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**TAVIS SMILEY CALLS FOR “ACCOUNTABILITY” FROM ALL AMERICANS DURING
10-CITY TOUR**

Best-Selling Author to Discuss How Everyday Citizens Can Make Democracy Real

LOS ANGELES – (February 23, 2009) - Broadcaster and best selling author Tavis Smiley will conduct a series of town hall meetings, in conjunction with his 10-city tour in support of his new book, **ACCOUNTABLE: Making America As Good As Its Promise**. **ACCOUNTABLE** completes the trilogy begun in 2006 with the *Covenant with Black America*. Supported by facts, statistics and gripping real-life stories, **ACCOUNTABLE** examines hard-hitting truths about the issues our country faces while issuing a call to action to elected officials, community leaders, corporations and finally, American citizens themselves.

In it, Smiley urges the public to become part of the change that must take place in America. “Our mission is to provide citizens with the appropriate tools to assess the performance of our elected leaders and ourselves,” writes Smiley. “*Accountable* is the yardstick for measuring whether our politicians, and our leaders, and ourselves have satisfied their respective duties in our democracy. Our purpose is clear and nonpartisan, we pull no punches.”

ACCOUNTABLE revisits each of the ten covenants discussed in Smiley’s the *Covenant with Black America*, and features “A Framework for Assessment” which outlines solutions offered to political leaders, policymakers, corporations, non-profit organizations, community leaders and finally, individual citizens, to move toward effecting change.

“It is the job of politicians to make promises, but it is the job of the people who elect them to make sure they keep them,” says Smiley. “Presidents alone do not shape our future. Congress and the courts can pass laws and hand down decisions that chip away at any President’s promises. Nonetheless, citizens must always be prepared to hold the President accountable on what he (perhaps one day, she!) promised to fight for. This tour provides a forum for how people will enforce that accountability for elected officials and for themselves.

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The **ACCOUNTABLE** tour is sponsored by UnitedHealthcare. In selected cities, UHC will provide free health screenings to those attending the town hall symposia. “We are excited to be a part of this program,” says Corliss Hill, national director of UnitedHealthcare's Generations of Wellness initiative. “UnitedHealthcare is a leader in providing patient-centered health care, and provides culturally relevant health solutions for African Americans, something that dovetails perfectly with Mr. Smiley’s message about taking an active role in one’s own future.”

All Town Hall meetings are free and open to the public. Please visit www.tavistalks.com to register or for more information.

ACCOUNTABLE
10-City Tour

LOCATION	CITY	DATE	TIME
Borders, Columbus Circle 10 Columbus Circle	New York, NY	Monday, March 2, 2009	6:30pm-8:30pm
National Constitution Center 525 Arch St.	Philadelphia, PA	Tuesday, March 3, 2009	6:30pm – 8:30pm
Georgetown University Gaston Hall 37 th and O Streets, NW	Washington, DC	Wednesday, March 4, 2009	6:30pm – 8:30pm
Enoch Pratt Free Library 400 Cathedral St.	Baltimore, MD	Thursday, March 5, 2009	6:30pm-8:30pm
DePaul University Book Store The Concourse at DePaul	Chicago, IL	Friday, March 6, 2009	6:30-8:30om
Loyola University Nunemaker Reception Hall 6363 Saint Charles Ave.	New Orleans, LA	Saturday, March 7, 2009	12pm-2pm
First Congregational Church of Oakland 2501 Harris Street	Oakland, CA	Tuesday, March 10, 2009	6:30pm – 8:30pm
Nate Holden Performing Arts Center 4718 W. Washington Blvd.	Los Angeles, CA	Wednesday, March 11, 2009	6:30pm-8:30pm
University of Washington Location TBD	Seattle, WA	March 12, 2009	6:30pm – 8:30pm
TBD	Houston, TX	March 13, 2009	6:30pm - 8:30pm

About the Author

Tavis Smiley is a nationally known intellectual, advocate, political commentator, entrepreneur, and radio and television host. He founded the groundbreaking and historic State of the Black Union series. Smiley has authored several best-selling books, including *Covenant with Black America* and **The Covenant In Action**. He is also the creator of America I Am: The African American Imprint Museum Exhibition.

Stephanie Robinson, Esq., is the President and CEO of the Jamestown Project, a national think tank that focuses on democracy. She is a Lecturer on Law at Harvard Law School, and formerly served as Chief Counsel for Senator Edward M. Kennedy. Ms. Robinson is a nationally recognized expert on issues related to social policy, family and electoral politics.

About UnitedHealthcare

UnitedHealthcare (www.unitedhealthcare.com) provides a full spectrum of consumer-oriented health benefit plans and services to individuals, public sector employers and businesses of all sizes, including more than half of the *Fortune* 100 companies. The company organizes access to quality, affordable health care services on behalf of more than 26 million individual consumers, contracting directly with more than 580,000 physicians and care professionals and 4,900 hospitals to offer them broad, convenient access to services nationwide. UnitedHealthcare is one of the businesses of UnitedHealth Group (NYSE: UNH), a diversified *Fortune* 50 health and well-being company.

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