

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From Parson Place Press
Mobile, Alabama
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Mr. Richard Emmel at



Little Rock, Arkansas, Educators Celebrate Black History Month

The Joe T. Robinson Middle School, in western Pulaski County, Arkansas, will conduct a special Black History Month program at 1:45 p.m. CST on Friday, February 9, 2007. This program will spotlight the historical accomplishments of notable Black Americans, including acclaimed poetess Phillis Wheatley. To mark the occasion, Mr. Friendly Womack, brother to the popular R&B singer and songwriter, Bobby Womack, will sing with his group five slave spirituals used to give directions to slaves during slavery. Dr. James Levernier, noted scholar on the life of Phillis Wheatley and on the topic of Black slavery, will demonstrate and explain how quilts specially made by slaves were also used as road maps to freedom. Robinson Middle School teacher and author, Richard Emmel, will give a dramatic reading from his newly published and powerfully inspiring biographical novel, *Louisa*, which is loosely based upon the life of Phillis Wheatley. The school's band and choral group will participate in the program, too, and Dr. Larry Nation will serve as the Master of Ceremonies. Pulaski County School officials will also attend this historic commemoration.

Mr. Emmel's story of *Louisa* transports you back to colonial American times to witness the terrifying capture and brutal experience of Farih Morowa, a Fulani African princess, who is renamed Louisa by her owners. She later amazes the world with her intellect and poetic writing skills. How she was nurtured, educated, and rose to international celebrity as an authoress, before ultimately gaining her freedom from slavery, is a truly inspiring journey for readers of all ages.

Ms. Kathy Hickey, a Literacy Specialist with the Arkansas Department of Education, says of *Louisa*, "The narrative swept me along as I vicariously lived the amazing story of this black woman who rose, despite all odds, to become a famous poet of her day." Dr. Paul J. Smith, a Little Rock educator, says, "*Louisa* is an excellent book."

To obtain copies of Louisa, ask your local bookstore or library to order it from Ingram Books using ISBN 978-0-9786567-0-6, or purchase it directly from the publisher at www.parsonplacepress.com/store It is also currently available through the online stores of Amazon and Barnes and Noble at amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com (just search on the book's ISBN).

Principal John Pearce and Robinson Middle School PTO President, Nancy Smith, cordially invite the media to attend and report on this highly newsworthy event.

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