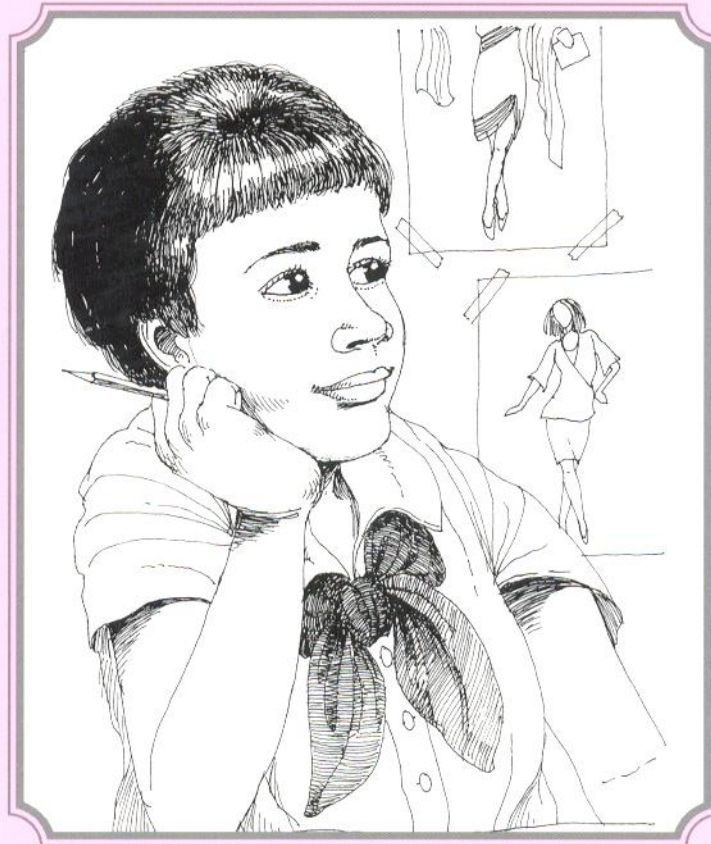


Please join us for a book signing celebration!  
Honoring Class of 1966 VVHS Graduate  
*Thelma Smith-Mack*  
Local Author of:

# *Wisdom Born of Pain*



*Thelma Smith-Mack*

The title of Thelma Smith-Mack's memoir, *Wisdom Born of Pain*, is a poignant reminder of her life when she was a high school student in the days before desegregation. Indeed, had she not overcome the indignities and disappointments and yes, pain, of being the only African American to graduate from her all-white high school, she never could have written this moving book.

Yet, it is not a depressing story because Ms. Smith-Mack does not present herself as a victim, though indeed African Americans were victims of mind-boggling prejudice for so many years. Determined to survive and make a life for herself, she presents the events of her life as facts. Going hungry, putting cardboard in her shoes when the soles wore out, working in the fields from early morning till late at night, were problems to be overcome.

What *was* important was getting an education, and being blessed with a loving, supportive family and a strong religious faith, she managed to do just that. Indeed, at her high school graduation ceremony she was recognized for the spiritual, intelligent, loving person she is when she received a standing ovation as she was presented with her diploma.

**THELMA SMITH-MACK** was born during the years just before desegregation, the second child of nine siblings. Presently she enjoys Co-pastoring a small community church in Brazoria, Texas, along with her husband, Abe, who serves as Senior Pastor. She also manages time between writing, fishing, sewing, home-schooling a nine-year-old grandson, and working full-time at a center for battered women. In 2008, after putting it off for years, she wrote her first book.

Thelma Smith-Mack resides in the town of her birth, Cedar Lake, Texas (population 200-plus), a suburb of Bay City, Texas.