

VOLUME TWO 2008



Sisterhood... Jamaican Style!

Know Your Worth!

Angela Davis
Alicia Keys
Lauryn Hill
Jill Scott



Daughters of Men
The Power of Meditation
Gamma Phi Delta Sorority

MICHELLE OBAMA

AMERICA'S NEXT FIRST LADY?



**Monique
Coleman**

**Corbin
Bleu**

PLUS

**Winner
of our
Soul Sister
Contest
(p.34)**



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Sister Angela's Note

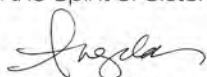
I was honored to meet Michelle Obama for the first time last year at the National Congress of Black Women Annual Breakfast. As I shared information about Sisterhood Agenda and the education that we shared from Princeton University, she remarked about my youthfulness—I couldn't tell if she was joking or serious! Her personality and sense of humor is one thing that defines her and makes her distinct from others. Our uniqueness as individual sisters is what makes us all wonderfully special.

Throughout this entire issue, we learn more about Black female empowerment, defying negative expectations and stereotypes. For example, I hope that you enjoy: *Funkadelic Retro Styles!* (p.14), *Black Rock Coalition* (p.19), *America's Next First Lady?* (p.27), and *Stereotypes of African American Female Athletes* (p.32).

One thing is for sure—we have all had pivotal moments when we have to engage in self-definition, a proactive resistance against forces that threaten the positive representation of our true selves as women and girls of African descent. It is interesting because I first began researching and writing about these issues almost 20 years ago at Princeton. Going back in the past can propel you forward. This is the true spirit of Sankofa, *History & Heritage* (p.24).

Importantly, we seek to protect not just our mental and spiritual selves, but also our physical selves as we stress the 2008 theme for National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness: Prevention is Power, throughout this entire issue. Stay informed, educated, uplifted, and empowered!

In the Spirit of Sisterhood,



Angela D. Coleman
President, Sisterhood Agenda, Inc.



Nick P



VOLUME TWO 2008

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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.



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**THIS ISSUE IS
DEDICATED TO**

**Our Ancestors
& Mothers
& Fathers**

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I think your mission is very timely, relevant, and positive. I would like to see African American Muslim sisters in the magazine, as well. Be blessed.

Fajr via email

I want to first let you know that I feel your energy and this Agenda is so powerful! I absolutely love the site, and the magazine!!! Please continue to spread the word of empowerment.

Tracie, Missouri

A good sistah friend of mine informed me of your website and I am absolutely loving it. I have ordered the magazine and I will refer your website to our Rites of Passage program here in Philly. Our young initiates will love it as well. Much love & respect to you.

Ife via email

I just ran across your website.

I read the entire edition of this month's magazine and I want to



“I love that your magazine is not a bunch of fluff.”

say that I LOVE it. I love that your magazine is not a bunch of fluff. Although, even the best of us love a little "fluff" every now and then, I think it's best when it's balance out with something positive and uplifting. I would like to subscribe. I am a volunteer mentor for an 8th grader and this magazine would be perfect

to extend the values and confidence I would like her to have as a "sistah" :)

I am very excited to have come across this site. In May of 2006 I founded an organization on my college campus entitled S.A.S.S.: Students Advocating Stronger Sisterhood and am simply amazed at the progress that we have made over the past year. I am so excited about passing the information about this site on to my members. Thank you so much for keeping women of color educated and bonded, the two are very crucial in our society today.

Tina via email

Greetings to you from the YWCA of Ethiopia. We have been getting your magazines, and would like to thank you for it. The articles in it are very interesting and we plan on sharing them with other youth-focused organizations her in Ethiopia. Once again, thank you. May the Lord bless you.

Melat, Ethipia

Correction:

In VOLUME TWO 2008, Terri Schlichenmeyer wrote the review for Oprah's Roots.

Sisterhood T-Shirt Sale

"Sisterhood" is spelled in Egyptian hieroglyphics. Embrace the power of Black Womanhood! Showcase your unique style and spirit of sisterhood in this feminine, fitted baby doll t-shirt with capped sleeves. Metallic gold symbolizes wealth and black symbolizes our ethnicity.

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Monique Coleman

Monique Coleman was born on November 13, 1980 in Orangeburg, South Carolina. Coleman began acting in theatre and television at an early age. She got discovered by auditioning for anything whenever she could. She made her first Hollywood appearance

on *Mother of the River* in 1995. She is most known for her roles in *High School Musical* and *High School Musical 2*.

Filmography & Television:

- 1995 *Mother of the River*
- 1997 *The Ditchdigger's Daughters*
- 2003 *Strong Medicine*
- 2004 *Gilmore Girls*
- 10-8 officers on Duty
- Married to the Kellys
- Malcolm in the Middle
- 2005 *Veronica Mars*
- The Reading Room
- 2003-2005 *Boston Public*
- 2005-2008 *The Life of Zack & Cody*
- 2006 *High School Musical*
- Dancing with the Stars
- The View
- 2007 *High School Musical 2*
- 2008 *High School Musical 3* (Pre-production)

Album: *High School Musical 2 Soundtracks* (2007)

Singles: "What Time Is It?" "Work It Out" "All for One" (2006)

Awards: 19th Annual Youth Awards (1996-1997), Best Performance in a TV Movie or Feature Film: Young Ensemble-Ditchdigger's Daughters, Character and Morality in Entertainment Awards, The Reading Room, Teen Choice Awards for TV Show: *High School Musical* (2006), American Music Award for *High School Musical* (2007)

Corbin Bleu

Corbin Bleu Reivers was born on February 21, 1989 in Brooklyn, New York. He is probably best known for his roles in *High School Musical*, *High School Musical 2* and his role as Keke Palmer's friend in *Jump In!* As a child, Bleu

modeled for Toys R Us, Tommy Hilfiger, and Target, which also paved the way into his popularity. He is now a singer, actor, model, and dancer.

Filmography:

- 1996 *ER*
- 1998 *Soldier, Malcolm & Eddi, Boardheads, & Family Tree.*
- 1999 *Mystery Men, Galaxy Quest*
- 2004 *Catch That Kid*
- 2005 *Flight 29 Down, High School Musical*
- 2006 *Hannah Montana, Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide,*
- 2007 *Mother Goose Parade, High School Musical 2, Jump In!*
- 2008 *High School Musical 3* (Pre-production) *Free Style* (Post-production)

Album: *Another Side* (2006)

Singles: "Push It to the Limit" (2006) "Deal With It," "She Could Be," "Run It Back Again" (2007)

Awards: *Musical* (2006), American Music Award for *High School Musical* (2007)

"I am a beach person. I love the water!"

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A Film by Bill Duke

cover

AUNJANUE ELLIS

RAZ ADOTI

LEON

LOU GOSSETT JR.

PAULA JAI PARKER

WITH VIVICA A. FOX

**BETRAYAL CAN
BE MURDER.**

DUKE MEDIA and REDMOND ENTERPRISES PRESENT IN ASSOCIATION WITH REDWOOD PALMS PICTURES A FILM BY BILL DUKE
"COVER" AUNJANUE ELLIS RAZ ADOTI LEON LOU GOSSETT JR. PAULA JAI PARKER WITH VIVICA A. FOX AND ROGER GUYENVEUR SMITH COSTUME DESIGNER WYERNE CARROLL
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS TERESA RINDER-WESTBY PRODUCED BY KURT FAROUKH EDITOR CARL COUGHLIN PRODUCTION DESIGNER JESSE ROSENTHAL DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY FRANCIS KENNY, A.S.C.
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MICHAEL A. DIMANNO R. SCOTT REID PRODUCED BY ALIYA JACKSON PRODUCED BY COREY REDMOND WARREN KOHLER BILL DUKE WRITTEN BY AARON RAHSAAN THOMAS DIRECTED BY BILL DUKE
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Bill Duke
Director of *Cover*

PHOTO TK

Bill Duke's *Cover*

BILL DUKE TOOK TIME OUT OF HIS BUSY SCHEDULE TO TELL Sisterhood Agenda about his important movie, *Cover*.

The story goes like this: a man is murdered on New Year's Eve and the prime suspect is Valerie Mass, a wife who discovers that her husband has been living a double life. Black women should see this movie, Duke states, "because it talks about AIDS, relationships, the DL [down-low], trust and family."

The movie slogan, "Betrayal Can Be Murder," highlights the film's message that "AIDS is a preventable disease." Duke states, "Black men and women are being infected by people who know that they have the disease." Duke believes that media has focused on AIDS in Africa, but explains, "AIDS is right here in this country. One in seven Black men in Washington, DC are infected. It is eating us alive and we are silent about it." It is Bill Duke's hope that films like this one could be a prevention tool for young women.

