



Spring 2007

Celebrity Styles

Jennifer Hudson
Mary J. Blige
Tyra Banks
Alicia Keys
Gabrielle Union
Sanaa Lathan



Raven & Dad
Ludacris & Mom

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discourages teen pregnancy, juvenile delinquency, school dropout, and drug abuse.

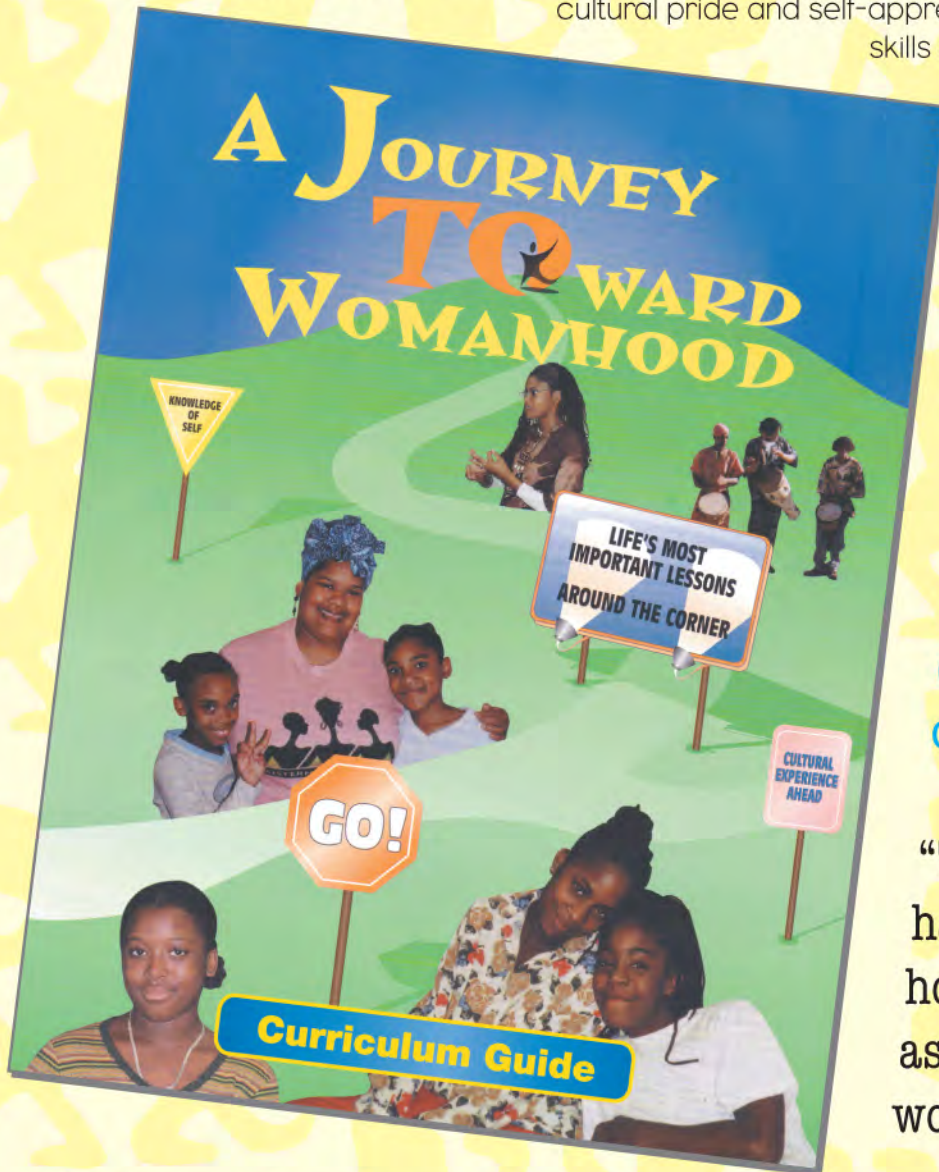
Parents and Participants say:

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"This program has taught me how to carry myself as a young Black woman."

"I have truly witnessed a positive change in my daughter."

To order, visit www.sisterhoodagenda.com.



Sister Angela's Note



Greetings! Today is a day that we begin anew. At Sisterhood Agenda, we have a renewed sense of purpose and passion for everything that uplifts us and aids in our self-development. We are sisters and we can be found everyone in the world. Sisterhood transcends boundaries and is a largely untapped force with magical greatness. Are you ready? The premiere issue of our new magazine is rightfully dedicated to our ancestors, mothers, and fathers-without them, there would be no us.



Nick P

I remember my great grandmothers, Mama Lou and her twin Momma Cus, who continue to teach me the spirit of kindness, compassion, and living life on my own terms. I remember my father's mother who had the habit of being very direct and very honest in her truth. My Uncle Charles taught me about self-defense. It was my mother who was instrumental and progressive in my journey toward womanhood and my father taught me the importance of Black Pride and constantly reminded me that Black is Beautiful. These are lessons that I teach others in my life because whether we realize it or not, we are all teachers. We teach by doing and we teach by being.

I know that each and every issue of Sisterhood Agenda magazine will teach us something about ourselves and others, showcasing our beauty spectrum and giving readers a glimpse into the inner workings of our minds and spirits. We hope that you join us in this exciting venture as a reader, writer, Global Partner, donor, advisor, teacher, mentor, and of course, as a sister.

In the Spirit of Sisterhood,

Angela

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Sisterhood Agenda would like to thank everyone who has ever supported and participated in sisterhood activities, including, but not limited to, this magazine.

Sisterhood Agenda magazine has been funded, in part, by Ashoka.



Chris "Ludacris" Bridges and his mother attend a film premiere.

This Issue is Dedicated to Our Ancestors, Mothers & Fathers

**We are the bones
Of your grandmother's
grandmothers.
We have returned now
We say you cannot forget
We say we are with you
And that you are us.
Remember, Remember.**

-Author Unknown



Raven Symone and her father at the American Music Awards.

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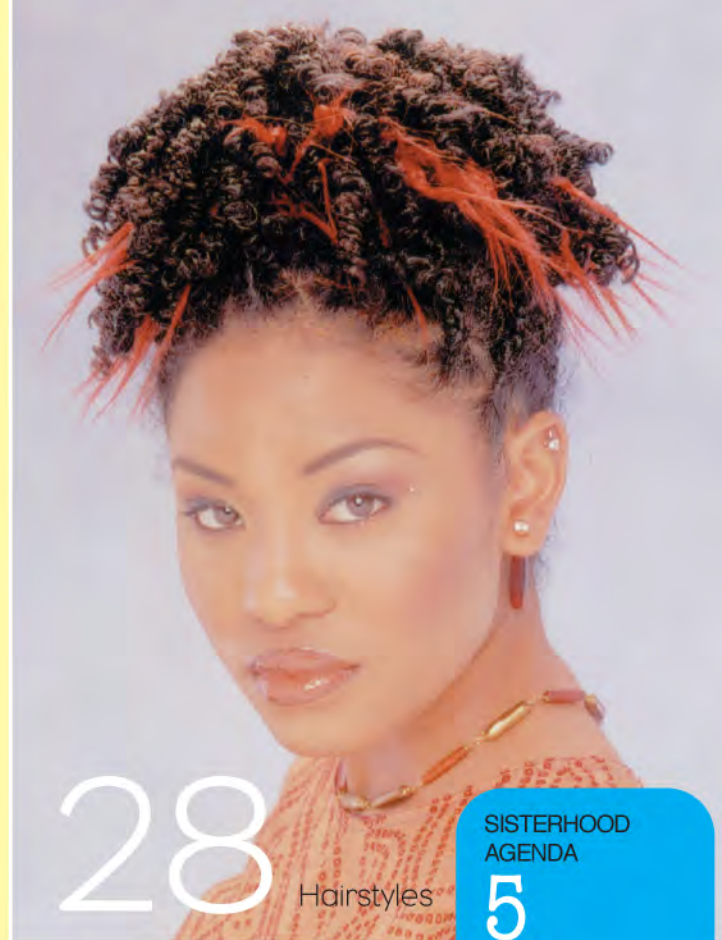
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Jamaica Gilmer

To submit a comment for Sister Mail,
email sistermail@sisterhoodagenda.com.

**"The work that you are doing
is amazing..."**

Tamara
Wisconsin

"Your emphasis on the self-empowerment, self-development, self-esteem and self-knowledge of young women of African descent is very needed. I am really looking forward to reading the magazine that you produce and in learning more."

Candace
Washington, D.C.

"I am interested to work with you to empower women of all ages and backgrounds. As you know, empowering a woman is empowering a nation."

Rachel
Kenya

"Great site! Great work!"

RoLanda
California

"I am so sad that you have relocated but congratulations to bigger & better things. My daughter attended your SisterCamp last summer and she loved it."

Sonya
North Carolina

"I have been the advisor of the Sisterhood Club for the last four years. I remember reading about this program in ESSENCE magazine. I am looking for additional resources and networking opportunities for myself and the girls."*

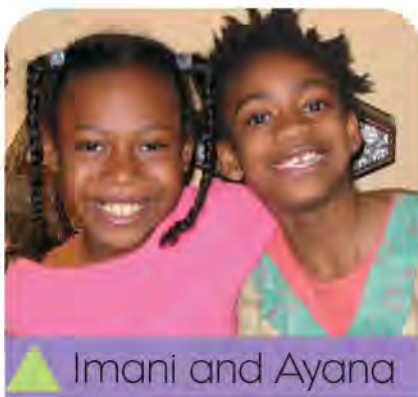
Wylene
New Jersey

"This is a great means of bringing sistas together. Much love to you all!"

Zen
Ohio

"Great work! Keep it up."

Nnamd
Nigeria



"We love
Sisterhood
Agenda!"

New Big Sister Column!
Write to Sisterhood Agenda's
Big Sister to receive uplifting
advice and support for issues
relating to sisterhood, self-
knowledge, self-development,
self-esteem and relationships!
Send your questions to
bigsisiter@sisterhoodagenda.com.

Please be aware Sisterhood Agenda can respond to and print only a limited number of responses. If you include your name, we will use your first name only.

* Visit www.sisterhoodagenda.com to join Sisterhood Agenda's Global Network, find resources and Global Partner information.

INthe NEWS

IMUS REACTION

On the morning of April 4, 2007, Don Imus called the students who play for the Rutgers University women's basketball team a bunch of "nappy-headed ho's" during his morning talk show. He was suspended, then fired when advertisers pulled their ads from the network that supported his show. These are some of your responses:

"Imus' now infamous "nappy-headed hos" slur came as a stunning reminder to all Black women that no matter how high we fly, no matter how much we achieve, there are those who still regard us as less than legitimate.

But his assault on the Rutgers basketball team was even more egregious because it was an attack on our children, an attack on young women who were striving in the best possible way to compete in America. Why is it that when Black women make an effort to rise up and compete, invariably they are attacked for their ambition? This is a recurring theme that must be stopped."

Saundra Finley, President and CEO,
League of Black Women

"Now, in American Black society, you have what is referred to as an emerged Hip Hop Culture and it is that Culture that denigrates Black women, any and every way they so desire and they are allowed a free pass, up until recently. But it was too late to denounce what you could have denounced at its birth, the Hip Hop Culture of defaming Black women and the Black self I speak of. Where were the Al Sharptons of the America World when such seeds were being planted?"

Hoteph
Osiris, Chief Elder

HYPED

Oprah's New School for Girls in South Africa

IN 2002, OPRAH ASKED NELSON MANDELA WHAT GIFT HE WANTED her to give to nation and he simply said, "Build me a school."

Outside Johannesburg, in the town of Henly-on-Klip, spread out on 50 acres with 28 buildings is the \$40 million dollar Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls. More than 3,500 girls applied for the 152 spots. The Academy is made for the best and the brightest. Oprah made sure of that when she personally interviewed the 500 finalists herself.

Most of the girls came from a background of poverty and deprivation like Oprah herself. And according to her, she was tired of charity from a distance without making it a part of herself. She wanted to make the school personal. Oprah wants to give African girls everything she never had growing up.

The building is lavish with oversized rooms and closets, fireplaces, library, a 600 person auditorium, and the list goes on. All is provided free of charge, including the school uniforms the girls will be wearing.

One student, twelve year-old Busisiwe Zasekhaya, who has been accepted for Grade 7, says, "It feels like a dream come true. I will make use of this opportunity to make my aunt and the country proud." She wants to help HIV/AIDs orphans someday.

According to Oprah, "Education is the way to move mountains, to build bridges, to change the world. Education is the path to the future. I believe that education is indeed freedom. With God's help, these girls will be the future leaders on the path to peace in South Africa and the world."

And these future leaders, grades 7-12, began school on January 2, 2007. — Nancy Sai



Sojourner Truth Event

(left to right): Dr. Dorothy I. Height, William Tucker, Senator Hillary Clinton, Dr. E. Faye Williams, Esq. (National Chair of NCBW behind Sojourner Truth portrait), Keith Wallace, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, Cicely Tyson and Congresswoman Diane Watson.

Sojourner Truth Commemorated

PERSISTENT POLITICAL EFFORTS HAVE RESULTED IN SECURING passage of the Sojourner Truth Bill (HR. 4510)! The Bill recognizes the heroic deeds of Sojourner Truth, a woman who was born into slavery, freed and subsequently lobbied President Abraham Lincoln for equal rights for women. A bust of Sojourner Truth will be prominently displayed in the United States Capitol. This historic Senate vote puts the first African American woman in the Capitol.

