

# **Celebration of Negro Spirituals**

## **Impact on 21st Century American Life**

**On Saturday October 27, 2007, the South Middlesex Men's Club in collaboration with Myrtle Baptist Church of West Newton, MA and Mass Bay Community College of Wellesley, MA, sponsored a two part educational program celebrating Negro Spirituals. The program was held on the campus of Mass Bay Community College.**

**Part 1, which ran from 12:00 noon to 5:00 PM, consisted of educational sessions for students in middle school, high school and college. Three discussion areas were highlighted:**

- **History of the Negro Spiritual**
- **Importance of the Fisk University Jubilee Singers**
- **Influence of Negro Spirituals on other musical genre, including, jazz, gospel, blues, and hip-hop**

**A variety of musical instructors and participants performed as leaders in this part of the program.**

**Part 2, which was an evening concert, ran from 7:00 to 9:00 PM and featured three singing groups who elegantly demonstrated the power of the Negro Spiritual. These groups were:**

- **John Work Chorale of Chicago, II**
- **New England Spiritual Ensemble**
- **Myrtle Baptist Church Spiritual Singers of West Newton, MA**