As an independent film, Duke acknowledged that it was "painful" and "almost impossible" to produce and distribute. "No one wanted to deal with it, act in it, distribute it." Despite these obstacles, *Cover* has received a very positive response and to date, has been well-received. www.coverthemovie.com

Acting and directing for movies, television, and the stage, Bill Duke's films include *Car Wash*, *American Gigolo*, *Action Jackson*, *Bird on a Wire*, *Menace II Society*, *Predator*, *Commando*, *Susan's Plan*, *Black Jax*, *Payback*, *Foolish*, *The Limey*, *Fever*, *Never Again*, *Exit Wounds*, *Love and a Bullet*, and *National Security*. He also starred in the acclaimed Alex Haley series *Palmerstown, USA*. Duke studied directing and graduated from the American Film Institute and directed several television series and the PBS drama *The Killing Floor* before winning an Emmy Award for his direction for the PBS presentation of *A Raisin in the Sun* starring Danny

Clover and Esther Rolle. He went on to direct *The Meeting* depicting a fictional encounter between Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X, *A Rage in Harlem*, *The Cemetery Club*, *Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit*, and *Deep Cover*. More recently, Duke directed a segment of HBO's highly-praised trilogy *America's Dream*, entitled *The Boy Who Painted Christ Black*, for which he won Cable ACE and NAACP Image Awards for Best Director. He also directed the inspiring *A Town Hall Meeting: Creating A Sense of Community* for the Los Angeles-based Artists Against Homelessness.

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Sister CONNECTIONS



THE JAMAICAN FLAG

Jamaica flag history tells that the flag of Jamaica came into existence on August 6, 1962, the original Independence Day of Jamaica. The Jamaica national flag is comprised of the colors green, black, and gold. Significance of the flag of Jamaica lie in Jamaica Flag Colors, so that green is symbolic of hope, agricultural richness, and vegetation. Black is the symbol of strength and creativity of Jamaican people, and gold represents sunlight and Jamaica's natural wealth. All the Pan-African colors that are used in the national flag of Jamaica pay honor to Jamaica's noteworthy African heritage.

Sisterhood...Jamaican Style!

by Anita Davis-Defoe

HER NAME, JAMAICA COMES FROM the tongue of the Arawak Indian; "Xaymaca", means land of wood and water. With a population of 2,780,132, she is home to some 1,405,822 females. Gender bias, unemployment and limited career opportunities; access

to education; victimization due to sexual violence and abuse; life's disappointments and discouragement, confront Jamaican women from all walks of life.

Answering the call for women and the girl-child in Jamaica, providing

refuge, rays of hope, and venues for dialogues about purpose and possibility are two organizations that demonstrate the transformational impact of sisterly collaboration.



IN 1984, BAHAMIAN ANGELA JONES was gravely concerned about the growing violence against Jamaica women. To respond to this escalating crisis, Angela's vision was to establish a network that would offer refuge and other assistance to battered women, especially those suffering in silence.

This visionary sought the support of friends Kathleen Johnson, Patsy Mair, Gloria Palomino and Veenal Vaswani. Together, these women decided to use monies earned from a highly successful trade fair to create Woman Incorporated (Woman Inc.).

From its inception, the organization's focus has been: developing self-awareness, fostering self-healing, coping and survival skills in women and girls, making women aware of their hidden potential, and encouraging the media to realistically and positively portray Jamaican women.

Woman Inc. opened Jamaica's first Crisis Centre, and ultimately its first Crisis Shelter, which serves as a temporary safe haven for victims of abuse or violence. Now under the direction of Joy Hewitt, other services

offered by Woman's Inc. include a 24-hour hotline, a public education program aimed at primary and secondary schools, community and church groups; a legal reform committee, and sensitivity training programs for Jamaican police. Annually, the organization receives over 2,500 calls to its hotline, and has been serving women all across Jamaica for 23 years.

Contact the organization at 1-876-9292-9038; by fax at 1-876-926-3091; email Woman's Inc. at w.i.crisiscentre@cwjamaica.com

Sistren Theatre Collective

BACK IN 1977, through a government relief program, these women met as street sweepers only to become caretakers for youth in need of after school supervision. It began as a group of thirteen teaching assistants, who simply wanted to participate in a school concert. Some thirty years later, the Sistren Theatre Collective has earned a global reputation for bringing healing to neglected pockets of Jamaicans through the performing arts.

Today, Lana Finikin, one of the group's founders is still a driving force, as the collective continues to be a voice for personal empowerment and self-determination.

"It was in the 1970s when Michael Manley had this vision of people participation. Around the world, the Decade of Women was passed by the United Nations, so it was a good time for women and women's issues," founding member Lana Finikin remembers.

Subjects Sistren has confronted range from domestic abuse, sexual violence, teenage pregnancy, educational opportunities, economic strife, overcoming life's setbacks, freedom and redemption, and preserving in the face of personal challenges.

Emphasizing cultural expression as a tool to understand the world in which we live, the collective works to increase the awareness of gender issues, to foster the building of collaborative sisterhood networks around the globe; and also to teach other grassroots organizations how to effectively campaign for



social change.

Each of the Collective's dramatic pieces depicts the reality of life experiences for women and the girl-child in Jamaica. Videos produced by Sistren include, "Sweet Sugar Rage", which tells the story of woman working on sugar cane plantations; "Gigi's Story", all about health; and "Carrying a Heavy Load", an examination of the escalating Jamaican foreign debt.

The Sistren Theatre Collective has appeared at Queens University and the University of Toronto in Canada; at the National Council of Churches Conference in New York; and at conferences in Montserrat, Barbados, Egypt, and George Mason University in Virginia.

Sistren gave early voices to women in Jamaica leading to the creation of organization like Woman's Inc., Women's Media Watch, and the Association of Women's Organizations in Jamaica.

For More Information Contact: Sistren Theatre Collective, Lana Finikin, 20 Kensington Crescent, Kingston 5, Jamaica, 876-929-2457, sistrenf@n5.com.jm.

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H.O.T. G.I.R.L.S. Helping Our Teen Girls In Real Life Situations

The mission of H.O.T. G.I.R.L.S. is to improve the health and lives of young Black women and girls by providing culturally relevant and age appropriate, girl-centered information and programming, inspired by hip hop and youth culture.

HOTGIRLS was originally founded by Dr. Carla Stokes in 2001 while she was enrolled as a doctoral student at the University of Michigan. A hip hop generation scholar-activist, Dr. Carla thought of the acronym "Helping Our Teen Girls In Real Life Situations" (HOTGIRLS) while listening to the rap song, "I Need a Hot Girl" by the Hot Boys.

Dr. Carla states, "Our work is both timely and necessary;

particularly in light of recent concerns about the influence of denigrating representations of women in the mass media and commercialized hip hop in the lives of Black youth. As we grow and obtain additional funding, we hope to reach more young women and girls by expanding our FIREGRL Club model throughout the United States."

Currently, HOTGIRLS educates young women and girls in the Atlanta metropolitan area about sexuality, dating violence, body image, media literacy, and other health and social justice issues through a variety of delivery formats.

Dr. Stokes believes that street harassment and violence against

women are two of the major concerns today, believing street harassment is an important issue because it is part of the larger problem of violence against women and girls. "Whether walking down the street or going to school," she states, "girls are disrespected so much that they think this behavior is normal."

HOTGIRLS will soon launch its new and improved website FIREGRL.com for girls. Dr. Stokes states, "Coming from the girls themselves, we focus on teaching girls about images and how they can create their own media, for example websites and songs."

www.helpingourteengirls.org



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Funkadelic Retro

LAURYN HILL

Black is Beautiful was a critical element of cultural identity, gender awareness and civil rights change in the 1960's and 1970's. Tied to other aspects of culture such as music, this revolution, ignited by women, was a movement of the people at the grassroots level and certainly was not televised!





JILL SCOTT

For too long, "black" has been associated with negative meanings: sinister, wicked, dirty, soiled, doomed, and gloomy. Black is Beautiful is a demonstration of individual and collective empowerment and womanist consciousness.

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Funkadelic Retro

LENNY KRAVITZ

The Black is Beautiful movement encouraged Black women and men to accept and love themselves; self-acceptance is the key to healthy self-esteem. It also encouraged Black people to accept their natural facial features and hair textures.





G. Miller for SK Photo/ABACAUSA

ERYKAH BADU

Black is Beautiful was the foundation of Black pride for women and girls—it was, and still is, an ATTITUDE.

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Funkadelic Retro

INDIA.ARIE

More than Afros, cornrows, dark skin and full lips, Black is Beautiful attempted to define a new beauty standard for Black women and by doing so, rejected the dominant culture's notions of what is beautiful.





Alicia Keys, Ambassador

BY BRITTANY HALE

Singer, writer, pianist, and poet Alicia Keys is no doubt at the top of her game.

