Activities can also keep kids happy and occupied so that adults can talk.

11. Capture the memories

Your family gathering will be a memorable event. It's also the time to explore and preserve your family's history and traditions. You can capture the memories in many ways including photographs, video recordings, video heirlooms, and scrapbooks. And while the family is together, it is the perfect time to create or update your family tree.



Our Time Together in July 2000

Photos by Betty W. Preston



"In every conceivable manner, the family is link to our past, bridge to our future." ~ Alex Haley ~