Dr. E. Faye Williams, national chair of the National Congress of Black Women, said, "This is a great honor for Black women everywhere, and we are grateful to all who worked to make it happen. While we have struggled for a very long time to keep Sojourner Truth's legacy alive, we recognize that it is through our struggles that we gain our victories. We pray that some day, the original monument to the Women's Movement will be modified, and that Sojourner will take her rightful place on the same sculpture with the women she mentored: Susan B. Anthony, Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton."

The National Congress of Black Women was formerly known as The National Political Congress of Black Women. Dr. Williams is only the third national chair of NCBW which was founded in 1984. She succeeds the late Hon. C. DeLores Tucker who made her transition in October 2005 and the late Honorable Shirley Chisholm, who served as national chair from the inception of the organization until 1992.

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GLOBAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

In December 2003, the General Assembly of the United Nations requested the Secretary-General to prepare an in-depth study on global violence against women. This landmark study was presented to the General Assembly in September 2006 for consideration, the first time that the General Assembly has ever discussed this issue. The study highlights the persistence of all forms of violence against women in all parts of the world and the unacceptability of such violence, and identifies violence against women as a pressing human rights issue. It seeks to strengthen political commitments and joint efforts to prevent and eliminate violence against women, identify ways and means for more sustained and effective implementation of government obligations, and increase governmental and international accountability. To read the study, go to: www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw.

HYPER

The Exploitation of Women in Hip-Hop

BY AYANNA

EXPLOITATION OF WOMEN IN HIP-HOP CULTURE HAS BECOME AN accepted part of it for both the artists and audiences alike, and many critics blame the music without looking any deeper. When going to any hip-hop related event, my friends and I normally expect that we will be disrespected verbally and physically, and have to prepare ourselves accordingly. We have to be careful in choosing what clothes to wear, how we carry ourselves and what we say. I have often wondered why it is so acceptable (for men and women) and what the roots of the values expressed in the culture are.

Much of the music and many videos specifically transmit, promote, and perpetuate negative images of Black women. All women, but mostly Black women in particular are seen in popular hip-hop culture as sex objects. Almost every hip-hop video that is regularly run today shows many dancing women (usually surrounding one or two men) wearing not much more than bikinis, with the cameras focusing on their body parts. These images are shown to go along with a lot of the explicit lyrics that commonly contain name calling to suggest that women are not worth anything more than money, if that.

Of course, not all rap songs are misogynistic and all Black men do not speak and think this way, but large percentages within hip-hop culture do. The name calling disrespects, dehumanizes, and dishonors women. Many Black men within hip-hop culture who battle racism and oppression themselves everyday have been conditioned by society not to trust or love, and if they do not love themselves, it is difficult for them to love women or anyone else in a healthy manner.

Education is the first step in changing gender relations in the hip-hop community. People first need to be made aware that women's rights are being violated verbally in the sexist lyrics, in physical interactions at hip-hop events, and in the general way that hip-hop youth interact with one another everyday. We need knowledge to act and speak out against the exploitation of women, not only in hip-hop culture, but in all cultures everywhere.

Reprinted with permission from Advocates for Youth, My Sistahs.

THE BLACK YOUTH PROJECT

The Black Youth Project examined the attitudes, resources, and culture of almost 1,600 youth ages 15 to 25, exploring issues such as sex, health, and politics. The University of Chicago study shows that commonly held stereotypes about Black youth may be wrong.

For example, young African Americans have been shown to be more conservative with topics like same-sex marriage and abortion. Young Black people generally believe that they can make a difference in politics. Although a lot of Black youth listen to rap music every day, most feel that it is too violent, offensive to Black women and not political enough.

Other beliefs that they found are a little disturbing: leaders in the United States do not care about them, police are biased against Black people, and AIDS would be cured faster if more White people had the disease. Racism has a negative effect on their lives and is unlikely to end in their lifetime.

While this may seem pessimistic, most of the responses were optimistic, believing that their lives can make a positive difference.



Black Baby Paper Doll

"Black Baby Artulated Paper Doll"
Littauer and Bauer, publisher, circa 1885,
Germany Photo by Steven M. Cummings,
Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum

BLACK PAPER DOLL EXHIBIT

"Two Hundred years of Black Paper Dolls: The Collection of Arabella Crayson" is on exhibit April 29 at the Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum in Washington. Arabella Crayson grew up in Alameda and Oakland, California and began collecting paper dolls after completing a fellowship in Ghana in 1994. Crayson believes that play is how our place in society and roles are established. "You have to be conscious of what you're feeding your children."

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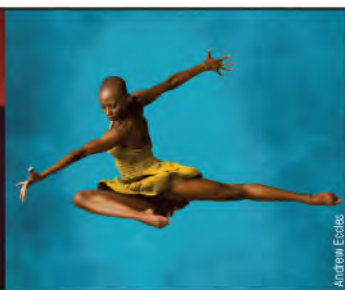
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Sister CONNECTIONS



GEM founder, Stella Amojong (right), with a teen mother.

Stella's Mission: Inform. Inspire. Involve.

It is not everyday that a 13-year old girl corners her mother and asks about why her body is suddenly changing. And when she did, answers were accompanied by a few slaps from the angry mother.

Yet even after receiving a few slaps, Stella Amojong did not give up until she got answers. Her ordeal at that tender age has assisted thousands of girls in Kenya gain the courage to confront their fears and talk to their parents about their changing bodies and reproductive health.

"At one point, it was estimated that at least 70,000 girls were dropping from school each year because of unplanned pregnancy," says Stella. "Yet these figures were considered deflated, considering that most of the girls terminated their pregnancies through back street abortions."



Baking bread for GEM.

Advocates for Teen Mothers

IN 2002, STELLA FORMED THE ADVOCATES FOR TEEN Mothers, a community-based organization that identified and empowered at-risk teen girls with adequate information, life skills and other resources to enable them make informed decisions. Her approach involved promoting rights of teen girls to access essential knowledge on reproductive health, building their self-esteem and equipping them with leadership skills.

She achieved this by visiting schools and engaging students—both male and female—on a wide range of issues that included interactive discussions on reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, sexuality and human rights. She recruited and trained youth as peer educators to provide counseling, carry out advocacy and outreach activities and offer communication skills to both in-school and out-of-school youth.

Using her humble three-room house as a makeshift office, Stella was able to engage parents, village elders and other community gatekeepers in discussions about issues affecting young people.

"It was not easy at first since sexual issues are considered sensitive topics in my community. One elder bluntly told me I was breaking a taboo by just mentioning the word 'sex' in their midst!" she recalls with a chuckle. School heads, and parents were not friendly, either. "Most thought I was encouraging the youth to be promiscuous by talking about sex!"

GEM

Her organization has gradually expanded, changing its name to Project Gender Empowerment (Project GEM) and developing new projects that seek to achieve systemic change, covering Gender Violence, Youth Mentorship, and Women Leadership among other issues.

Her resilience, perseverance and deep passion for her work keeps her going, promising a brighter tomorrow for marginalized youth, especially in slum and rural areas, where she pioneered her work. "I have managed to instill hope to my peers, encouraging them to walk the talk. As Gandhi once said: 'Be the change that you want to see in the world.'"

Future plans? "The best is yet to come!" says Stella, a grin on her face.

Driving Forces:

- Good listener
- Deep drive for her work
- Perseverance
- Passion for learning
- Risk-taker
- Bold and courageous
- Supportive, dedicated staff workers who share her vision

Contributed by the Gender Empowerment Information & Communication Department.

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Sister CONNECTIONS



Amy Rotshild

Gertrude Nsormah Nyaaba, a 22-year old graduate of University for Development Studies, Wa campus, Ghana.

CERTRUDE IN GHANA

BY CERTRUDE NSORMAH NYAABA

BEING A STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY is one of the biggest dreams of an African female. After much discussion with family and friends (I was only 18 years old at the time), I chose to pursue a first degree in Integrated Development Studies (IDS) at the University for Development Studies (UDS).

My faculty was originally located in the Upper East Region of Ghana, where I live with my family. However, in 2002 the faculty was relocated to Wa, the regional capital of the Upper West Region, a ten

and a half hour drive away on terrible roads. On 16th September, 2002, I traveled to Wa to begin my degree course. The journey was long and tiring. After arriving in town, most students rented hotel rooms for a period while they looked for accommodation; others spent their first night at the lorry station. Those students (myself included) who had a few friends or relatives in town, were regarded as extremely lucky, since we had a place to lay our heads at night and someone to guide us in looking for accommodation during the day.

The social situation between the students of the UDS and the inhabitants of the town of Wa was basically good, as the local people were eager to have the campus there. However, students will always be students, and when people of such varied backgrounds come together certain things eventually emerge which are not in consonance with the culture of the indigenes. In Wa, which is a predominantly traditional community, women defer and are submissive to the will of men. They do not speak back or challenge men when they speak. Education was not high on the list of the young girls in the town. This was not to be so with UDS ladies. We challenged the men anytime we felt we were right and dressed the way we liked. The effect was that young girls in town have started to take an increased interest in education and have emulated the speech of UDS ladies.

It is known that as we age, our dressing changes. As children, we have no problem being seen wearing panties whilst moving about, but as young adults we dress according to the fashion of our time. This is not usually accepted by the older generation who try as much as possible to influence our dressing to be like theirs. In a typical day, an IDS female student could be seen in jeans, fitting trousers or a mini-skirt with a body hanging or loose

top. When I first wore a mini-skirt (I was almost always in jeans or trousers), a few locals who regarded me as their friend asked me to go back home to change my skirt. I explained the need to wear what I felt like wearing and continued to dress accordingly. It took time before some of the women would even talk to me; others I lost as friends altogether. Issues arose in terms of hair style, as well. I personally like braids plaited long to my bottom. I remember when I first wore long braids to my waist, I was the talk of town; so many people approached me to ask me why I had such long braids. I was seen as a strange person because of my different hairstyle. It was fascinating to watch the shocked expressions on peoples' faces anytime they saw my hair.

Despite the almost complete lack of facilities, the Integrated Development Studies course is one of the best courses within the West African sub-region, and is highly recommended for rural community development programmes. To be successful in the course, students have to be able to combine knowledge in economics, statistics, history, planning, sociology, political science and African studies.

Because of the opportunity to put my learning into practice, I really felt I made the right choice in studying IDS at UDS. It felt great to write good reports and proposals reflecting the needs of the community members I worked with in my final year.

Life at UDS Wa campus is hard but also educative. As students, we all "grow up" on campus -- I went to Wa as a girl but have grown into a young, resourceful and empowered, lady. I have now been posted to Women's Affairs in Bolgatanga (capital of the Upper East Region), and as I wait to start work, it is my fervent hope that I can contribute significantly to the development of women and children in my region and the country as a whole.



SWAP girls in action.

Sisters Who Are Powerful (SWAP)

Founder Tania James



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Sisterhood Agenda learned more about this exciting nonprofit and the founder's vision for girls.

What is your mission?

Sisters Who Are Powerful (SWAP) is a faith-based, nonprofit organization for the education, empowerment, support, and overall well-being of women and girls.

Who founded SWAP?

SWAP was founded in 2004 by Tania L. James.

What does SWAP mean?

Definition: swap (swop) n. the act of exchanging one thing for another. Every woman has something special to share with another woman or girl. Women sharing with each other connects us in such a way that is unexplainable.

Why did you start SWAP?

The purpose for starting SWAP began with a vision that I believe God gave to me to help other women and girls who may have come from disadvantaged situations or found themselves facing difficult life experiences with no direction. I consider myself to be a resource person.

What are some of your services?

SWAP provides health and wellness activities, an annual "Walk for Women," and the TASTE Project (Teaching Adolescents Success Through Education), a program to encourage African American girls ages 12-17 to become aware of community resources by volunteering in their communities.

What are your words of wisdom?

Your level of faith, passion, and giving will determine how much you will be a blessing to someone else.



Sister CONNECTIONS

Sister

*A Sister is a lovely
flower
Within life's sweet bouquet
She adds a fragrance to
this world
and beautifies each day.*

Patricia J. Hacky-Harber



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NETWORK

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Sister CONNECTIONS



Charlene Taylor, Founder of the
Institute for Black Charities

ONE SISTER'S CHARITY

CHARLENE TAYLOR WAS MOTIVATED TO start the Institute for Black Charities when she saw that many Black nonprofit organizations did not get the funding needed to continue their good programs due to lack of funding. Wanting to support causes in the Black community, the Institute for Black Charities has raised over \$2.5 million for nonprofits and recently celebrated its 10-year anniversary.

At a time when over \$270 billion is given annually to nonprofit organizations, the Institute for Black Charities exists to help Black charities get a piece of the pie: "It's not just about grants," states Taylor, "but also other funding which can become a permanent base of funding for the nonprofit."

In addition to employee workplace giving campaigns, both private and public, Black Charities also has accounting and technical assistance opportunities. Based in Maryland, the Institute for Black Charities has been credited for keeping the doors open for many nonprofits, not just in the United States, but also in Sudan, Nigeria and Kenya.

While the rules and regulations can be overwhelming at first, Taylor, with her sharp mind and invaluable knowledge, can help organizations get through it to achieve results: "We want to continue to work with national organizations and reach out to educate them about opportunities that are out there. We are very fortunate to have organizations like Sisterhood Agenda to work with because they supply worthwhile services to our communities." The feeling is mutual!



Mabakijje Goretti



Kansime Monica



Mango Tree

Goretti: My name is Nabakijje Goretti. I am 27 years old with a degree in Industrial and Fine Arts. I am a graphic artist with four years experience in computer designing and illustration.

Monica: I am Kansime Monica. I'm aged 28 years with a diploma in art and design. I have experience in designing educational materials for schools, health organisations and other community groups for now over four years.