She has won a total of 11 Grammy Awards, including this year's Best R&B Song and Best Female R&B Vocal Performance for the smashing hit single, "No One."



Now only at the age of 25, Alicia is without question a modern day renaissance woman whose generosity is as heartfelt as her music.

Alicia is the Ambassador for "Keep A Child Alive", a charity co-founded by Keys that funds testing and treatment for HIV/AIDS for families in Africa suffering with the disease. In nearly all of her interviews, Alicia stresses the importance of HIV/AIDS awareness in the South African communities and what we as a people can do to help the cause and save the lives of thousands.

Growing up in Manhattan wasn't at all easy for Alicia. She was surrounded by the many faces of drug users, prostitutes, and drug dealers that continue to plague our streets today. Yet growing up around that type of environment helped mold her into becoming one of the most influential young Black women of our generation.

"AIDS is 25. As am I. And when I think that AIDS has been around my entire life, a mix of sadness, compassion and anger overcomes me...we must harness our sadness and anger into action."

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Black Rock Coalition: Restoring the True Roots of Rock

BY ANDREA M. THOMPSON

In the winter of 2003, I caught a punk rock icon at a legendary club in Asbury Park New Jersey. During her set, she prefaced an Elvis tune that she was set to cover by stating that it didn't matter who created rock-n-roll, nor did she care who created it because Elvis was and always will be the King of rock-n-roll. My initial thought? It doesn't matter who really discovered this country, Christopher Columbus is the one and always will be the one with the national holiday. My father, who attended the show with me, rolled his eyes and simply mouthed a "pfft!" He had embedded the history of rock music in me since my youth. If I went on and on about how great Led Zeppelin was, he would in turn, school me on Muddy Waters.

If I mentioned Eric Clapton, I was sure to get a lecture on Robert Johnson. For this way of thinking and intentionally ignoring the achievements of African Americans in rock-n-roll is one of the many reasons that Black Rock Coalition is necessary.

Black Rock Coalition is the brain child of Living Colour's Vernon Reid. While I enjoyed the music of Living Colour, Reid hit a note with me personally when he boldly brought attention to the fact that Guns-N-Roses had very ignorantly used the "N" word on one of their albums. As a Black teenager who had enjoyed the band up until that point, and rock music in general, it felt good that Reid had been able to vocalize publicly the anger that was burning inside of me. This is another reason that Black Rock Coalition was necessary.

Based in New York City, Black Rock Coalition (BRC) began in 1985 by Burnt Sugar

member and journalist Greg Tate, producer Konda Mason, and the aforementioned musician, Vernon Reid. It was started for the sake of Black artistic expression and freedom. BRC is for the African American artist who thinks outside of the box and refuses to be limited. According to Darrell M. McNeill, Director of Operations for Black Rock Coalition, BRC was formed in reaction to a very narrow perspective shown by the music industry that Blacks could and should only perform R&B, hip hop or jazz. One of the main issues for BRC was that rock originated with African Americans and they wanted to highlight this fact through a re-education of what rock-n-roll is and how it was founded.

They wanted to reclaim our legacy.

Our legacy in rock is a strong one that can not be denied. Some of the artists who paved the way include Etta James, Big Mama





Russ Elliot/AdMedia/Sipa

Thorton, Little Richard, Ike and Tina Turner, and Chuck Berry. When I asked Darrell, why he felt that more Blacks don't gravitate toward rock, given such a rich history he responded that it was "attitudes by mainstream media." The media has conditioned people to think that certain types of people perform and listen to certain types of music. Black Rock Coalition serves to abolish such stereotypes. Current bands and musicians that have been involved with the Coalition are Living Colour, Fishbone, Burnt Sugar, Bad Brains, David Ryan Harris, and funk bassist/vocalist Me'Shell NdegéOcello. Former Labelle member, Nona Hendryx has served on the board.

McNeill feels that it is important for young African Americans to know their history and culture in its entirety. This includes our history in popular music, and not just as it pertains to hip hop and R&B. He says the ultimate issue we are dealing with is freedom of expression, to be respected for being different. African Americans of any age should not be bound to any stereotype. One way to defy stereotypes is through discovering our own history musically and otherwise. After all, we are the heirs to the rock-n-roll legacy. In order to claim it we need to educate ourselves.

To learn more about Black Rock Coalition visit their websites at:
<http://www.Blackrockcoalition.org> and www.myspace/Blackrockcoalition.

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Sisterhood Agenda Inc. is an award-winning, 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to uplift and aid in the self-development of women and girls of African descent.





The Truth About HIV/AIDS

Get the Facts...

AIDS—*Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome*—is caused by HIV, the *Human Immunodeficiency Virus*. HIV weakens your body's immune system, making it less able to fight against diseases and infections. HIV passes from one person to another through contact with the bodily fluids of someone infected with the virus. Most often, the virus spreads through oral, vaginal, or anal sex during which a condom is not used, or by sharing a needle. Mothers can pass the virus on to their babies during pregnancy or birth or by breast-feeding.

It's not a "gay thing." Many persons who become infected are heterosexual. In a recent study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more females than males ages 13-19 tested positive for HIV.¹ The most common source of infection for females of all ages is heterosexual sex.²

Using alcohol and drugs increases your risk.

Alcohol and drugs affect your judgment and lower your inhibitions. As a result, drinking or taking drugs can lead you to take risks you are less likely to take when sober, such as having unprotected sex. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, injection drug use has been the cause of at least 6 percent of infections for young people ages 13-24.³ Any drug use, however, contributes to the spread of HIV/AIDS when users trade sex for drugs or when they engage in risky behaviors while under the influence of drugs.

Before You Risk It...

Get the facts. Not having sexual intercourse is the most effective way to avoid STDs, including HIV/AIDS. For teens who choose to be sexually active, these prevention measures lower your risk of an HIV infection.

- Avoid alcohol and drugs. Their use can cause you to make sexual choices you wouldn't make sober.
- Only engage in sexual activity that does not involve vaginal, anal, or oral sex.
- Have intercourse with only one uninfected partner.
- Use a latex condom every time you have sexual intercourse of any kind.

Know the risks. The majority of young people who have HIV are infected sexually. As more teens have become aware of the risk, fewer are having sex and more teens who are sexually active are using condoms.⁴ The second most common source of HIV is intravenous drug use, but any activity where blood exchange is possible is risky. Teens should not share needles for any activity, including steroid drug injection, tattooing, or body piercing.⁵

Stay informed. While most people who have the disease now live much longer due to medical research and new drugs, there is no cure.

Know the Signs...

How can you tell if you or someone else may already have HIV? If you have not had unprotected sex or shared a needle, it is very unlikely that you have HIV. The only way to know if you are infected is to be tested. The following may be warning signs of HIV infection:

- Weight loss
- Frequent fevers and sweats
- Lack of energy
- Swollen lymph glands in the armpits, groin, or neck
- Persistent skin rashes
- Severe herpes infections that cause mouth, genital, or anal sores
- Short-term memory loss

No one should assume they are infected if they have these symptoms. Any of these symptoms can be related to other illnesses. Again, the only way to find out if you are infected with HIV is to be tested.

What can you do to help someone whose drug or alcohol use is putting them at risk for HIV/AIDS?

Be a real friend. You might even save a life. Encourage your friend to stop using substances or seek professional help. For information and referrals, call the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information at 800-729-6686.

For more information or for references to facts found in this *Tips for Teens*, go to www.ncadi.samhsa.gov.

This issue of *Sisterhood Agenda Magazine* is dedicated to Our Ancestors, Mothers & Fathers



Sankofa

KNOW THYSELF

The concept of SANKOFA derived from King Adinkera of the Akan people of West Afrika. SANKOFA is expressed in the Akan language as "se wo were fi na wosan kofa a yenki."

Literally translated it means "it is not taboo to go back and fetch what you forgot".

"Sankofa" teaches us that we must go



Sankofa

back to our roots in order to move forward. That is, we should reach back and gather the best of what our past has to teach us, so that we can achieve our full potential as we move forward. Whatever we have lost, forgotten, forgone or been stripped of, can be reclaimed, revived, preserved and perpetuated.

For more information about Adinkra symbols and their meaning visit:
<http://www.duboislc.net/SankofaMeaning.html>

A SISTER FOR JUSTICE

by Brittany Hale

Nearly 36 years ago, social activist Angela Davis was acquitted of conspiracy charges after a 20-month incarceration and making the FBI's Top Ten Most Wanted List. Her activities during the '60s and '70s have become legendary for any and everyone familiar with the Black Liberation Movement. Her activism, however, does not end there. There is much more to Angela Davis than the Communist Party and that beautiful 'fro. She has worked tirelessly for race and gender justice, especially within the American penal system.

