

# THE EVENING WEEKEND NEWS

## A Newsletter for the Part-time Montgomery College Faculty

October 2006  
Charlotte Jacobsen, Editor

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### Focus on Part-Time Faculty

Dorothy Phaire, English  
Charlotte Jacobsen

Dorothy Phaire wants to do community outreach by promoting the arts through the mission of her theater company called Heralds of Hope. Dorothy has been an adjunct instructor at Montgomery College in the English Department for the past seven years and is currently teaching for the Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus. During my interview with Dorothy I discovered that her method of promoting the arts is a bit different; she writes novels and plays, which she produces after conducting 8-week summer theater workshops with students and aspiring actors. She has produced two plays: *This Side of Jordan* and *Saving Us Saints*. They were staged in Washington D. C. and Maryland in 2004 and 2006. Her plays covered teen peer pressure, sexual infidelity in marriage, and choosing a lifelong soul mate. Dorothy's plays attack deep social issues in a humorous story and are set to music. All of her plays are in a series that feature the Jordan family.

Her new play that she is currently writing is called *Mama Pearl Gets Engaged*. She says that some of the future issues that she'd like to write about are loneliness and depression, teen pregnancy, gang violence, religious intolerance, drug abuse, and HIV/AIDS in the African American community. Dorothy says that the Jordan family storyline offers a rich vehicle for displaying these issues because audiences really respond to the strong Mama Pearl character, the matriarch of the Jordan family. Dorothy sums up her purpose in a quote, "in creating a series of storylines with the Jordan family in turmoil and facing new challenges, my purpose for the plays is to provide a "slice of life" showing real-life dilemmas that people often face."



While Dorothy loved writing as a child, she wasn't always in the arts. She wrote computer code for a living for various companies including MCI and IBM. She attempted to write computer code and fiction simultaneously, but found she couldn't easily make the linear thinking switch to using her imagination for her novels. In addition to her play projects, she is working on two categories of novels: a contemporary fiction series and a novel in the historical fiction genre.

Her plans for the future: Dorothy has recently converted her theater company to a 501(C)(3) and would like to pursue grants to help further the company's mission. She has learned that the major problem to producing her plays is funding, funding, funding. She is looking for volunteers with excellent leadership and marketing skills that would love to get involved in theatre projects at the ground level. Visit the author, playwright at her website at [www.dorothyphaire.com](http://www.dorothyphaire.com)