Goretti: Monica and I work at Mango Tree, a small Ugandan-owned company based in Kampala. Our mission is to provide educators with innovative, high quality tools that improve the quality of education in our country.

Monica: Mango Tree also promotes education that is participatory and learner-centered. The educational system in our country is very lecture-based and boring. Our company tries to make products that encourage everyone to play a role in the learning process.

Goretti: Many of our products are made from locally available materials like grain sacks, bottle tops and recycled slipper material. These materials are inexpensive, durable, and encourage teachers to make more teaching aids of their own.

Monica: In the beginning our business was focused mainly on teaching tools for primary schools. Now we also make toys and games for nursery schools as well as training materials for health educators, rural

finance, and agricultural extension agents. In 2000, we started with just three products. Now we have over two hundred.

Goretti: Right now I'm working on a set of readers focused on children's rights. I've finished the illustrations and am now doing the layout design. I'm also writing and illustrating a children's counting book.

Monica: I'm currently working on a family planning project for the Ministry of Health. A set of training materials I designed for people who are beginning ARV's [antiretroviral drugs given to patients with HIV] is now being used in countries all over Africa.

Goretti: Being a woman in Uganda, there are challenges we face especially in the field of art where men are believed to do better. However, I am thankful to Mango Tree. Our company always tries to see the best in a person and bring it out more. I am becoming more confident and appreciating what I do. I am looking forward to building my career and acquiring more skills. Right now, I believe that going for further studies will help me achieve my goals.

Monica: Most people think that only men are good illustrators. The females here in Mango Tree do the same work as men and most of the times even better and faster. This makes me feel that there is nothing hard for me to do, irrespective of my gender. You should believe in yourself before anyone else can believe in you. Then you can do anything. Curiosity is also helpful because it keeps your brain awake and alive.

SISTERHOOD
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"You
should
believe in
yourself
before
anyone
else can
believe in
you.
Then you
can do
anything."



Sister CONNECTIONS

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Submit to:

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Make your voice count!



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uplift women and girls of African descent!**



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BLACK IS BEAUTIFUL



Alicia Keys

CELEBRITY



Newscom (7)

Jennifer Hudson and
Anika Noni Rose



Gabrielle Union

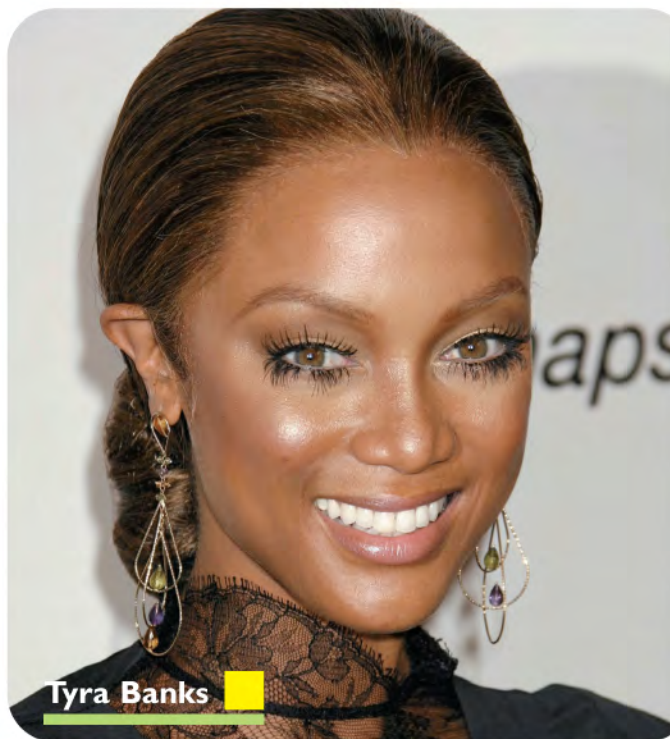


Rihanna



Jada Pinkett Smith

Mary J. Blige



Tyra Banks



Sanaa Lathan

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REND SETTERS

positivevibe

Wh

“My dream is to learn to love my

MARY J. BLIGE:

at's

Next?

STRONG YET VULNERABLE, STREET SMART YET innocent, reserved yet passionate, she is Mary J. Blige. At first glance, she is a woman of contradictions. Known as the Queen of Hip-Hop Soul, she has shared her world, her pain, problems and triumphs in a way that was soothing and uplifting, interesting to discover, easy to listen and dance to its beat. While she told us to "hate it or love it," she made us want her to win in her struggles against low self-esteem, abuse and unhealthy relationships. She was at one point and at any given time, one of us.

At age 16, Mary dropped out of school and church, turning to alcohol, sex, and drugs to make herself feel better because she didn't know her worth. At age 19, she was the youngest singer signed to Uptown in 1989 after her karaoke tape landed her a record deal. In 1992, at age 21, she was looking for "Real Love," in 1994, she just wanted to be "Happy," in 2001 she said, "No More Drama" and 2005 she did not want to "Be Without You." But it was only recently that Mary started to truly see herself as a queen. Still a work in progress, Mary admitted to Oprah last year, "My dream is to learn to love myself more."

Still relevant today, girls know her, admire her and want to be like her. She is herself all the way, her own unique woman who has found herself and a loyal following from all walks of life. Her music is her healing process and her voice is a gift.

Recently validated by top executives in the music industry after over fifteen years on the scene, Blige won nine Billboard awards and three Grammys for *The Breakthrough*. With this project, Mary said that she finally starting taking responsibility for her life. While she has won over 40 awards in the past (Soul Train and American Music, to name a few), the 2007 Grammy Awards meant so much more to her because of everything that she has gone through in her life and with an industry that can be brutal. Accepting the awards with the same emotion that resonates in her music, Mary said, "For so many years, I have been talked about negatively, but this time I'm being talked about positively by so many people."

After an extremely busy year, Mary is working on her new album. When she is not in the studio, Mary spends her time with husband Kendu Isaacs and is a stepmother to two of his youngest children (ages 7 and 8) from a previous marriage. They live on an estate in New Jersey. Forward-thinking, she is humble and authentic, planning to "use success to build bridges and not burn them," adding that she is not just evolving as an artist, musician and writer but is "growing into a better human being." 

self more."

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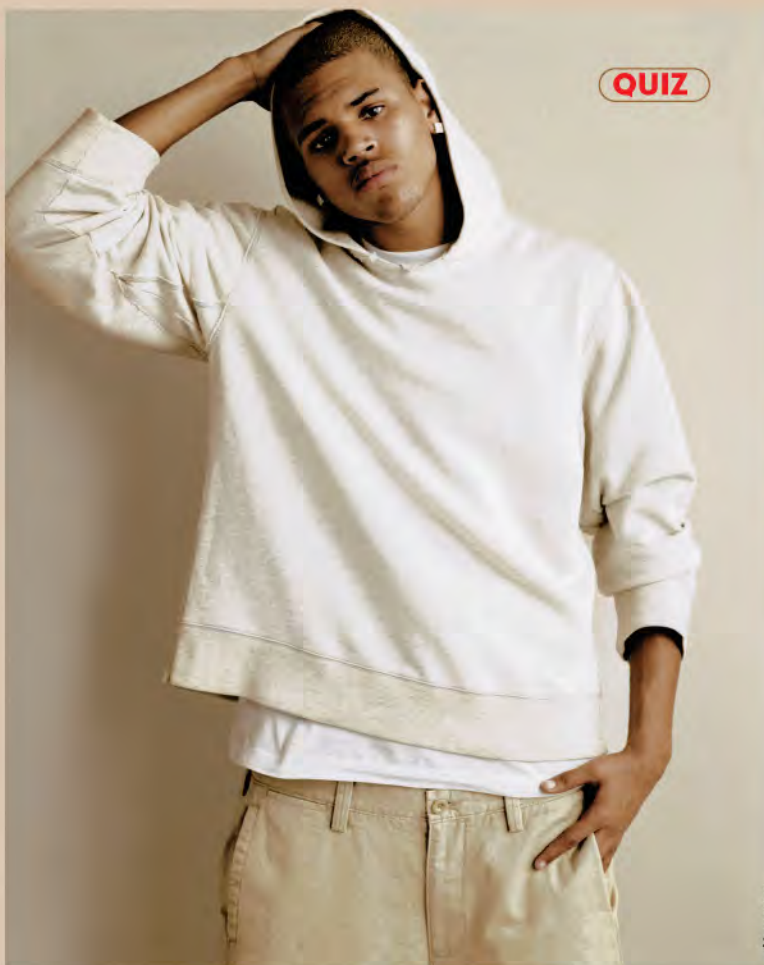
Newscom

NE-YO:

Ne-Yo (real name Shaffer Chimere Smith) is famous for both his songwriting and his singing, writing such songs as "Unfaithful" for Rihanna, "Let Me Love You" for Mario Barrett and "Irreplaceable" for Beyoncé. He has also written for artists Mary J. Blige, B2K, Faith Evans, and Musiq.

From a young age, Ne-Yo was inspired to write and express himself. Today, his talent is often cited as surpassing his twenty-five years. Ne-Yo was raised in a single parent home by his mother in Arkansas. When the family relocated to Las Vegas Nevada, Ne-Yo found his outlet. When asked about writing number one hits for other artists, simply put, Ne-Yo said, "I feel there is always room for good music. I want to reach people's soul with my lyrics thru whatever vessel God chooses."

Ne-Yo has announced that his sophomore album will be released sometime in early April. The first single from that album, "Because of You", is out now. He has also said that he has written songs for Whitney Houston, Celine Dion, Britney Spears and Enrique Iglesias for their upcoming albums.



Newscom

CHRIS BROWN

How much do you really know about Chris Brown?

- 1 When is his birthday?**
- 2 What are his favorite subjects in school?**
- 3 What are his favorite sports?**
- 4 Who are his musical influences?**
- 5 Who is his dream girl?**
- 6 What are his favorite snacks?**
- 7 What is his height?**

Score 1 point for each correct answer:

If you score 1-2 Try to read more about Chris if you really like him!
If you score 3-4 Not bad, you know what this singer likes!
If you score 5-7 You have been doing your research and are a true fan!

ANSWERS:

1 May 5, 1989; 2 Math and Biology; 3 Basketball and football; 4 Sam Cook, Michael Jackson, Steve Wonder, Usher, Donnie Hathaway, Marvin Gaye; 5 All of his female fans; 6 Strawberry cheesecake, chocolate; 7 6'1"



Called “the best new British R&B chanteuse since Sade,” her voice has been compared to Billie Holiday and Erykah Badu. This English singer and songwriter released her debut album **Corinne Bailey Rae** last year. The subject of racist comments and treatment as a child, Rae was named the number one predicted breakthrough act of 2006 in an annual BBC poll of music critics. She became only the fourth female British act in history to have her first album debut at number one, nominated for three Grammy Awards.



Actor Idris Elba, born and raised in London, England, is described as Afro-European. Elba’s father is from Sierra Leone and his mother is from Ghana. Elba is an actor who has starred in both British and American productions. Known for his role as Stringer Bell on *The Wire*, he recently starred with Gabrielle Union in Tyler Perry’s *Daddy’s Little Girls*. FYI: He has a daughter named Isan and he is also a DJ using the name Big Driis.

Actresses Nia Long and S. Epatha Merkerson enjoy a sisterhood moment at the Film Festival.



GIVING US A VOICE

SOME OF US ARE TIRED OF SEEING THE SAME FILMS ON THE BIG screen without us in any of them! This is why African American Women in Cinema exists: to represent sisters in film.

Nine years ago, Terra Renee founded **African American Woman in Cinema** because she “saw a lack of awareness regarding the type of talent that exists.” The numbers for female representation are ridiculously low, not just locally but nationally and internationally. Meanwhile, movies that are written, produced, and directed by women of color make a lot of money. For example, *Waiting To Exhale*, cost only \$15 million to make but brought in over \$64 million in the box office, not counting DVD or soundtrack sales.

In addition to an annual Film Festival, African American Women in Cinema helps more Black women secure distribution deals, bringing talent to a broader, often more supportive, audience. Renee’s vision is to see more films and more options, like Julie Dash’s *Daughters of the Dust* and *The Rosa Parks Story*.

Did you know:

- Black women comprise less than 0.06% of Directors Guild of America (DGA) members?
- Black women comprise less than 12% of Screen Actors Guild (SAG) members?

While Renee sees changes “little by little,” it is up to us as an audience to support our own. “I see artists who fight the good fight and give birth to a good film, but we need audience support,” she explains. We know that our stories need to be told. Maybe we should be better advocates and demand more: better quality, more choices.

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Newscom

AKON:

What We Like:

Born in Senegal, West Africa.

“I Wanna Love You”

Will join Cwren Stefani on “The Sweet Escape” tour starting in April.

The little diamond on his front tooth and other things—see picture!

What We Question:

“Smack That”

Reportedly served time for car theft.



▶ WHO WAS MARY McLEOD BETHUNE?

MARY McLEOD BETHUNE WAS THE 15TH OF 17 children of former slaves. She grew up in poverty and oppression and emerged as an educator, presidential advisor, and political activist. In 1935, Bethune founded The National Council of Negro Women to lead, develop, and advocate for women of African descent as they support their families and communities. Her life demonstrated the value of education, a philosophy of universal love, and the wise and consistent use of political power in striving for racial and gender equality.

The first headquarters of the National Council of Negro Women, a townhouse at 1318 Vermont Avenue, NW, was her last home in Washington, D.C. and is now a Historic Site open to visitors.

A Legacy of Love by Mary McLeod Bethune (1875-1955)

I leave you love.