In a recent lecture, Davis speaks on the growing commercialization of black history, the lack of recognition of the role of black women in the Civil Rights Movement and most importantly, the role of prisons in perpetuating social injustice. On any given day, at least 2.2 million people are incarcerated in U.S. prisons. This number pales in comparison to the 13 million that are processed through the American penal system each year. Davis argues that the violence and deprivation of one's rights and liberties in prison is quite literally slavery reincarnated in new ideologies and practices. She argues against the continued use

of prisons as a defense of democracy: the thought being "I know I'm free...Why?...Well, because I'm not in prison!"

She also condemns the continued interest of international corporations in the expansion of prison systems, commonly referred to as the prison industrial complex. Her argument,

documented in her works like

Are Prisons Obsolete?

calls for the reformation of the justice system as well as the eventual abolition of the prison system as we know it.

"We must begin to look for forms of justice that do not depend on *revenge*" she says. And if you think the prison system doesn't affect you, think again. Women constitute the fastest growing segment of prisoners in *all* global systems. These women are mothers, aunts, sisters, nieces, and daughters. When asked how sisterhood can be used to combat this startling statistic, Davis offers "You must think of yourself in a community." And her words

ring true. Remarkable as her individual efforts may be, Angela Davis has continually worked for the betterment of oppressed *groups*; for social, racial, and gender justice for *all*. She is a constant reminder that true sisterhood can be achieved by everyone, everywhere.



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KISWAHILI TERMS AND NAMES

ANSWERS

ACROSS

- 1 kujichaguli
4 asante
8 imani
9 ayana
11 kumba
12 ngoma
15 taiwo
19 amani
22 kwame

DOWN

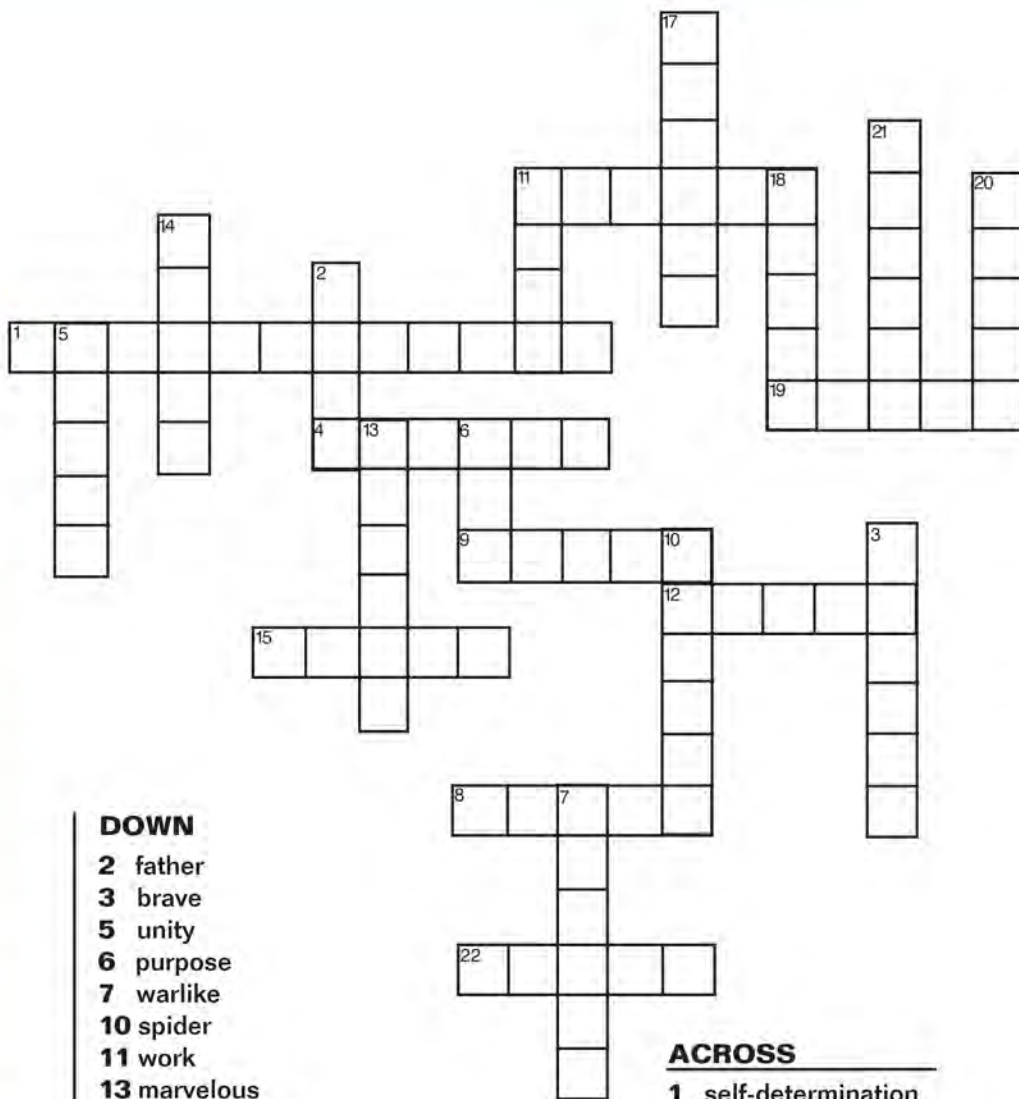
- 2 baba
3 jabari
5 umoja
6 nia
7 assata
10 anansi
11 kazi
13 shani
14 ujima
17 ujimaa
18 atiba
20 asali
21 nzinga

DOWN

- 2 father
3 brave
5 unity
6 purpose
7 warlike
10 spider
11 work
13 marvelous
14 collective work
and responsibility
17 cooperative economics
18 understanding
20 honey
21 from the river

ACROSS

- 1 self-determination
4 thank you
8 faith
9 beautiful flower
11 creativity
12 drum
15 first born of twins
19 peace
22 born on Saturday



America's Next FIRST LADY?



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Lawrence Schwartz / Splashnews

Michelle Obama's husband, Presidential candidate, Barack Obama, inspires millions on a campaign for change. Barack could be the first African American president of the United States and earned the endorsement of Oprah Winfrey, plus prompted Toni Morrison to write, "There have been a few prescient leaders in our past, but you are the man for this time. Good luck to you and to us."



New Hampshire Women for Obama Kickoff Fair in June 2007.



Michelle Obama, her husband and two girls. This was their holiday card for 2006.

A passionate public speaker herself who also motivates and stimulates her audiences to action, Michelle Obama is so intelligent, refreshingly vocal, earnest and “normal,” so poised and different from typical political spouses that she has peaked the public’s curiosity on more than one occasion. Acknowledged by Barack as his “rock,” Michelle Obama, age 44, has been with her husband for over 20 years, married more than 16 years. Michelle acknowledges that she makes sure her husband is “keeping it real.”

Incredulous about her own path and destiny, Michelle manages to be simultaneously confident, gracious and humble. With emotion and authenticity, she states, “I’m not supposed to be here. Who would have thought that me, a Black girl raised on the South Side of Chicago, could one day become the First Lady?”

A sharp mind with a sense of humor to match, Michelle skipped the second grade and excelled academically. She graduated from Princeton University and Harvard Law School. However, it was her passion for “giving back to the world” that led her to a career in public service. She worked for the City of Chicago and then led the nonprofit organization,

Public Allies, when it was still in its infancy. This past year, she reduced the number of work hours at the University of Chicago Hospitals where she served as Vice President of Community and External Affairs. She eventually left the position, explaining the challenges of balancing work and family with the public statement: “Like many women, I’m doing a whole lot of juggling....I would not be able to do it without the women in my life.”

Concerned about her family’s well-being and safety, Michelle committed herself early to be fully supportive of her husband and his “challenging” and “thrilling” campaign while also being accessible to their two young daughters, Malia, 9 and Sasha, 6. Affectionately referred to as “the girls,” the Obama girls are the central motivating factor for their parents. “Our communities,” Michelle explains, “are only as strong as its women and our families.”

Barack and Michelle each have their own Secret Service security team and Michelle was adamant about not wanting their family life to suffer. Fortunate to have her mother to assist with watching the girls while she is traveling, technology (specifically Barack’s Webcam built on his laptop)

helps the girls stay in touch: “We talk at the end of the day when the girls and I are in Chicago and Barack is out on the road. It’s fun for the girls, and it’s so important for Barack to see them and feel connected to home.”

When Michelle Obama’s is in the room, her presence evokes comments such as, “She’s beautiful!” and “She’s awesome.” Like her husband, she’s created her own fan base, but no matter what, Michelle believes, “This has been an amazing journey. It has required faith and patience and sacrifice, but it has been one of the most rewarding things that I have ever done in my entire life... when people ask me ‘how do you feel?’ I tell them that every single day, I am thinking about my girls. I do this because of them. We love our children. They break our hearts. We want them to be able to dream of anything for themselves. I want my girls to travel this world with pride.”