Love builds. It is positive and helpful. It is more beneficial than hate. Injuries quickly forgotten quickly pass away. Our aim must be to create a world of fellowship and justice. "Love thy neighbor" is a precept which could transform the world if it were universally practiced.

I leave you faith.

e. Faith in God is the greatest power, but great too is faith in oneself. Our ancestors struggled for liberty in conditions far more onerous than those we now face, but they never forget their sufferings and their sacrifices, for they were the foundations of the progress of our people.

I leave you dignity.

We must recognize that we are the custodians as well as the heirs of a great civilization. We have given something to the world as a race and for this we are proud and fully conscious of our place in the total picture of mankind's development.



I have never been sensitive about my complexion. My color has never destroyed my self-respect nor has it ever caused me to conduct myself in such a manner as to merit the disrespect of any person.

I leave you fully responsible for our young people.

The world around us really belongs to youth for youth will take over its future management. Our children must never lose their zeal for building a better world. They must never be discouraged from aspiring toward greatness for they are to be leaders of tomorrow. Nor must they forget that the masses of our people are still underprivileged, ill-housed, impoverished, and victimized by discrimination. We have a powerful potential in our youth, and we must have the courage to change old ideas and practices so that we may direct the power toward good ends.

Photo and information provided by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.



MISSION IN FRENCH

Face à leurs besoins spécifiques des femmes et filles d'origine africaine, Sisterhood Agenda se donne comme mission d'inciter et d'aider cette population, prendre en charge (à assurer son propre développement). L'organisation favorise cette politique à travers:

- Une Fraternité
- Une Connaissance de soi
- Un développement autonome
- Un Amour de soi

Swahili Lesson

Hello/**Jambo**. (jah-mboh)

Hello (in reply)/**Jambo**. (jah-mboh)

How are you?

Habrari yako? (hah-bah-ree yah-koh)

Speak slowly.

Sema pole pole.

(seh-mah poh-leh poh-leh)

Yes/**La**. (lah)

No/**Ndiyo**. (ndee-yoh)

Thank you./**Asante**. (ah-sah-nteh)

You are welcome./**Si kitu**. (see kee-too)

I understand.

Naelewa. (nah-eh-leh-wah)

I do not understand.

Sielewi. (see-eh-leh-wee)

My name is...

Jina langu... (jee-nah lah-ngoo)

a woman

mwahamke (mwah-nah-mkeh)

school/**shule** (shoo-leh)

peace/**amani** (ah-mah-nee)

a dress/**nguo** (ngoo-oh)

a girl/**msichana** (msee-chah-nah)

Meet Cornel West



Cornel West in his office at Princeton University.

GROUNDBREAKING AUTHOR AND ONE OF AMERICA'S most gifted intellectuals, Dr. Cornel West fuses the church, progressive politics, and jazz in his work highlighting the history and heritage of Black people. West has published 17 books and is praised by the New York Times for his "ferocious moral vision" in *Race Matters*, which sold over 400,000 copies. In *Democracy Matters*, he "argues that if America is to become a better steward of democratization around the world, we must first wake up to the long history of imperialist corruption that has plagued our own democracy."

Dr. West is Class of 1943 University Professor at Princeton University. He has held previous positions at Union Theological Seminary, Yale University, Harvard University and the University of Paris. He is the father of two children, Clifton (age 29) and Zeytum (age 6). Sisterhood Agenda decided to ask him about a few things on his mind:

The biggest issue in our community:

The lost sense of history, for example not knowing important historical figures like Ida B. Wells, Toni Morrison, Dorothy Height and other Black women of our past who were dignified and determined. They help us, he said, to build resistance and avoid falling prey to stereotypes. Young sisters need "armor," he says, "to contrast the evil and humiliation in dealing with supremacy."

What makes West excited:

Young people "struggling in a beautiful manner."

Role models:

Don't copy. Be inspired. "Imitation is suicide. Sources of inspiration, yes."

Empowerment:

West defines it as "trying to muster the courage to think freely, love freely, hope freely, and think critically."

Thoughts about Sisterhood Agenda:

"Sisterhood Agenda magazine is the perfect magazine for this time. It provides a new level of development and a supportive network. We need uplifting to highlight the things that are a true force for good."

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CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVERY DAY

“BLACK HISTORY IS TOO RICH AND vibrant to be limited to just one month a year,” says logo designer and business owner Farouk Seti Olajuwon.

Sisterhood Agenda caught up with Olajuwon, who works every day managing his online store, the Black History Month Store, LLC from Minneapolis, Minnesota, to ask him about the logo and what it means for us as Black people.

Of Nigerian ancestry, Olajuwon was born in the United States and first created the logo in 1986 when Olajuwon was President of the Black Student Union at the University of Minnesota and thought “we needed to put a face to Black History Month. It needs more uniformity and consistency from coast to coast.”



Farouk Seti Olajuwon

The poster has Egyptian influences with the use of rich gold colors, wings and hieroglyphic graphics. There is another version of the poster just for kids with different, pastel colors.

Today, he brings people together to learn as much as they can about themselves and each other. Passionate about developing positive self-concept and having self-knowledge, Olajuwon, father of a 26 year-old son, states, “We need our history and heritage.

Teaching it is a daunting task, but I love it. It’s a passion for me.” True to his intent and purpose, he donates the proceeds of poster sales to local nonprofits.

The Official Black History Month Logo is available at www.blackhistorymonthlogo.com.

“We need our history and heritage. Teaching it is a daunting task, but I love it. It’s a passion for me.”

TOP TRAVEL DESTINATIONS FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

Where can you find the most comprehensive collection of artifacts chronicling slavery? A museum dedicated to the Tuskegee Airmen? A memorial honoring Eddie Kendricks and the Temptations? A Black Panther Legacy Walking Tour?

SAN FRANCISCO & OAKLAND

In this metropolis, which was the western terminus of the Underground Railroad, you'll find the Museum of the African Diaspora and the Black Panthers Legacy Walking Tour.

DETROIT

The motor city has several notable museums, including the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, the National Museum of the Tuskegee Airmen and the Motown Historical Museum.

CINCINNATI

Located on the north bank of the Ohio River, Cincinnati boasts this country's most comprehensive museum chronicling U.S. slavery, the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center.

PHILADELPHIA

In the first American city to ban slavery, you should explore the African American Museum of Philadelphia and see where Philadelphia International Records shaped so much of the music we love today.

NEW YORK CITY

The world-renown Apollo Theater, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, and Malcolm X Museum are must visits. The Dance Theater of Harlem is where some of the world's greatest dancers got their start.

BALTIMORE

The first wax museum of African-American history, "The National Great Blacks in Wax Museum," the remarkable Reginald Lewis Museum and the new Frederick Douglass-Isaac Myers Maritime Museum are located in Baltimore.

WASHINGTON, DC

The Benjamin Banneker Memorial & Fountain honors the Black man who completed the landscape design for the District of Columbia. Howard University is also in D.C.

MEMPHIS

Martin Luther King, Jr. was killed at Memphis' Lorraine Hotel, now the site of a memorial in his honor. The memorial is connected to the National Civil Rights Museum. Soulsville Museum is a must visit for music devotees.

BIRMINGHAM

A major backdrop to the civil rights struggle, this city boasts the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and is also home to the Eddie Kendricks & Temptations Memorial.

ATLANTA

In addition to the birthplace, church and tombs of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King, Atlanta is home to Auburn Avenue Research Library and APEX Museum.

NEW ORLEANS

The birthplace of jazz, New Orleans is the location of the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation and the New Orleans African American Museum of Art, Culture & History.

CHICAGO

First settled by Jean Baptiste Pointe du Sable, a Black man, Chicago is home to a museum named in his honor, the Du Sable Museum of African American History. In addition, the A. Philip Randolph / Pullman Porter Museum, which pays tribute to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, is in this city.



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"There is no better way to experience Black History than to see it up close and personal," said SoulOfAmerica.com's Founder and Publisher Thomas Dorsey. "SoulOfAmerica.com is the roadmap to an exhaustive list of cultural and historic sites that make Black History come alive. We easily could have included 12 more city guides in this list."

coverstory
coverstory
coverstory

I
N
D
A
ARIE

“I made a decision
early not to
compromise myself
or my music.”

Soulful Super STAR



Newscom

At the 2007
Grammy
Awards in
Los Angeles,
California.

YOUNG YET WISE, SENSITIVE YET STRONG, OLD-SCHOOL YET NEO soul, she is India.Arie. She is not the average girl in the "Video," she appreciates her "Brown Skin" and is "Ready for Love," reminds us about the "Little Things," and inspires us to have "Strength, Courage and Wisdom." We agree when she proclaims, "I Am Not My Hair." India.Arie is a refreshing presence in the music game, unique, special, one-of-a-kind and entirely herself.

The 2-time Grammy winner has the unusual distinction of being nominated for 15 (yes, 15!) Grammy Awards. A conscious singer, songwriter, and musician born in Denver, Colorado to former NBA player Ralph Simpson and mother Joyce, who is now her stylist, India.Arie and her brother moved to Atlanta after her parents divorced.

India.Arie does not just play the acoustic guitar, but also plays the saxophone, baritone, french horn, clarinet, recorder, and trumpet. As Sisterhood Agenda's soulful superstar, she is a role model, not just for Black girls, but for all youth and women.

Undeniably beautiful yet unconventional, it is surprising that India.Arie has not graced the covers of more magazines or been the focus of more media exposure. But then again, her ever-changing tresses and signature African goddess look, complete with bright colors, avant-garde* purses, shoes, peacock feathers, and other accessories is not the usual hair weave and barely there clothing preferences of other artists her age. It is like mainstream America does not know what to do with this fascinating enigma who refuses be packaged. Self-aware and self-possessed, she states, "I made a decision early not to compromise myself or my music."

India.Arie has always been passionate about her music. In a relatively short period of time, we have seen her grow with success by doing it her way. Respected in the industry, we do not see or hear about her private life in the press. We do not see drama, unhealthy relationships, drinking or wild partying ways. So what's up?

On Testimony: Vol. I Life & Relationships, she explains, "I couldn't help but write about all the lessons I was learning about what relationships are...I wanted to make sure that I was telling my truth, that I could stand behind it." Sure, there is emotion, triumph over adversity, the highs and lows of love, yearning and reflection, but most of all there is hope. With India.Arie, the glass always seems half-full.

Her name "India" is a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi because her due date matched Gandhi's birth. "Arie" means "lion."

Currently, India.Arie is working hard on her next album, *Testimony: Vol. 2, Love & Politics*, due later this summer. When not creating musical masterpieces, she demonstrates her dedication to social causes around the globe as a U.S. Ambassador for UNICEF. Her priorities remain to her higher power and her fans: "I always pray that God will allow my music to touch whoever it's for in the way that they need. I always pray for that." 

* The avant-garde pushes the boundaries of what is accepted as the norm within definitions of art/culture/reality.

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Twists & Curves *by Maria Thompson*

Our natural hair is our history. It is what we, as African people, were born with. As Black girls and women, we can enjoy our relaxed or natural tresses, given the many styling techniques that we have available to us. Dare to be different!

There are lots of creative ways of wearing your hair natural:

- Two strand twisting the hair—wear for a few weeks then unravel twists for a twist out!
- Good old fashion Afro!
- Cornrow front to middle of head and two strand twist the back.
- Comb twist—hair has to be 100% natural for this style.
- Locs.

Flat twists and curly twists can be done on natural or relaxed hair and can be washed. When you are in transition from chemically straightened hair to natural hair:

- Hair should be washed with a moisturizing shampoo and deep-conditioned. Comb hair out with a wide-tooth comb.
- Trim ends every six weeks to keep it healthy.
- Keeping hair braided helps to get you through the two-texture phase as your natural hair grows out.

Distinctive



Curly twists-short.

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visit www.sisterhoodagenda.com or call 973-230-2765.

Afrocentric Designs



Curly twists-long.



Flat twists on relaxed hair.

Maria Thompson has been a Licensed Cosmetologist and an Artistic Afrocentric Braid Designer for the past 25 years. Maria has been a creative influence as the industry, conducting workshops in the U.S. and England. Her creative styles have graced the cover of magazines in the U.S., London and Paris. Maria's energy and love of the profession drives her desire to share her creative styles with other professionals through seminars, workshops and training programs.

EXPRESS
YOURSELF!