Michelle hopes for a day where there are no barriers, no ceilings. Like other “firsts,” because of Michelle Obama, millions of Black girls can dream new and different kinds of dreams for themselves and their countries.



NH Women for Obama Kickoff Fair 6/2/07.

Tim Llewellyn



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MICHELLE OBAMA: A CHALLENGE TO OVERCOME: EXCERPT

As Delivered in Orangeburg, South Carolina on November 20, 2007

A FEW YEARS AGO, I had the privilege of meeting Coretta Scott King. It was an extraordinary moment for me, meeting this graceful and dignified woman. One I'll never forget. And what I remember most was that she told me not to be afraid because God was with us – Barack and me – and that she would always keep us in her prayers.

And I thought, this is a woman who knows what it means to overcome.

This was a woman who overcame the heat of racism as a little girl when she walked five miles to school on those rural Alabama roads, passing the doors of the Whites-only school so much closer to home.

This was a woman who overcame other people's doubts and ignorance by studying and succeeding and excelling past most of her classmates – Black and White – earning a college degree and acceptance to a prestigious graduate school up north.

This was a woman who overcame whatever

fears she may have had and became a partner in freedom's cause.

And as I thought about this remarkable woman, I thought about all the others who had come before her in the long journey for equality in this country – women like Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman. And I thought about those who had carried the torch of justice by her side – women like Rosa Parks, Fannie Lou Hamer, Dorothy Height, Shirley Chisholm, C. Delores Tucker, and Mary McLeod Bethune.

These were all women who knew what it meant to overcome. Who kept marching even when their feet were sore, and kept organizing even when their backs were aching, and sat down at the front of the bus when they were sick and tired of going to the back. These were all women who cast aside the voices of doubt and fear that said "wait," "you can't do that," "it's not your turn," "the timing isn't right," "the country just isn't ready."

And because they listened to their own

voices and cast the cynics aside – because they refused to settle for the world as it is, and insisted on reaching for the world as it should be – this nation marched forward.

And I know that my life is only possible because of their courage and sacrifice all those years ago, that I am standing on their shoulders today, and on the shoulders of so many others whose names never made it into history books but who guided me and lifted me up every step of the way; who taught me to work hard, dream big, and then bring my blessings and energy and knowledge back to my community. I did just what was asked of me. I listened to those voices.

I listened to the pastors and elders in my churches. I listened to my mother who stayed home to raise my brother and me. I listened to my father, who worked hard every day in a blue collar job; a man who sacrificed his dreams to put food on the table and put his children through college and leave a pension to support my mom when he passed away.

(continued on next page)



Michelle Obama and some of her many supporters.

I listened to my grandfather, who was from Georgetown, South Carolina. Like my mom and dad, my grandfather never went to college, but he was a proud man, a smart man, and he filled my brother and me with big dreams about the lives we could lead. He taught me that my destiny had not been written before I was born – that my destiny was in my hands.

So these were the voices I was hearing growing up. And they gave me the strength and courage to overcome the doubt and fear I was hearing in other corners of my community. From classmates who thought a Black girl with a book was acting White. From teachers who told me not to reach too high because my test scores were too low. And from well-meaning but misguided folks who said, “no, you can’t,” “you’re not smart enough,” and “you’re not ready.” Who said “success isn’t meant for little

Black girls from the South Side of Chicago.”

And you know what? When I listened to my own voice and cast the cynics aside, when I forged ahead and overcame the doubts and fears of others about who I was and what I could become, I found that their doubts and fears were misplaced.

Funny thing, the more I achieved, the more I found that I was just as ready, just as qualified, just as capable as those who felt entitled to the seat at the table that I was working so hard for. And I realized that those who had been given the mantle of power in this country didn’t have any magic about them. They were no better, no smarter than me. That gnawing sense of self-doubt that is common within all of us is a lie. It’s just in our heads. Nine times out of ten, we are more ready and more prepared than we could ever know.

“And I thought about those who had carried the torch of justice by her side—women like Rosa Parks, Fannie Lou Hamer, Dorothy Height, Shirley Chisolm, C. Delores Tucker, and Mary McLeod Bethune.”



America's Next FIRST LADY?

Senator Barack Obama and Michelle Obama attend the 36th NAACP Image Awards.

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“My grandfather taught me that my destiny had not been written before I was born—that my destiny was in my hands.”



Clamour, Quality & Culture



Anu Prestonia, President

Khamit Kinks has long enjoyed a reputation as an innovator among the premier salons serving people of color. Its standard of excellence and its authority in the natural hair care arena was born of founder Anu Prestonia's passion for the styling arts. Anu found that inventive styling incorporating cultural heritage could have transformative effects in the lives women of color. As a trailblazer who started styling natural hair in 1978, she believed her clients deserved a top-notch salon experience and delighted in holding up an affirming mirror to show both men and women the beauty that was theirs by birthright.

The salon, open since 1989, introduced several popular styles, including Casamas Braids, Senegalese Twists, Cherokee and Trini Braids. Their roster of loyal clients and high-profile devotees include Stevie Wonder, Oprah Winfrey, Angela Bassett, Lenny Kravitz, Queen Latifah and many others. New clients also routinely book appointments from Japan, England, the Caribbean and other places across the globe.

www.khamitkinks.com

CULTURAL FACT:

Nubian Egypt was originally known as Khamit and its people were known as the Khamau(Kah-mah-oo) or Khamites. Ancient people in Khamit were part of one of the most peaceful civilizations in history guided by Seven of the Principles of Maat: Truth, Righteousness, Law, Order, Balance, Harmony, and Reciprocity.

Bio

Khamit Kinks has provided many young women with training and mentoring. The salon has also hosted domestic violence, self-image and other workshops for people of all ages. Interested not only in healthy hair, Anu has been committed to a healthy lifestyle for over twenty years. Anu is also a Certified Hatha Yoga Instructor and makes a concerted effort to encourage both staff and clients to practice healthy eating and living habits for a healthy life and healthy hair.

LOC JEWELRY



CHECK OUT
THE SISTER STORE AT:



www.sisterhoodagenda.com



Mohawk

Photographer: Eric Von Lockhart
Hair Stylist: Nene Souane
Barber: Dwayne Thomas
Makeup: Anu Prestonia



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Sister Locks

Photographer:
Eric Von Lockhart
Hair Stylist:
Nene Souane
Makeup:
Anu Prestonia



Gypsy Twist

Photographer:
Eric Von Lockhart
Hair Stylist:
Nene Souane
Makeup:
Anu Prestonia



Cubby Twist

Photographer:
Eric Von Lockhart
Hair Stylist:
Jahmillah Collier
Makeup:
Danielle Green



TOOLS FOR SURVIVAL

NAKIA WINS SOUL SISTER CONTEST

Nakia Simpkins of Newark, New Jersey won a beautiful Luau guitar from Daisy Rock Guitars after entering Sisterhood Agenda's Soul Sister Contest. "I'm so excited that I won!" said Nakia. "I've always wanted a guitar and this is an achievement for me. I want thank Sisterhood Agenda and Daisy Rock Guitars."

Tish Ciravolo, founder and president of Daisy Rock Guitars, says, "Daisy Rock is proud to support an organization like Sisterhood Agenda with such a strong following and a positive message. The growth of female empowerment everywhere is Daisy Rock's ultimate purpose, and Sisterhood Agenda's Soul Sister Essay Contest brought this mission to life. We at Daisy Rock congratulate not only the winner but ladies everywhere who are doing their part to change the course of history for females."



Nakia's winning essay is featured below:

What can I say about Soul Sisters? For one, the term Soul Sister could've been an African American woman in the '60s revolution era to being a true love of a Soul Brother who feels they were truly meant to be life partners. But a Soul Sister could also be a Sister who is not blood related and you "gals" developed a strong bond over the years because you have supported each other through the systematic struggles that exist in this world such as: socioeconomic issues, single parenthood, living in "tha hood," relationships with brothers lacking in manhood, racism, and the ever depressing, suppressing, and oppressing job market not controlled by our community.

With all that said, a Soul Sister is definitely a "Super Sistah" indeed. She understands the ills of PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorders) on our people and this keeps her from totally exploding. Instead she takes deep breaths and meditates when things get "ugly" in her life. We can all agree that patience is truly a virtue.

A Soul Sister is someone who is very comfortable in her own skin. Not to the point of being conceited; but rather letting her light shine and letting your light shine along with hers. A "Sol" Sister is one with the sun where she looks forward to the new day and its beauty and challenges that will surely make an appearance. This Soul Sister moves positively and yet strategically.

From what I've stated a Soul Sister to be, we all embody that spirit; but I know I am still a "work of art" in progress. There are many Sisters who are also "works of art" in progress. Hopefully they will see that they too embody the spirit and that life's struggle will make them better beings on the inside.

*Soul Sister in Progress,
Nakia Simpkins*



There is always something to do, There are hungry people to feed, naked people to clothe, sick people to comfort and make well. And while I don't expect you to save the world, I don't think it's asking too much, for you to love with whom you sleep, share the happiness of those whom you call friend, engage those among you who are visionary, and remove from your life those who offer you depression, despair and disrespect.

—Nikki Giovanni

SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE

BY JOHNNA SCOTT



Suicide hurts. According to the Center for Disease Control, there are approximately 30,000 suicides annually in the United States. It is estimated that for every suicide, there are approximately six survivors of suicide, the loved ones who are left behind.

Dr. Martin King Skala died by suicide on March 7, 2007 at the age of 36. After much prayer, research and many in-depth conversations with other survivors, his wife, Nepherterra Skala, launched the Sunday Morning website www.sunday-am.org on National Survivors of Suicide Day, November 17, 2007. The purpose of the website is to provide an online community where survivors of suicide can arm themselves with information, access helpful resources and share best practices for healing.

"As survivors, we oftentimes feel alone and think that there isn't anyone who can understand the pain, guilt, anger and sadness we are experiencing. But we are not alone. In reality, there are far too many of us," said Skala. "Many people don't realize that more people die by suicide than by homicide in America. Before my husband died, I didn't know that either. But now that I know the facts and am experiencing the pain, I am determined to do something about it. I refuse to be silent about this important issue."

Currently, suicide is the 11th leading cause of death in the United States, but suicide is the third leading cause of death among black youth, after homicides and accidents, according to the American Association of Suicidology. The Sunday Morning website also features a special



Nepherterra Skala, founder of Sunday Morning

section that focuses on suicide and mental health in the African American community.

"We need to educate ourselves. Suicide is a silent killer in every community, and the African American community is not an exception," said Skala. "We cannot address the issues of suicide and depression in our community unless we start having honest conversations about this traditionally taboo topic. It is my hope that the Sunday Morning website will be a catalyst for some of those honest discussions and hopefully some of the solutions."

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"Suicide is a silent killer in every community, and the African American community is not an exception."

www.sunday-am.org





SHIRLEY CHISHOLM: UNBOUGHT & UNBOSSSED

DON'T
BLAME ME
I VOTED FOR
CHISHOLM



"Women in this country must become revolutionaries. We must refuse to accept the old, the traditional roles and stereotypes."



"I stand before you today as a candidate for the Democratic nomination for the Presidency of the United States. I am not the candidate of Black America, although I am Black and proud. I am not the candidate of the women's movement of this country, although I am a woman, and I am equally proud of that. I am not the candidate of any political bosses or special interests. I am the candidate of the people."

Raised in Barbados and

Brooklyn, New York, Shirley Chisholm (1924-2005) ran for office in 1968 and became the first African American woman elected to Congress. In 1970 she was elected to a second term in Congress. In 1972, she became the first woman to launch a major campaign for the U.S. presidency, and though she did not win her party's nomination, she fought for the right to speak publicly and received 151 delegate votes.

In her book *The Good Fight*, she wrote about her run for the presidency, saying: "The next time a woman of whatever color, or a dark-skinned person of whatever sex aspires to be president, the

way should be a little smoother because I helped pave it."

"CHISHOLM '72 — Unbought & Unbossed," a feature documentary having its world broadcast premiere on public television, was groundbreaking in its authentic portrayal of a courageous and strong-minded woman who championed the causes of the poor, the young, minorities, women, and other marginalized groups.

"Our goal was to make a documentary as passionate and powerful as Chisholm herself," says director and co-producer Shola Lynch. "Her story is an important reminder of the power of a dedicated individual to make a difference."

Daughters of Men:

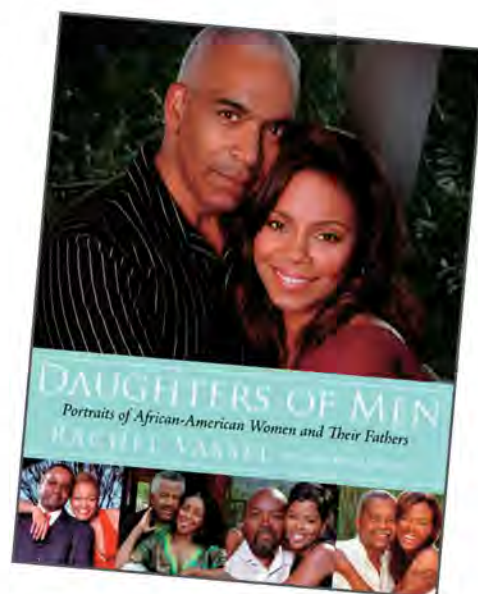
Portraits of African-American Women and Their Fathers

BY RACHEL VASSEL

I WAS IN A BOOKSTORE AND HAPPENED TO GLANCE down and see the cover of this book. I picked it up, browsed through it, and immediately scurried to buy it shortly after. What a great idea to highlight Black men who are not fitting the stereotype of not taking care of their children, showing how daughters and fathers can be so tight, and giving readers a little personal view of some of our favorite female celebrities. By me being from a family full of responsible fathers, I was thinking “Finally!” It was fun for me to read about other proud daughters like myself. The story that stood out to me the most was one of the saddest ones: Cathy Hughes of Radio One, Inc. I was terrified for her father during his audit, and for him to live through that and still be such a phenomenal father makes me want to curtsy for that man. There were plenty of other good stories from celebrities I’m a fan of (Beyonce and Kelly of Destiny’s Child, Tisha Campbell-Martin, Nicole Ari Kodjoe, Aisha Tyler, Malinda Williams, and Meagan Good).

I was a little bored with the celebrities I didn’t know. However, by me reading this book, it was also a Black history lesson to me to be introduced to sistas who have done such positive things in the community and to learn about their success.

I took the idea from this book, thought about the uncreative Christmas gift that I got my father (i.e., gift card), and immediately found a picture of him and I to print out. Before long, I had an essay for him too, and I presented it to him on Christmas Eve (when we opened our gifts). I also decided to read *Pop: A Celebration of Black Fatherhood* and both books gave me the motivation to create a dedication page/picture for my brother, my godfather, and my grandfather too. I hope they appreciate their gifts the same way I appreciated this book. Thanks for the idea and your work, Rachel Vassel.



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It was fun
for me to
read about
other proud
daughters
like myself.

PARTNERS

Gamma Phi Delta Sorority

GAMMA PHI DELTA SORORITY, INC. was founded in 1943 in Detroit, Michigan by Elizabeth Garner, an instructor at the College, and her sister, Mrs. Violet Lewis. Violet Temple Lewis was a trailblazing educator born in Lima, Ohio. Her goal was to improve the economic status of women by providing training in marketable skills for jobs and decent incomes to support themselves and their families.

At the onset of a nationwide economic depression, she founded the Lewis Business College in Indianapolis, Indiana in 1929. The Detroit Chamber of Commerce asked her to do the same in Detroit, Michigan. Dr. Lewis then founded Detroit's Lewis Business College, growing it from a nine-month stenographic course to an accredited community college.

The current Lewis College of Business is the U.S. Department of Education's only designated historical Black College in Michigan. The College has given countless numbers of women the opportunity for development and growth and a chance for a better life. Gamma Phi Delta has chapters all over the United States and strives to improve the economic, social and political status of all women; to motivate the members to further their education/training and maintain a better relationship among women of all races and creeds and to be of greater service to the community, country and to each other. Social, cultural and academic excellence is encouraged and supported with graduate members serving as mentors for younger youth groups. Gamma Phi Delta celebrates 65 years of sisterhood at their national conference in August 2008.



Sistas Creed

by Tru

We are strong, proud and wise
Sistas,
Striving to live civilized
With hard work and determination
We can each help build a stronger nation.

To be refined at all times
Is the duty I have been assigned
Honesty, beauty, and responsibility
All attributes of the Queen in me

I assume all responsibility for any mistakes I make
Or any rules I break
Knowing that the consequences are results of what I
create.

I don't blame others for the wrong in my life
I must do the work to make things right
My strength is my mind and not my body
My wisdom extraordinary
I am somebody!

I'm a part of a team
I rely on my Sistas and they rely on me
Can't let them down
They're counting on me.

My word is my bond
It shall never fail
I know what my job entails:
To be myself at all times
To tell the truth and not lie
To end gossip and petty ways
To lead others to a positive page
To want for my sista
What I want for myself
To not hate on her or anyone else
To be easy to lead in the right
direction instead of the wrong
To be diligent in my efforts and to remain strong.