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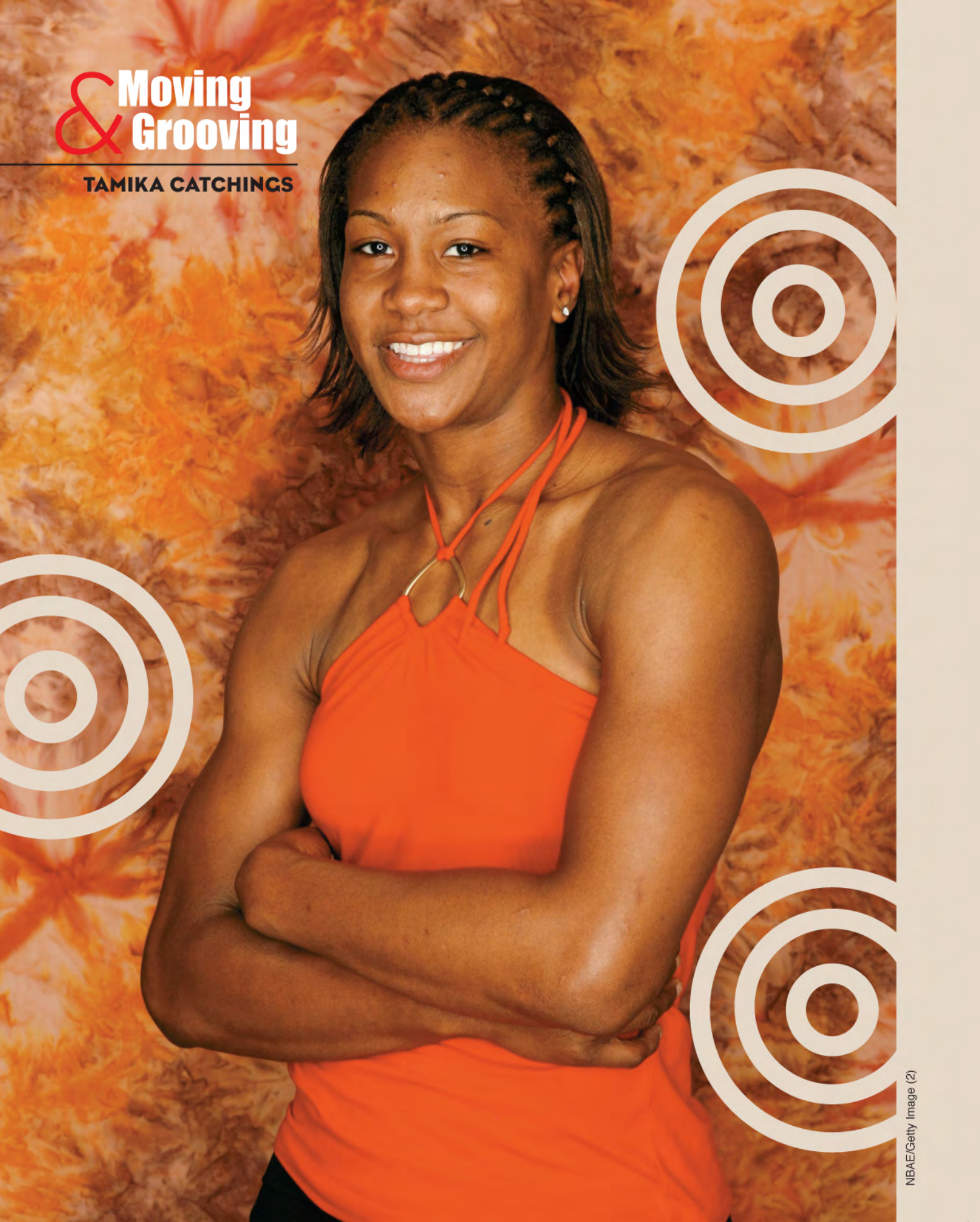
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**THE 5TH ANNUAL HAPPILY NATURAL DAY
& 3RD ANNUAL BLACK FREEDOM WEEKEND**
BRINGING BACK BLACK IS BEAUTIFUL
THIS SUMMER AUGUST 24-26, 2007 RICHMOND VIRGINIA
VOLUNTEERS, VENDORS & SPONSORS NEEDED
VISIT [HTTP://HAPPILYNATURALDAY.COM](http://HAPPILYNATURALDAY.COM) FMI
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VISIT THE OFFICAL SITE @ [HTTP://UNIA-ACL.ORG](http://UNIA-ACL.ORG)

Moving & Grooving

TAMIKA CATCHINGS



INDIANA FEVER FORWARD

In just six WNBA seasons, **Tamika Catchings** has established herself as one of the best all-around players in the world. She currently ranks among the league's top ten in seven statistical categories including, first in steals per game (2.9) and total steals (94), second in free throws (165), third in minutes per game (33.5), fifth in defensive rebounds (172), and seventh in double-doubles (6.0) and rebounds per game (7.5). Catchings is the 2006 WNBA Defensive Player of the Year.

An avid poetry writer, Catchings is very active with the WNBA "Read to Achieve" campaign. She is truly a community leader and embraces being a positive role model. Following the success of her "Catch the Fever" Camps and "Catch on to Fitness Clinics" she created the "Catch the Stars Foundation Inc." in the spring of 2004. *Sisterhood Agenda* had a chance to discuss basketball and self-esteem with Tamika Catchings while she was playing basketball in Italy:

What gets you excited nowadays?

The biggest thing that gets me excited is waking up each day, and knowing that God has blessed me with so many abilities.

What makes you such a great defensive player?

I love taking the ball and getting it at any point in the game. I think on the defensive end, my intensity and drive for that comes from people not understanding that defense and rebounds is what truly wins games. No matter how much you score, if you can't play defense, you're team doesn't really have a chance to win.

Where do you get your intensity and drive?

I get my intensity and drive from wanting to be the best that Tamika Catchings can be. I don't compare myself to other people, but I know what my goals are. That's all that matters to me. And, that is in everything I do on and off the court.

What do you think is the biggest issue with girls today?

SELF-ESTEEM! I don't know why girls get so caught up in not believing in themselves and always demeaning themselves. I like to tell all of our young girls that WE ARE SOMEBODY! It seems like in society today, our young girls get caught up in trying to be like the girls "on the TV and in the magazines." We got to get them to be excited for the way God has created them! We are all beautifully made from His hands.

Your Catch the Stars Foundation sounds exciting. Please tell me more about the S.T.A.R.S. Program—I love the name! What was your motivation for starting it and how do you help girls?

Our STARS program stands for Sisters Teaching and Reaching Sisters. It is awesome! We have small groups of about 15-20 girls per session. It's great to talk to these girls about different topics that they go through. We talk about self-esteem (of course), fitness, goal planning and much more. It's only an 8 week program, so it flies by but we know that the girls get a lot out of it, and that at the end of 8 weeks they have changed their perspective in at least one phase of their lives.

Who are your role models and why?

My parents have always been my role models. When I was younger I grew up with a hearing and speech problem. I also had to wear glasses. So, needless to say—I was different. My Mom and Dad always taught me to be strong, and that's what has helped me become the person that I am today.

What should girls do to be successful?

I think it's about surrounding yourself with the right people. It's okay not to have 100 friends. You have to find people that want to go where you are going. If you can't find that, then you set yourself up to be like the people you

surround yourself with. Like when I was younger, I wanted to play b-ball. Everyday I went out with those of my teammates that took sports seriously. That's how I became what I wanted to be. My friends understood where I wanted to go, and they helped me along the way.

How do you know when you are "doing the right thing?"

I believe in that gut feeling. You always know when you are doing the right thing when you feel it. I know that for me, I pray a lot about making the right choices. I know we all make mistakes, but it's all about not making the same mistakes over and over. You have to learn from the decisions that you make.

What is something about you that very few people know?

I would have to say how soft hearted and loyal I am to those around me. It's hard to get in my circle, but once you're in, I will do any and everything I can for you!

When you are not playing basketball, what are you doing?

I love to read, write poetry, shop at times. Hhhmmmm... watch movies, cook, and just lay low. I'm a very low maintenance person.

Of course you are still young, but looking back at your life, what are you most proud of?

My Catch the Stars Foundation at this point. Just knowing that I can wake up each day and make a difference in others' lives. That is the most important thing to me. I think God has put me in a position for me to fulfill His purpose.

What can we do to support you and other WNBA players?

I think the more we can tell people about the WNBA the better. I know it's hard because we're 4 months on and 8 months off, but I guarantee every day that we go out and play during the summer we bring our best. We want our fans to know how much we appreciate their support for us. We are very fan friendly as players and as a league overall. I know as far as support goes, we just need to get the word out about when we play, and about the players as individuals.

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Indiana Fever forward,
Tamika Catchings



& Moving Grooving

KAMPALA KIDS LEAGUE

*Proudly clad in TKL uniform,
Sarah takes careful aim for the
basket in the TKL Netball program.*



Encouraging More Girls to Play Sports in Africa

By Trevor Dudley

TREVOR DUDLEY DEVELOPED Kampala Kids League and The Kids League in Uganda that has used sport to bring about social change and improve the lives of over 30,000 boys and girls with health and education messages. Here Trevor tells the story of the ambitious programme to help more girls in Uganda to improve their lives through sport:

Dawn arrives with an orange glow in Te Tugo Internally Displaced Peoples Camp. Twelve year-old Sarah is up early to help the family prepare food. She helps her 6 younger brothers and sisters prepare for another day in this makeshift grass hut camp 10 km from Gulu town set in the midst of the conflict zone in Northern Uganda.

"Girls are expected to bring up their younger siblings and learn how to prepare food – not to waste their time on sports fields."

Sarah tries to finish all her chores as quickly as possible as she prepares to go to school. Sarah is in the P7 class at the local primary school. Sarah loves her school. What she learns in class opens up a whole new world for her and gives her the social opportunity to make friends.

Life is tough in the IDP Camps. Money is short and Sarah's father has been offered \$15 for his daughter.

Sarah is also very good at sports. Sarah's life has been changed for the better since last year when The Kids League (TKL) Gulu set up a sports programme in Te Tugo. TKL is a non-government organization set up in 2003 that helps children improve their lives through sport at grassroots level. Despite all the hardships, Sarah has a smile on her face. She is proudly wearing her TKL smart uniform and is looking forward to soccer practice later in the day and joining in the activities of the TKL Youth Ambassador club.

Sport for Sarah, like most of the other half million girls in Northern Uganda, was previously not considered an option before TKL came along. Many parents cannot see any benefit in sports for girls. Whereas boys can kick a ball around for a

couple of hours a day, girls, they believe, have work to do.

Local traditions run deep and the programme has a lot of hard work ahead to convince elders of the benefit of sports. TKL hosted an awareness-raising programme for girl's sports in one of Uganda's Northern Districts. The Resident District Commissioner, who is the Presidential spokesman for the District warned TKL that they shouldn't deflect girls from their traditional duties. "Girls are expected to bring up their younger siblings and learn how to prepare food—not to waste their time on sports fields."

Emma Ntwatwa, the TKL Programme Manager, remains positive. "There are many challenges in Africa facing women and girls. Our very popular programmes are now established in 9 Districts with 25,000 boys and girls involved in football and netball (girls form of basketball) that teach in a very positive way the benefits of education and health awareness. Our kids are fitter, healthier and have greater opportunities for tomorrow. Only 10% of our kids are girls due to these constraints, but girls like Sarah show that there is real hope for this programme."



Spread The Word Save A Sister From Cervical Cancer

You can Save A Sister by recommending these simple actions:

1. Pap test regularly
2. Request an HPV test if you are over 30
3. Early vaccination

We are charging Sisters with a mission of empowerment and education. Cervical cancer is 100% preventable. New vaccines are available for females 9-26. If you are over 30, requesting an HPV test along with your annual pap test offers Sisters early detection of changes before developing into cervical cancer.

**Spread the word and encourage the women in your life
to prevent cervical cancer today!**

**To learn more about HPV and cervical cancer,
visit the ISIS Project - www.theisisproject.org**

The ISIS Project is made possible by educational grants from Digene Corporation and Merck & Co., Inc.

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TOOLS FOR SURVIVAL



Esinet Mapondera

Empowerment in Zimbabwe

We know that money is important: it is important to make, keep, distribute, share, and give away. But to make money, sometimes you first need to have money.

A true pioneer and legend passionate about the empowerment of women and their independence, Esinet Mapondera, age 82, is a community Elder who is known for her work with women and finance. Mapondera founded the Zimbabwe Women Finance Trust (ZWFT), the first micro-credit institution in Zimbabwe to use group lending. Mapondera believes, "The core values underpinning my leadership efforts are honesty, integrity, transparency and hard work."

Calling herself "a product of the sons

and daughters of African descent who kept their lights burning and shining in spite of the odds," Mapondera is cheerful when speaking about her work helping poorly skilled women to manage themselves financially through technical training, collaboration, skill-building, and training for women who want to start their own businesses.

Born and trained as a social worker and nurse in Zambia, South Africa, Botswana and New York, Mapondera's

organization has had over 6,000 members helping over 30,000 people.

Communicating via email and telephone, Mapondera says, "I'm 82 years old, but I'm still dreaming! To tell you the truth, I really enjoyed my life. And I look forward to

seeing more." She adds, "I'm very excited about your organization—any news that touches on women and girls of African descent touches my heart. Sisterhood Agenda will bring us together more and more."

LOVE AND SURVIVAL

"Human beings always want to take the easy way out of situations to avoid a challenge. It is easier to dislike something or someone rather than find a reason to love them deeply. Sometimes we as human beings become so overwhelmed with love that we don't know how to express it. The only way that we can express the love we feel so deeply is to find the smallest reason we can to hate. Since forever, human beings have been afraid of being hurt in any way shape or form. When you love, you risk being hurt and if you love too deeply, you risk being scared, sometimes for life. Hate is only an escape for the soul that cannot express love." —*Fajr, North Carolina*

Send us your comments about love and survival or any other topic covered in *Sisterhood Agenda* magazine to sistermail@sisterhoodagenda.com.

CHECK OUT THE FRONT ROW

By Anita Davis-Defoe, Ph.D.

Everyone cannot be center stage in your life, or in some instances even given a seat on the front row. You need to check out who you have given a seat in your front row.

Our lives are meant to be filled with people and experiences that foster joy, inner peace and happiness. You have to make certain that the people who are in your front row deserve to be there.

People who are immature, selfish, and lack emotional intelligence have no business sitting in your front row. We need to do some reflection about the relationships and scenarios in our lives.

Do the people on your front row know you, understand you and appreciate you?

Decide what you want, and refuse to settle; settling only encourages dissatisfaction. Seek and wait for what your heart truly desires, and true fulfillment will be yours.

Remember you can never change the behaviors, attitudes and habits of the people around you, but you certainly can change the people you are around.

PARTNERS

THEY'RE BLACK, THEY'RE BRITISH

Black British Immigrants Find Their Voice and Each Other on BlackBritsUSA.com



Michelle McKoy, founder of BlackBritsUSA.com

"IN AMERICA, MOST PEOPLE ARE STARTLED TO HEAR THIS ACCENT COMING FROM somebody who looks like me," explains Michelle McKoy, founder of BlackBritsUSA.com, based in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. "As obvious as my accent is, someone always does a double take every time I say something in public. People ask me everyday 'where are you from?'" McKoy jokingly adds with typical British sarcasm, "It's as if they have never seen an Austin Powers or James Bond movie!"

A permanent resident in the USA after being born in England to Jamaican parents, McKoy hasn't quite adjusted to these curious stares since migrating to the U.S. six years ago after moving between the U.S., Caribbean and U.K. She founded Black Brits USA based on her personal experiences: "Being on vacation is different from living the American dream. My experience of isolation and alienation, fueled my determination to find myself and an entity that I could use my skills. When I arrived in Florida, I had a string of dead-end jobs. My first was working for \$5 an hour in a hip hop store. That's the reality that many people have when they come to America. I was no different. I realized that no one is going to just give me what I want in life. I have to make it and take it. The world is my oyster. Also, it was apparent that mainstream Americans didn't know a lot about the Black British experience and made assumptions that are so far from the truth. I wanted to create a vehicle that portrayed Black British experience in a professional & interesting way."

Black British celebrities such as supermodel Naomi Campbell have easily assimilated in Hollywood where being different and eclectic is the norm, but in Your-Town, USA thousands are finding themselves as a minority within a minority. "African Americans tend to be even more shocked than others when they hear me talk," said one of the online community's members during a chat room discussion. "Sometimes people think we are stuck up simply because of how we speak. I am not trying to talk White, or like someone I am not, this is really how I speak."

"People often ask me if I am Black first and British second or visa-versa," said McKoy. "I am both. A child of transatlantic movement." Despite their unique culture, many Blacks in the U.K. feel a common bond with their U.S. counterparts. McKoy's website is one way to maintain the connection to the unique dual-identity of being both Black and British.

GLOBAL

PARTNERS

ACTING OUT IN DETROIT



Mosaic's internationally acclaimed, professional performing arts training program achieves youth development through the arts.

Lisa, Vaughn, a member of The Mosaic Technical Crew, working in Mosaic's technical shop.



ARTISTRY IN ACTION:

Mosaic's Youth Ensemble is comprised of actors, singers and technicians—100 strong! The Mosaic Acting Company trains its artists' voices, bodies and imaginations to meet the demands of acting with vigor, honesty and confidence. The Mosaic Technical Crew handle all behind-the-scenes aspects of production; set and lighting design, set construction, stage management, sound and costumes.

NOTHING BUT THE BEST:

Due to the high degree of professionalism, the program demands young people are only accepted into the Mosaic Youth Ensemble by way of audition.

YOUTH ENSEMBLE: The Youth Ensemble is the core program of Mosaic, providing nine months of free intensive training in acting, vocal music and technical theatre. Ensemble members work with their directors and professional actors, writers, musicians and designers. Each year a full season of

plays and concerts are presented to audiences at the General Motors Mosaic Theatre, the Max M Fisher Music Center and the Detroit Institute of the Arts.



PUTTING YOUNG ARTISTS ON THE PATH TO HIGHER EDUCATION:

Each year, Mosaic's young artists participate in a performance tour to colleges throughout the U.S. To date, 95% of Mosaic youth ensemble artists go to college upon graduating from high school. Further, Mosaic alums have received thousands of dollars in college scholarships from such prestigious institutions as Cornell, Howard, NYU, Julliard, Oberlin, Morehouse, Berkley School of Music, University of Michigan, Boston Conservatory and Miami University.

TEACHING THE ART OF CITIZENSHIP:

Mosaic's annual Holiday Perform-A-Thon provides more than 70 free performances to homeless shelters, nursing homes, juvenile detention centers, women shelters, soup kitchens and other community locations.

PARTNERS



GIVING SIBLINGS THEIR RIGHT TO REUNITE



Founder, Lynn Price



Lakeya and Nickyma made pillows for each other.

LYNN GREW UP IN A LOVING, MIDDLE CLASS family in Skokie, Illinois. When she was eight years old they told her, "We're not your real parents." When Lynn's birth mother expressed interest in taking both of her children back, Lynn led two lives. She lived with her foster family and had supervised visits with her birth mother and her sister. She had two names and two sets of relatives. While she recalls a "great elementary and high school life," she was often confused about where she really belonged.

After becoming a Court Appointed Special Advocate and children's shelter volunteer, Lynn saw a little girl staring at a boy on the other side of the campus; it turned out to be her brother. Lynn asked herself, "What can I do to ensure that these brothers and sisters share times together in their childhood?" The answer was Camp To Belong. Camp To Belong currently takes place at Anderson Camps in the mountains of Gypsum, Colorado. Supervised by volunteer counselors, the campers' days are filled with fun and meaningful activities giving siblings the opportunity to experience new things together, such as horseback riding, rafting, swimming and wall climbing.

Each afternoon the children participate in art activities, while nights are filled with activities for the entire camp including motivational speakers. To complement the summer camp experience, Camp To Belong offers three programs, implemented during the camp session. These signature programs are the Life Seminar Program, the Sibling Enhancement Program and the Therapeutic Art Program.

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“I want to
impact the lives
of Black girls
through
photography.”

LETTING BLACK GIRLS KNOW THAT THEY ARE BEAUTIFUL *By Saraiya Gilmer*

MY MOTHER WAS ALMOST MAGICAL in my eyes when I was a little girl. Intelligent, gorgeous, and feisty...I LOVED being her child, and as I grew into an adult I began to understand why. There were moments in my life that I thought, “I couldn’t love her a drop more than I already do.”, but then she would get this look on her face, like we were the only two in the room, and her answer to my question was a secret she was glad to tell me.

Every Thursday, my mother would take my sister and me to the mall for sour gumballs. I looked forward to it every week and wondered why I felt so full and content. I asked her finally, “Why do we go to get gumballs every Thursday?” She looked at me with

that absolutely wonderful look and said, “because children need routine, it’s good for them” and smiled. Our family continued to have its highs and lows after I asked that question.... But that moment she took to create that memory has proven invaluable to my growth ever since.

Two years ago, a friend asked me what I wanted to do with this phase of my life. I said, “I want to impact the lives of Black girls through photography.” *Beautiful.* is an opportunity to create a memory, a picture, that will help to carry Black girls and their families through the expected and unexpected challenges of their lives. The evolution of this project allowed me to experience the wisdom of children, the

devotion of their mothers and fathers, and the loyalty of their friends. I always expected *Beautiful.* to impact the lives of others. What I did not know, is how the support of these families would impact me.

I approached Sisterhood Agenda because thoughtful research and effort on their part created a multi-layered strategy to affect change in the lives of Black girls effectively in our community. It was my hope that they would value the layers of *Beautiful.*, as well. To my delight, they did and our partnership for this book began.

Beautiful. the book, is available at www.sisterhoodagenda.com.

It's Time to Begin

By Natasha Houghton-Allrich

Let's break the cycle of silence
Crack the code
Pump up the volume
... and manifest some visions for the greater good.
Who's on board???

It's time to really begin! Whew!
It is the first quarter of the New Year—
No time for fear
Your future is calling
Your present is here.
Your purpose awaits,
We all need a real date

When you and I will rise up and take our natural place
To be who we are meant to be
Do what we are meant to do
For you and I in this lifetime to have it all
There is no time but the present
So let's unwrap our gifts
It is time for all of humanity to uplift
If you are with me

Then stand up and be the best spirit-filled human
being you know how to be
The prerequisite is simple
You have all you will ever need
It dwells right inside of you
You and I were born with it indeed
Rise up, straight and tall,
Claim your victories
It is yours, after all
I will pray and affirm that all goes well
And that you do not quit
For we need you in the count
Our visions manifesting is our next stop.

P.S. Your purpose is greater than your pain.

Simply
Me!

I am...

I am the **Essence of Beauty,**
The **Vision** of my People
The **Memory** of my Ancestors,
The **Epitome of Hope.**
I am the **Face of Struggle,**
The **Body of Labor,**
Simply put,
I am,
ME.

—Winifred Brownlee

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Natasha Houghton-Allrich, a life coach and speaker, helps groups and individuals live their best lives.

INNER HEALTH FOR OUTER BEAUTY

PERIOD POWER!

By LUCILLE BALUKIAN

It was often referred to as "the curse" by our mothers and grandmothers, but today a growing number of girls and women are seeing menstruation in a new light — moonlight, to be exact. Thanks to Women's History scholars and the Women's Spirituality Movement that took root in the 1970's, we know that in other cultures and times, the monthly bleeding of women was called "moon flow" and the monthly period, "moon time," a time when women would go into retreat to rest and to access their inner wisdom. Women were thought to have magical powers. It was awesome that every 28 days — 13 times a year — in rhythm with the moon's cycle, their bodies released the nutrient-rich blood that lines the uterus. Imagine a being who can bleed and not die in the process! Furthermore, she could give birth to new life and provide ideal nourishment from her own breasts. A girl's

entry into womanhood was a cause for celebration.

Archeologists have uncovered evidence that in early societies women were highly respected and held positions of leadership. They were landowners, farmers, magistrates, community organizers, teachers, healers, midwives and priestesses. So, what happened? Even in a country as progressive as the USA, we still don't have a woman president. And it wasn't that long ago that women had to fight just for the right to vote.



Hemitra Crecraft, who refers to herself as 'red web celebrationist,' is a leader in the movement to restore women's rites of passage— from menarche (first menstruation) to menopause (cessation of monthly periods). Since 1990, she has led ceremonies to honor girls entering into womanhood.

HELPING FAMILIES STAY HEALTHY IN KENYA

The mission of **TropicalClinics** is to be the first and only health center in Kenya:

- To provide comprehensive and integrated HIV-care to women and children.
- To provide both essential obstetric care and health care to abused women, with state-of-art diagnostic tools and biotechnology center for traditional medicine.

Dr. Margaret Kilibwa, a Clinical Assistant Professor at the Women's Health Institute of the UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson School, started TropicalClinics while going back and forth from her work in New Jersey to Kakamega, a small town about 250 miles north of Nairobi. Kakamega is described as semi-rural with electricity and water, but not in every house. When visiting two or three times per year, Dr. Kilibwa would take medical supplies, kits, and tools with her to distribute to those in need. Eventually, she began to packing more and more in her suitcases and soon, started receiving assistance from the Kenyan health system.

Working with mostly young female physicians whom Dr. Kilibwa describes as "very, very hardworking and extremely dedicated working long hours without complaints," people travel up to 10 miles to go to TropicalClinics, even when there are hospitals and other facilities are closer. The level of dedicated care and technology "tools that people have never even seen," draw people to them for immediate and preventive care.

The pediatricians, ob/gyn's, and nurses working at TropicalClinics have completed at least five years of schooling after college. When they are not busy making a positive difference, staff unwind by going to the coast of Mombasa and lying on the beautiful beaches.

Currently, patients are serviced out of a tent, complete with ultrasound and MRI equipment. The clinic in Kenya is currently under construction and is scheduled to open July or August 2007. The first TropicalClinics structure will serve as a model for as many as two more in Kenya and other geographical areas of need on the continent.

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Grace Muhonja, a young woman who has just graduated as an Internal Medicine specialist, fascinated Dr. Kilibwa with her poise, patience and creativity in the medical field. She will become one of the physicians at TropicalClinics.



Dr. Kilibwa (standing above the young lady seated) working with her staff in Kakamega, Kenya: Karen Adagala, Susan Kemoli and Jacquelyn Adisa sitting next to a patient who had come to the medical camp for prenatal care.

INNER HEALTH FOR OUTER BEAUTY



Estelle H. Whitney, MD, F.A.C.O.G.
National Spokesperson

WORKING TOGETHER TO STOP CERVICAL CANCER

Dr. Whitney says, "Let's spread the word, increase awareness, and save someone's life."

Estelle H. Whitney, MD received her undergraduate degree from Lincoln University and her medical degree from Howard University College of Medicine. She is a Board-Certified OB/CYN and is also Board-Certified in Holistic Medicine.

The Balm in Gilead recently announced its new public education program for their **ISIS Project**, a strategy to inform and educate African American women about cervical cancer and to encourage them to become knowledgeable about the HPV virus and vaccine.

Dr. Whitney was motivated to participate by Pernessa Seele, founder of Balm in Gilead, a nonprofit organization created to improve the health status of people in the African Diaspora by building the capacity of faith communities to address life-threatening diseases. Many women are not aware that they are at-risk:

- African American women have the highest cervical cancer death rate of any group of women and die at twice the rate of white women.
- Cervical cancer is caused by persistent infection with an extremely common and contagious virus, the human papillomavirus (HPV).
- Many women are not aware that cervical cancer is preventable.
- Many women are not aware of the vaccine against the disease that is available for women under 26 years of age.
- New technologies including HPV testing for screening women and HPV vaccination for girls offer new opportunities to prevent cervical cancer.

Dr. Whitney finds that a lot of her younger patients are asking her about HPV when six months earlier, she was not being asked at all. As a practitioner who sees patients regularly, she also sees pre-cancerous changes such as warts or lesions, which can also be devastating, physically and emotionally. Her advice to young girls: "Be smart about your health. Learn and read as much as you can. Find a health care provider that you can talk to."