I realize my challenges and will overcome my struggles
Civilized young Sistas today, future civilized mothers.

We are strong, proud and wise
Sistas,
Striving to live civilized
With hard work and determination
We can each help build a stronger nation.*

**All Sistas participants must memorize this poem.*



Iking and Tru, founders of Knew Planet.

Knew Planet by Iking

In a little backhouse in South Central Los Angeles in 1995, Iking and Tru quietly discussed how they could keep little sistas from becoming prostitutes and little brothas from becoming gang members. At the time, the idea of having an organization seemed far-fetched, so they began their journey by reading and feeding the small children in their community whose parents had fallen victim to crack. Later, they started tutoring youth in math and traveling to the local parks to sit and dialogue with teen-agers about life and consequences of everyday choices: Iking with the brothas to show a positive male influence and Tru with the Sistas to show a positive female influence.

In 2003, their dream became a reality. With hard work and a pre-determined idea, Knew Planet, the 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization was birthed. Knew Planet is an organization that teaches love, knowledge and respect to youth and adults in underserved communities across the planet.

Since their inception, they have provided youth and adult programs across the U.S. and abroad that serve their mission. Despite the increasing numbers of inner city youth in urban areas across the planet, Knew Planet realized that most mainstream youth services and intervention strategies utilized within urban areas didn't have the capacity to address certain issues that many African American youth face, including cultural barriers, lack of caring, understanding staff, generational gaps, and inability to relate to the needs of the children in the community.

Knew Planet provides the arena and offers positive opportunities for youth to socially develop by addressing their health, social, emotional and educational needs that African American youth require in order to live productive, positive lives.

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2008



Students at Creative Minds International Academy.

CREATIVE MINDS INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY, JOS-NIGERIA

“Facilitating Values-based education, academic excellence and Creative self-expression”

By Emmanuel Ande Ivorgba

Inspired by Project Happiness and established in April 2007 as a values-based education school,

Creative Minds International Academy is situated in a serene and conducive learning environment among the rocky hills of Jos, the Plateau State Capital-Nigeria's "Home of Peace and Tourism".

Our student population is currently 250, consisting of 180 females and 70 males aged between 2-18 years old. Eighty-five percent of our students come from low income homes where parents find it almost practically impossible to cope with their domestic needs, let alone paying for the increasingly high cost of quality education in Nigeria.

Creative Minds International Academy is pursuing the vision of a world in which every one is an active participant in the social transformation and development process, and in which our individual gifts, talents, abilities and capacities are recognized, appreciated and translated into positive actions for the common good of all. We have a sound system which ensures that each of our students grows intellectually, morally, physically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually, while preparing to function productively, responsibly and generously in global society.

We empower our students to develop the critical thinking processes necessary to investigate and interrelate important life issues that are inherent to their immediate surroundings and essential to the sustainability of human kind. One way through which we achieve this is by our "Values in African Thought Program," which is committed to the vision of a healed world, where people of all faiths, traditions and colors can come together with mutual respect, and where the rapidly vanishing voices of the traditional African wisdom keepers of the Earth are heard and respected.

Emmanuel Ande Ivorgba holds both Bachelors in Computer Science and Masters Degrees in Information Technology and is currently studying for a Doctor of Metaphysical Science at the University of Metaphysics, West Sedona, USA. He is the Founder and Principal of Creative Minds International Academy, Jos-Nigeria.

YOUNG SISTER ON THE RISE

by Brittany Hardin

MY NAME IS BRITTANY S. Hardin and I am in the process of making a smooth transition from a child to an adult. At this stage in my life I am Childfree, STD free and drug free. I am a healthy and active seventeen-year-old who is involved in sports, clubs and employment. I maintain above a 3.0 GPA and have a goal of becoming a prestigious African American woman that will make history. Sisterhood Agenda has helped me to stay focused on doing something with my life and my potential. The program itself taught me to be proud of my ethnic group and of my culture. It has taught me to be cognizant of a person for their personality and talents not for their clothes, their money or their popularity. Sisterhood Agenda showed me that most of the famous Black women began as I, a young eager teen with a goal and dream of one day becoming the next best thing. Sisterhood Agenda has helped me to understand that with focus, will power and time I can be successful. Due to the lessons learned at Sisterhood Agenda, I have matured more as a person and have acquired knowledge, which has helped me to understand myself as a person and to mentally grow stronger.

The women at Sisterhood Agenda make the program a great experience. They are the role models for the young females who have graduated and now participate in Sisters In Action. The women at Sisterhood Agenda are always open minded and willing to converse. They have the ability to be your friend but at the same time well-respected adults. The goals of Sisterhood Agenda are reflected through the guidance and teaching. They practice what they preach and hold true their word.



They, along with other women, are examples of how understanding yourself, your culture, and your potential you can accomplish anything you set your mind to. The ability for these women to teach the goals of sisterhood, self-knowledge, self-development and self-esteem, and to exhibit them on a daily basis inspires young females like myself to go the extra mile even when the water is gone and the heat is unbearable. I hope that by following their examples and teachings I too can be a successful African American female and an epitome of Sisterhood Agenda.

As a young adult, I have goals and am active in school, sports and other activities with my community. Sometimes I have to go an extra mile that seemed long and rough and I felt like giving up. The thought of submission wasn't a bad idea; I began to think of all the successful people who had given up when the road became rocky. I played pros and cons with a future after submission to the challenges that I was facing. As I juggled the thoughts and images through my mind, I relaxed on my bedroom floor where I began to let my eyes wonder around my decorated walls. I followed the line leading from my window to a poster I made in my



tenth grade math class. After staring at my artwork, I noticed the card my mother had given me on my twelfth birthday hanging below it. I lazily looked it over at first noticing the exalted female drawn on the cover, then at once, my attention was transfixed on the sentence above the artistically drawn character it read: "Baby girl, I'm so proud of you." I re-read the sentence and allowed it to echo over and over in my mind, bringing with each echo a vivid memory of someone who encouraged me to always go the distance even when I felt I couldn't.

At once I sat up and thought of all people who had invested time, money, and energy all because they believed that I have the potential to be successful. I knew if I submitted to the challenges life handed me that I would be a failure to myself and to those who believed in me. At that point I decided that if at anytime I felt like giving up I would look to that sentence on my birthday card for courage and strength to continue along the road to success, even if I have to go an extra mile.

Written when Brittany was in high school, Brittany Hardin is now a senior at the University of North Carolina. She wishes more young women could be exposed to programs like Sisterhood Agenda.

Sisterhood Agenda has helped me to stay focused on doing something with my life and my potential.

SISTERHOOD
AGENDA

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VOLUME TWO
2008

MY SOUL FOR YOUR 30 PIECES

"I sold my soul; my soul for 30 pieces" was all I was able to understand from the uncontrollable sobbing on the other end of the phone line. I didn't know who was on the other end but I felt their pain. "I can't deal with him any more, I am living with the devil"!!!! Finally I recognized the voice of my dear friend. She and her live in boyfriend just had the biggest fight and she was at her end.

My girlfriend met this young man whom she did not love or was remotely attracted to. However he promised and delivered her the world. She didn't have to work; she wore the latest fashion, sported the finest jewelry, ate in top restaurants, drove the best cars and traveled on Lear jets to exotic locations. But all of this came at a price.....Her Soul and Self Worth. "Did he hit you"? "No, but he might as well have. In his rage he knocked the computer off the desk while I was sitting there, threw a shoe at me and called me a degenerate b---ch, a whore and a dirty slut. I just can't take this anymore!" Her confessions were disconcerting and lead me to believe that this was not the first time something like this has happened. She confessed that it wasn't and as matter of fact it was almost a daily routine with the name calling. "Why don't you just leave?" I asked. I can't!!!! Where will I go, I don't have any money and I can't make it on my own. I have to stay for my kids." How many of us know of a woman or are in this same situation?

See my girlfriend is a beautiful woman that was out going, full of life, and confident even though she was dealing with the woes of being a single mother. But the years of emotional/mental abuse sucked the very life out of her and caused her to believe that this is her fate and accepting any kind of abuse for the sake of material possessions was worth it.

LADIES, LADIES. LADIES I call you to stand up and KNOW YOUR WORTH!!!! Let me just tell you how important

you are. When God created the heavens and the earth, the seas, the trees, the animals and man he still was not satisfied until YOU were created. God chose YOU to carry and birth the reflections of his image. In 1 Peter 3:7 he commands men to treat YOU with respect so that their prayers won't become ineffective. Are you feeling important now? I promise you when you know and understand your worth there is absolutely nothing anyone can say or do to break you. I challenge you to start viewing your self as the diamond that is so costly it is not displayed in a showcase for everyone to view and touch, but placed in a vault for only those who knows of it's worth and value.

I will leave you with this "People only treat you according to your value to them."