You May Be at High Risk for Getting HIV if You:

Had 3 or more sexual partners in the last 12 months and did not use a condom.

Have injected drugs.

Had a sexually transmitted infection in the last 12 months.

Have exchanged sex for money or drugs.

Ever had anal intercourse without using a condom.

You CAN Make A Difference In The Fight Against HIV/AIDS by learning your HIV status!

If you **answered yes** to any of the questions on the left, please contact **ADARC** for information about free, confidential HIV testing.

❖ You **DO NOT** have to wait 2 to 6 months to learn your HIV status.

❖ Symptoms of **new** HIV can occur **7 to 10 days** after infection.

❖ If your **HIV test is positive**, we will provide information about your choices for obtaining quality medical care, including the option to participate in a confidential clinical research study at our Center, at no cost to you.

❖ If your **HIV test is negative** we will provide information on ways to protect yourself.



For more information, please call
Elizabeth Londoño at: 212-327-7260
or email: elondono@adarc.org.



PROGRESSING WITH



Finesse, Dignity Pride &



Nubian Village Academy staff.

NUBIAN VILLAGE ACADEMY

“OH, NO!” IS WHAT DEERA RYALS thought when she enrolled her son in daycare with disastrous results. She resisted the candy-as-reward philosophy for behavioral management and the celebration of holidays that her holistic lifestyle and belief system did not support. But the last straw was when her vegan child (no meat, dairy, or animal products are consumed) was given macaroni and cheese and she had to rush him to the hospital. She quickly came to the realization that young Black males like her son needed special attention and preparation: “Those

teachers did not know how to work with that energy.” Ryals became a Co-Founder of the school, Nubian Village Academy, at just 22 years old. For the last two years, she has been the sole business owner.

Often misdiagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) and Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Black children, especially males, needed more than what the local educational facilities could provide. Now in its sixth year, Nubian Village Academy boasts a wide array of age-appropriate learning

activities for its 37 students. What makes the school different from others? Educators in the school teach children that they are indigenous. Cultural exposure (throughout the United States, Mexico, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, and Belize) is common for staff and students. There is one male and one female teacher in each classroom, parents volunteer a minimum of five hours per month, and programs include arts, entrepreneurship, music, African dance, Spanish, Chinese, Swahili, and sign language.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE:

African American Women in Politics

BY CASEY PEDUT

Though African American women comprise a sizeable portion of the United States population, they are largely underrepresented at all levels of government. Consider the following:

- 36 million African Americans live in the U.S., comprising 13 % of the population.
- Of the 14 women in the U.S. Senate currently in office, none are African American.
- Of the 67 women in the U.S. House of Representatives, 12, or 5.6%, are African American
- Of the 78 women serving in statewide elective executive offices, 5, or 6.4%, are women of color.
- Of the 1,686 women state legislators serving nationwide, 331 or 19.6% are women of color.

The widespread lack of inclusion of African American women at all levels of government – local state, and national – means that African American women are largely omitted from the decision-making processes that guide our laws and the way we live. The voice of African American women in government, however, needs to be heard. The experiences of African American women give them unique insight, enabling them to give voice to the needs of working women, to women of color, and to the issues which affect their families and children. For this reason, as well as the necessity of inclusion, African American women need to be politically involved.

Casey Pedut is an intern at the League of Women Voters of New Jersey.



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MINIMUM WAGE INCREASES!

Upwards of two million African American workers would likely get a pay raise as a result of increases in the federal minimum wage now under consideration in the U.S. Congress, as well as state minimum wage changes implemented by 2009, according to a new report by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies.

"Our analysis shows that this increase in the minimum wage would have a significant positive impact on African American families and communities," said Ralph Everett, president and CEO of the Joint Center. The report reveals that the largest number of Black workers who would receive wage increases as a result of the federal legislation can be found in southern states.

The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies is a national, nonprofit research and public policy institution based in Washington, D.C.

Listings include Global Partners (marked with an *), Distribution Sites where you can get copies of Sisterhood Agenda magazine and other resources for women and girls of African descent. Global Partners receive content, copies of the magazine, and website links. Sisterhood Agenda welcomes articles, stories, photographs, and graphics for the publication. Sisterhood Agenda receives no compensation for these listings. Listings are added or removed upon request and updated regularly. To add a resource, view updates and find website links to organizations featured in the magazine, visit www.sisterhoodagenda.com.

UNITED STATES

Alabama

Ace Variety Bookstore
Alabama A&M University
Alabama State University
Artistic Braids
Birmingham Urban League*
Black Classic Books
Lodgestar
Hasan Books
Mahogany Books
Miles College
Roots & Wings
Solomon's Books
Tuskegee University

Arkansas

Africa Enterprises
Arkansas Baptist College
Pyramid Gallery

Arizona

12th Tribe
Greater Phoenix Urban League*
Paradise Books
Tucson Urban League*

California

African Heritage Books and Gifts
African Marketplace
Alkebulan Books
African Book Mart
Annette's Braids
Birthing Project*
Bookpeople
Books in Color
Bright Lights Bookstore
Black Spring Books
Cadajah's Lofician Services
Carol's Books & Things
Culture Collection
Education 2000+ Bookstore
Eso Won Books
Ethnic Notions Bookstore
Freshly Twisted
Hair Today Hair Tomorrow
Hanna's Ethnic Bookseller
IronWood Corner
It is Written Bookstore
Kongo Square Gallery
Los Angeles Urban League*
Madu Salon
Malik's Books
Marcus Bookstore #1 and #2
Mark Style Bookstore
Natural Hair Expressions
Greater Sacramento Urban League*
San Diego Urban League*
Select Los Angeles Public Schools*
Select Nail Salons
Select Public Libraries
The African Book Mart
The Center for Community Health & Well Being*
World of Braids
Zahra's Books

Colorado

Black and Read
Camp To Belong*
Hue-man Experience
Urban League of Pikes Peak*
Urban League of Metropolitan Denver*

Connecticut

All Eyes on Egypt
Black Books Galore
Blackprint Heritage Gallery
Dygniti Books
EDEN Books
Tree of Knowledge
Twists & Curves*
Urban League of Greater Hartford*
Urban League of Southwestern Connecticut*

District of Columbia

Advocates for Youth*
Anthony Bowen Elementary School
Clubhouse #4
Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington*
Boys & Girls Club #2
Comrows and Company
Digital Sisters*
Dreadlocks & Natural Hair Care
Girlfriends Creative Hair Designs
Greater Washington Urban League*
Howard University
Howard University Bookstore
Langston/Carver Boys & Girls Club
Martin Luther King Library
Mary & Daniel Loughran Clubhouse #10
Mary McLeod Bethune Council House*
Merritt School Boys & Girls Club
National Congress of Black Women*
National Council of Negro Women
Natural Shapes
No Lye
Office of Minority Health*
Oliver Natural Hair Salon
Sankofa Video and Books
Select District of Columbia Public Schools*
Select Nail Salons
Select Public Libraries
Shelton's Hair Gallery
Sisterspace and Books
Stella bleu
Studio Elan
Soul Day Spa and Salon
The Sistrum
Twists & Turns Natural Hair
Ujamaa Bookstore African Shop
University of the District of Columbia
Urban Nature Styles
Yawa Books

Delaware

Haneef's Bookstore and Gallery
Me Jah's Books
Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League*

Florida

African American Heritage
African Bookstore
Amen Ra Books

Asa Natural Hair Boutique
BlackBritsUSA.com*
Books for Thought
Dockside Bookshop
Ethnic Elegance
Heritage Bookstore and More
Irvine's Books
Jacksonville Urban League*
Montsho BookFairs
Nefertiti Books
Metropolitan Orlando Urban League*
Montsho Books
Mystic Vibes
Nabulunge*
Nefertiti Books
Ngozi Seed*
Pinnellas County Urban League*
Pyramid Books
Shaheed African
Tallahassee Urban League*
Tampa/Hillsborough Urban League*
Tenaj Books and Gift Gallery
The Gathering
Universal Natural Touch
Urban League of Broward County*
Urban League of Greater Miami*
Urban League of Palm Beach County*

Georgia

21st Century Boys & Girls Club
A.W. 'Tony' Matthews Boys & Girls Club
Afrodisiac: Natural Hair and Wellness Salon
All Eyes on Egypt
All Natural Hair Care by Kendra
Alta's Hair Studio
Angel's Loc's, Natural Hair & Nail Spa
Another Look Salon
Atlanta Urban League*
Brookhaven Boys & Girls Club
Celebrate
Charis Books & More
Deeply Rooted Natural Hair Care Center
East DeKalb Boys & Girls Club
Franklin Road Boys & Girls Club
George Washington Carver Boys & Girls Club
Hamilton Books
Harland Discovery Teen Center
Headliners Hair Studio
Homeland Village
James T. Madison Boys & Girls Club
Jesse Draper Boys & Girls Club
John H. Harland Boys & Girls Club
Joseph B. Whitehead Boys & Girls Club
Kareem Books
Khamit Kinks
Khan's Books
Life is a Box of Crayons
Michael A. Grant Boys & Girls Club
Midtown Hair Studio
Mahogany Books & Gifts
Medu Bookstore
N'Sena Salon & Spa
Natural Essence Hair Studio
Newnan/Coweta Boys & Girls Club
NFL Youth Education Town
Nubian Bookstore
Oasis Books
Peachcrest Boys & Girls Club
Picture Your Bookstore and Gift
Positive Attitude
Salon Red
Samuel L. Jones Boys & Girls Club*
Select Atlanta Public Schools*
Select Nail Salons
Select Public Libraries
Shrine of the Black Madonna
Soul Sister Natural Haircare
Spelman College
The Crowning Seat of Wisdom
Timbuctu International Braid
Urban League of Greater Columbus*
Warren/Holyfield Boys & Girls Club
W.W. Woolfolk Boys & Girls Club
Your Natural Hairitage
Youth Art Connection

Illinois

A. Philip Randolph Pullman Porter
Museum Gift Shop
African American Images
Afri-Ware
Afrocentric Bookstore
1 and 2
Amazon Salon
Books Ink
Chicago Urban League*
Creative Hands Books
Cultural Bookstore
Dianne B. Natural Hair
DuSable Museum Trading Post
Fantastic Sam's
Free Your Mind
Full Circle Bookstore
Heritage Books
Knowledge Center Books
Quad County Urban League
Organic Texture
Malcolm X College
Mothaland Books
Native Touch Natural Hair Studio
Roots
Select Chicago Public Schools*
Select Nail Salons
Select Public Libraries
Sirius Books
Soul Salon Spa
Springfield Urban League*
The Underground Bookstore
The Hair Source
The Tribesman
The Word Christian Bookstore
Tri-County Urban League*
Underground Bookstore
Urban League of Champaign County*
Urban Tribe
Why Knot Concept Salon

Indiana

Adaru
Brunette Salon
Delaney Boys & Girls Club
Dorie Miller Homes Boys & Girls Club

East Chicago Katherine House Boys & Girls Club
Fort Wayne Urban League*
Franklin School Boys & Girls Club
Indianapolis Urban League*
Ivanhoe Gardens
John Will Anderson Boys & Girls Club
Paradise Palace
Select Gary Public Schools*
Select Nail Salons
Select Public Libraries
Urban League of Madison County*
Urban League of NW Indiana*
Urban League of South Bend & St. Joseph County*
X-pressions Bookstores

Iowa

Black Ink

Kansas

Urban League of the MidPlains*

Kentucky

Element of Sisterhood Angels*
Louisville Urban League*
Urban League of Lexington-Fayette County*

Louisiana

Community Books
Select New Orleans Public Schools*
TNT Nubian Express
Urban League of Greater New Orleans*

Maryland

Adunni's Braids and Locs
Afrolistics
Anel Natural Hair Studio
Artistic Expressions Natural Hair
Bowie State University
Boys & Girls Clubs: Silver Spring
Caravan Books and Imports
D.I.S.C. Design hair Studio
Dreadz-N-Headz
Freestyle Natural Hair Design Grassroots
Greater Baltimore Urban League*
Institute for Black Charities*
Jaha Hair Studio
Karibu Books 1-6
Natural Beauty
Natural Blessings
Natural Elements
Natural Locs Hair Salon
Select Baltimore Public Schools*
Sepia Sand & Sable
Shear XXposure...the Salon
Sojourner-Douglass College
Tehuti Imhotep
Wisdom Natural Hair Care Salon
Zion Books

Massachusetts

Black Library
Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts*
Urban League of Springfield*

Michigan

Colored gURL Media*
Detroit Urban League*
Everette's Natural Hair & Beauty School
Fauver-Martin Boys & Girls Club
Ferndale Extension Boys & Girls Club
Grand Rapids Urban League*
Guest Boys & Girls Club
Happy to Be Nappy
Howard B. Bloomer Boys & Girls Club
I'm Naturally Beautiful

James & Lynelle Holden Boys & Girls Club
Lloyd H. Diel Boys & Girls Club
Locks 4 Life
Mosaic Youth Theatre*
Pontiac Boys & Girls Club
Select Detroit Public Schools*
Select Nail Salons
Select Public Libraries
Sisters Who Are Powerful*
Southwestern Michigan Urban League*
Truth Bookstore
Urban League of Flint*
Urban League of Greater Muskegon*

Minnesota

Black History Month Store*
Minneapolis Urban League*
St. Paul Urban League*
Strive Media*
Uhuru Books

Mississippi

Adhiambo Bookstore
Heritage Center
Shabaka's

Missouri

Afro World
Cultural Essentials
First World
Left Bank Books
Treasures of the Mind Bookstore
Ujamaa Unlimited
Urban League of Kansas City*
Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis*

Nebraska

Aframerican Book Store
Urban League of Nebraska*

Nevada

Las Vegas-Clark County Urban League*

New Jersey

42nd Street Nails & Hair
800 West Salon & Spa
A Brand New Touch By Cookie
Angela Beauty Studio
Angela's Hair Design
Angels Beauty
Anna's Hair Studio
Banessa Beauty Salon
Be Beautiful Parlor
Beattys Nail Salon
Bellefleur Unisex Salon
Pheasant Run Plz
Beys Touch Of Class
Cee Cut & Quarters
Connies Beauty Salon
Distinctive Image
Dixons Hair Affair
Hair Keez
A Cut Above
Academy of Vocational Careers*
Books 'n Things
Boys & Girls Clubs of Newark*
Broadway*
Central*
Westside*
Braids Galore
Cynthia's Natural Hair Salon
Get Twisted
Horizons Bookstore
Janices Beauty Salon
Just Your Style Too
K R Hair & Co
Karen Lynns Salon
La Perfection Nails & Hair

Le Rose Hair Design
Lees Beauty Salon
Lisbon Beauty Salon
Little Touch Of Beauty
Looking Glass Salon
Margos Stylistics Hair Salon
Not Just Illusions
Partnership for Children of Essex*
Native Essence
New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJ PAC)*
Netukhisa Bookstore
Newark Community Health Centers*
Nu Loc Hair & Body Spa
Mind & Soul Bookstore
Ourstory Books & Gifts
Penn Station Bookstore
Righteous Mind Books
Top Shelf*
Sacred Thoughts Bookstore
Select Nail Salons
Select Public Libraries
Select Newark Public Schools*
Serengeti Plains
Sirca Reaction
Source of Knowledge
St. Philips Academy*
The College of New Jersey
Tunde Dada House of Africa
Urban League of Essex County*
Urban League of Union County*
Urban League of Bergen County*
Urban League of Hudson County*
Urban League of Morris County*
West Africa Festival Braiding

New York

A & B Books
African Hair Braiding
African American Women in Cinema*
Afrigenix
Broom County Urban League*
Brownstone Books
Buffalo Urban League*
C & B Book Distribution Center
Caribbean Women's Health Association
Dyaspora Salon & Day Spa
Girls Inc.*
Hair Talk
Health Department of New York*
Hue-man Bookstore
Indigo Café and Bookstore
Khamit Kinks
Liberation Books
Lil SISTA*
Marta Valle Secondary After School Boys & Girls Club
National Coalition of 100 Black Women*
Navy Yard Boys & Girls Club
NBA/WNBA*
New York Urban League*
Nubian Heritage Bookstore
Select Nail Salons
Select New York City Public Schools*
Select Public Libraries
Sirca Designs
Sisters Making a Difference*
Soulistic NYC
Tendrils Hair Spa
The Brotherhood-SisterSol*
The Educational Alliance Boys & Girls Club-Edgies
The Educational Alliance Boys & Girls Club-H.S. of Economics & Finance
The Educational Alliance Boys & Girls Club-PS 142
Tulani's Regal Movement
Turning Heads Salon & Spa

Urban League of Long Island*
Urban League of Rochester*
Urban League of Westchester County*
Women's HIV Collaborative of New York*

North Carolina

A Difference Bookstore
African Land*
Ayana's Glory Locs
Bennett College
Birchwood Heights Boys & Girls Club
Conduit
Cultural Freedom 1322
Girls Club of Wake County*
Glory Locs
God Given Beauty
Families Living Violence Free*
Hayti Heritage Center*
John Avery Boys & Girls Club*
Johnson C. Smith University
Lockstar Upscale Natural Hair Salon
Mocha Moms*
North Carolina A&T State University
North Carolina Central University
Numbers Child Care*
Quail Ridge Books
Saint Augustine's College
Shaw University
Select Durham Public Schools*
Select Public Libraries
Sophia Sunflower Salon
Special Occasion
The Living Room Book & Pastry
The Queens Beautique
The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club*
The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club
McDougle Terrace*
Triangle Urban League*
Triple S*
Urban League of Central Carolinas*
Winston-Salem University
Winston-Salem Urban League*
World of Flowers*

Ohio

Abdul's African Art
A Link to the Past Books
Akron Urban League*
Black Art Plus
Canton Urban League*
Crown Point Christian Bookstore
Columbus Urban League*
Dayton Urban League*
Greater Toledo Urban League*
Kiso Books
Lorain County Urban League*
Maryam Booksellers
Massillon Urban League*
Select Cleveland Schools*
Urban League of Greater Cincinnati*
Urban League of Greater Cleveland*
Warren-Trumbull Urban League*

Oklahoma

Urban League of Oklahoma City*
Metropolitan Tulsa Urban League*

Oregon

Reflection Books
Urban League of Portland*

Pennsylvania

African American Museum
African Expression
Alkebulan Bookstore
Atajmil
Au Naturale
Basic Black

Beauty Colliseum
Brownstone
Cultural Exchange
Duafé Holistic Hair Care
Haneel's On South
Endless Creations
Empirian Books
Exavia's Locks & Twist
It's A Mystery to Me Bookstore
Ligourious Bookstore
Pearl of Africa
Pure Essence
Robin's Bookstore
Select Nail Salons
Select Philadelphia Public Schools*
Select Public Libraries
Stable of Books & Stuff
The Nile
Xquisite Hair Design
Urban League of Shenango Valley*
Urban League of Lancaster County*
Urban League of Philadelphia*
Urban League of Pittsburgh*
Woman Wisdom Corp*
Young Women's Leadership School

Rhode Island

Urban League of Rhode Island*

South Carolina

Ancestral Vision
Doretha's African American Books
Each One Teach One
The Kwanzaa House
Trident Urban League*
Columbia Urban League*
Urban League of the Upstate*

Tennessee

Afro Books
Memphis Urban League*
Select Memphis Public Schools*
Urban League of Greater Chattanooga*
Urban League of Middle Tennessee*

Texas

African Imports
Austin Area Urban League*
Black Images Book Bazaar
Black Book Worm
Black Book Discounters
Black Images Bookstore
Change-N-U-Salon
Cush City
Ebony Hair Expressions
Emeth Books and Gifts
Exhale African American Books
Explosion of Houston
Houston Area Urban League*
Knappi by Nature
MainStreet Books
Nu World Books
NyAhsia SistaHood*
Out of Africa
Owu books
Roots N Kulture
Sankofa Books
Scircles of Hair Studio
Select Nail Salons
Select Public Libraries
Select Houston Public Schools*
Shrine of the Black Madonna
Soul Scissors
Soul Sister Natural Haircare
Super Star Stylists Beauty Spa
Uncle Funky's Daughter Natural Hair Salon

Urban League of Greater Dallas and No. Ctrl TX*

Utah

Sam Weller Books

Virginia

African Attractions
Ashoka*
Atlantic Bookpost
Boys & Girls Club in Prince William*
Hyllton Branch
Heiser Branch
Carteret Mortgage Branch
Happily Natural Day*
Karibu Books
National Society of Black Engineers*
Norfolk State University
Northern Virginia Urban League*
Nubian Village Academy*
One Force Books
Positive Vibes
Self-improvement
The Girls & Co*
The Literary Boutique
Urban League of Hampton Roads*
Urban League of Greater Richmond*
Words of Wisdom Books and Gifts

Washington

Brothers Books
Carol's Essential Ethnic Gifts and Books
OneWorld Now!*
Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle*
Tacoma Urban League*

Wisconsin

The Cultural Connection Bookstore
The Readers Choice
Milwaukee Urban League*
Urban League of Greater Madison*
Urban League of Racine & Kenosha*

AFRICA

Cameroon

Soweda*

Ethiopia

YWCA of Ethiopia*

Kenya

Ability International*
Gender Empowerment*
TropicalClinics*

Lesotho

Less AIDS Lesotho*

Nigeria

Community Child Education and Development*

Senegal

Case des Jeunes Femmes*

South Africa

Conquest for Life*
Masimanyane Women's Support Centre*
South African Fisherwomen's Association*
Youth Empowerment Network*

Uganda

Mango Tree*

The Kids League*

Zambia

Christian est. Trust of Zambia*

Zimbabwe

Kufunda Village*
Zimbabwe Women Finance Trust*

CARIBBEAN

Bahamas

Alma's Hair Care Center
Beauty Loft
Council for Women in the Bahamas
Crisis Centre
Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era
Donavan's Hair & Nail Salon
Elite
Free National Movements Women's Association
Hair International Skin and Day Spa
Jackie's Vogue Hair & Nail Salon
La-Tee's Nail and Beauty Salon
Lyford Cay Beauty Salon
National Women's Movement
New Beginning Beauty Salon
Palmer's Beauty Salon
Shelly's Beauty Salon
Sojourner-Douglass College
Style Unisex Salon
Tropical Heatt Beauty Salon
Tanya's Beauty Salon and Barber Shop
Trinity Beauty Salon
Ultimate Image

Barbados

Barbados Council of Women
Caribbean Women's International Network
Centre for Gender and Development Studies
Institute of Social and Economic Research-University of the West Indies
National Women's Movement
Select Beauty Salons
Women and Development Unit

Jamaica

Children First
Jamaica Organization for Youth
Rural Family Support Organization
Select Beauty Salons
Uplifting Adolescents Project
Women's Centre of Jamaica Foundation
YMCA of Kingston
Youth Opportunities Unlimited
YWCA
The Association of Women's Organizations in Jamaica
Woman Inc.

St. Lucia

Caribbean Federation of Youth
National Youth Council of St. Lucia
National Youth Council of St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Select Beauty Salons

Trinidad and Tobago

Allison Hair Place
Annie Professional Hair Service
Beauty By Design
Beauty Perfection Limited
CAIRA
Caribbean Association for Feminist

Research and Action
Chan Beauty Salon & School
D & W's Hair Studio Roopnarine's Plaza
D'Montagne Unisex Hair & Skin Clinic
Diane's Palace De Beaute
Earl's Hair Hut Salon
Fashion Affair 63 Prince Street
Fifth Avenue Express Salon & Beauty Supplies
Germain Williams Charford Mall
Hair & Now Beauty Salon & Skincare Clinic
Hair Basix Salon
Hair By Giovanni
Hair Folio Unisex Salon
Hairline & Skinline Unisex Salon
Hairportfolio Beaute Salon & Skin Clinic
House of Hair
Indra's Beauty Salon
Joan's Beauty Salon & Skin Care Clinic
Joanne's Hairdressing
Julie's Beauty Salon
Kerry's Hair Design
Lisa's Hair Studio
Look of Perfection
Lynette's Beauty Salon
Merle's Hairdresser's
New Age Beauty Salon
Noella Elizabeth Street
Rapunzel Beauty Clinic & Botique
Rose's Beauty Lounge & Barber Shop
Sherry Ann Lawrence
Smooth Operators Barber Shop
Soave Unisex Hairsalon
Suzan's Unisex Salon & School
Swirls & Curls By June
The Beautique
The Beautique Unisex Salon
The Beauty and Body Spa
Triple Dee Beauty Salon
Way-In Beauty Salon
Women Working for Social Progress
Zeta's Beauty Salon

U.S. Virgin Islands

Education Central-St. Croix
Select Beauty Salons
University of the Virgin Islands
St. Croix
St. Thomas

UNITED KINGDOM

Bermuda

G& M Beauty & Barber
Kafu Hair & Gallery
Select Beauty Salons
Women's Resource Centre

London

Akos Braid Design
Albes Natural Hair Specialists
Aman Holistic Therapy Center
Blaque 2 Naturals
Cutting Styles
Foundationz
Locs 4 Life
Majestiq Roots
Masimanyane Women's Support Centre*
Morris Roots
Purely Natural
World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in the Western Hemisphere

Celebrating 13 Years of Excellence

Where in the



“Sisters are all over the world— don’t

World...



Caribbean

The Caribbean includes the Caribbean Sea plus more than 7,000 surrounding islands, islets, reefs and coasts. Known for its diverse ecosystems, it is located southeast of Northern America, east of Central America, and to the north and west of South America.

SISTERHOOD
AGENDA

49

SPRING
2007



United Kingdom

The United Kingdom is a constitutional monarchy comprised of four countries: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Bermuda is an overseas territory of the United Kingdom but has been self-governing for centuries with its own local laws.

ACCORDING TO THE UNITED NATIONS (UN), the population of Sub-Saharan Africa was 715 million in 2004. On most maps, Africa is scaled down to look smaller than it really is. The African Diaspora includes all of the indigenous (native to the land) people of Africa and their descendents throughout the world beyond the African continent including, but not limited to: North America, Central America, South America, Europe, Asia, the United Kingdom, Canada and the Caribbean.

forget to put sisterhood on your agenda!"

**SNEAK
PEAK**

Venus and Serena





IN our NEXT ISSUE

The New Black Disney Princess



Women in Reggae

Tyra Banks Sounds Off

**Youth Empowerment
Newtork in South Africa**

Black Women and Plastic Surgery

Dynamic
Divas

Venus and Serena Williams

BIG SISTER COLUMN

CELEBRATING CURVES



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PROGRAMS AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

A Journey Toward Womanhood
Sisters: Healthy & Empowered (SHE) Weight Control,
Health & Wellness System
African American Women Knowledge Cards
A Journey Toward Womanhood Kit for Parents

BOOKS AND JOURNALS

Beautiful,
Sister Journal for Girls

JEWELRY

Cowrie Shell Rings
Brass Ankh Rings
Brass Africa Rings
Loc Jewelry for Hair
River Stone Necklaces

T-SHIRTS

KEY CHAINS