AND That's my 5 cents!!!!

For more information, please visit www.NAHBU.com or e-mail at Info@nahbu.com

HIV/AIDS AND BLACK WOMEN: NOT HYPE, BUT THE "STRAIGHT-UP TRUTH"

February 7, 2008 was the 8th annual National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. The theme was "Prevention is Power." This day should be a reminder to all women, especially Black women, to love, protect, and value their bodies.

Black women are the fastest growing HIV/AIDS population in the U.S. and they are most likely to be infected through high-risk heterosexual contact. This includes sex with husbands and boyfriends living the down-low lifestyle. Many women who are married or in long-term relationships believe they are safe and not at risk of being infected. Joy Marie is the pen name of two women who have survived marriages to down-low men and they want Black women to know "the straight-up truth."

Marie's tale is only one of the stories in the new book, *The Straight-Up Truth About The Down-Low: Women Share Their Stories of Betrayal, Pain and Survival*. After selling her home in Southern California to marry a man and buy a dream home on the East Coast, she heard a voicemail where another man called her "perfect" husband "baby." Her personal experience shows her that "women in marriages are lulled into a false sense of security."

"Somebody needs to do something about the high rise of HIV/AIDS—who really cares about Black women? The down-low is not hype nor a myth, neither is it just another way to vilify black men," says Marie. "This is evidenced by the many letters, e-mails and phone calls we receive every week because they have discovered their husbands/boyfriends are sleeping with men behind their backs. Recently, we received a telephone call from a woman whose sister has contracted HIV/AIDS from her down-low husband. The sister was hospitalized with pneumonia and an extremely low T-cell count. We want women to become informed, thus able to protect themselves from the men who practice this deceitful, life-threatening behavior."

Marie's advice to sisters: "Remember we can't control others, but we can control ourselves. GET TESTED LADIES! Take your life into your own hands and remember, Prevention is Power."

SISTERHOOD
AGENDA

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VOLUME TWO
2008

The Straight-Up Truth About the Down-Low



Women share their stories of
betrayal, pain and survival

Joy Marie

THE POWER OF MEDITATION

by Charelle Collins

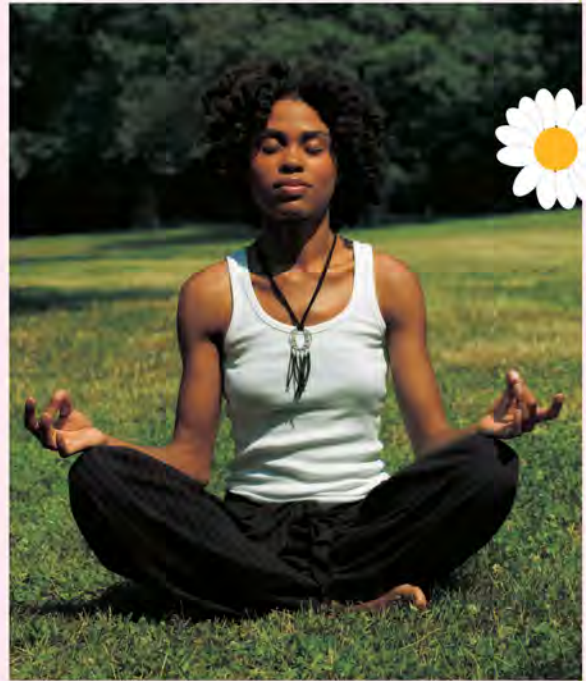
Ohm. The chanting sound associated with yoga and mediation is fairly well known. We envision a remarkably calm person, sitting cross-legged on a mat, fingers looped into small circles. What is it about that position and meditation itself that proves to be so powerful for some?

Meditation can be a great means of achieving a peaceful state of mind. The main goal of meditation is to gain awareness. While sitting (or kneeling or even walking) in a meditative state, a person's thoughts slow which make it easier to focus on what's happening within our bodies and minds.

Buddhism, Zen, and many other practices consider meditation a cornerstone of their respective customs. In Buddhist lore, the Buddha (Prince Siddhartha, the "enlightened one") meditated for an entire day during which time he discovered karma (the universe's balance of good and evil), why things suffer, and how to end distress. Since then, other practitioners of Buddhism use meditation to achieve their own forms of enlightenment.

You may not be able to figure out how to end the world's suffering like the Buddha, but you can certainly learn how to relax your mind. Meditating takes some practice, but anyone can do it. Here are some tips to help you out:

- Find a comfortable spot to meditate in, somewhere quiet where you will be able to focus on an object or a mantra in your head.
- Breathe deeply! Relaxed breathing is instrumental to meditation. It will calm your body and provide you more focus.
- Exercise discipline. Sounds and outside thoughts that filter into your brain may sidetrack you, but don't dwell on them. Acknowledge that those things are going on, but then go back to your mantra.
- Practice. Meditation takes time, and soon enough you'll get the hang of concentrating on clearing your mind.



Things that can break your heart:

A sad movie

Your first love

Losing a championship

Your first child leaving home

Diabetes

The complications of diabetes often go undiagnosed, and are far more serious than you might think. Most people with diabetes also have high blood pressure and cholesterol, which can cause severe heart damage. In fact, 2 out of 3 people with diabetes die from heart disease or stroke.

But it's not too late. You can reduce your risk of heart disease and stroke by lowering your blood sugar, blood pressure and cholesterol. Learn how.

Call 1-800-DIABETES for your free "Diabetes Survival Guide".



www.diabetes.org

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, website links and a printed listing in Sisterhood Agenda's Global Resource Directory. 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
Solomon s Books
Tuskegee University

Arkansas

Africa Enterprises
Arkansas Baptist College
Pyramid Gallery

Arizona

12th Tribe
Greater Phoenix Urban League*
The Black Wives Network*
Tucson Urban League*
Wholistic Counseling & Wellness Alternatives

California

A.K. Quinn AME Church*
African Heritage Books & Gifts
African Marketplace
Alkebulan Books
African Book Mart
Annette s Braids
ASDelightful Scents
Birthing Project*
Black Spring Books
Blessed Child Entertainment*
Cadijah s Lcotician Services
Carol's Books
Culture Collection
E.T.C.H.S. Family Travel
Eso Won Books
Ethnic Notions Bookstore
Eugene Bowman Economic Empowerment Center*
Greater Sacramento Urban League*
Hair Today Hair Tomorrow
Hanna Ethnic Bookseller
IFBA Institute of Fine Braiderly Arts
IronWood Corner
It is Written Bookstore
Ivyway Salon
KIPP Schools*
KnewPlanet*
Kongo Square Gallery
Le Skintique
Locsistah.com*
Los Angeles Urban League*
Madu Salon
Malik's Bookstore
Marcus Bookstore
Mark Style Bookstore

Native Touch Natural Hair
Natural Hair Expressions
New York Life Insurance Company
Oh My Nappy Hair
San Diego Urban League*
Select Los Angeles Public Schools*
Select Nail Salons
Select Public Libraries
Shatari Braids
The African Book Mart
The Center for Community Health & Well Being*
United Voices for a Common Cause
West of Heaven Studio
WiserEarth
World of Braids
Zahra s Books

Colorado

Black and Read
Camp To Belong*
Hueman Experience
Urban League of Pikes Peak*
Urban League of Metropolitan Denver*

Connecticut

All Eyes on Egypt
Blackprint Books
Black Books Galore
Blackprint Heritage Gallery
Dyngnyi Books
Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault*
Twist & Curves*
Urban League of Greater Hartford*
Urban League of Southwestern Connecticut*

Delaware

Haneef s Bookstore and Gallery
Me Jah s Books
Quality Solutions by SL Burton LLC
Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League*

District of Columbia

Advocates for Youth*
All Eyes on Egypt
Asa Natural Hair Boutique (Anthony Bowen Elementary School Clubhouse #4* Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington*
Boys & Girls Club #2*
Cornrows and Company
Digital Sisters*
Drum and Spear Books
Elle Braiding Salon
Girlfriends Creative Hair Designs
Global Fund for Children*
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
Stella bleu
Studio Elan
Soul Day Spa and Salon
Twists & Turns Natural Hair
Ujamaa Bookstore African Shop
University of the District of Columbia
Urban Nature Styles
Yawa Books & Gifts

Florida

African American Heritage
African Bookstore
Amen Ra Books
Asa Natural Hair Boutique
BlackBritsUSA.com*
Books for Thought
Chambers Park Community Center*
Ethnic Elegance
Girl Scouts of Gateway*
Heritage Bookstore and More
Jacksonville Urban League*
Montsho BookFairs
My Daughter's Keeper of Tampa Bay*
Nefertiti Books
Njingha African Women's Week*
Nsoromma Youth Entrepreneurs*
Metropolitan Orlando Urban League*
Nahbulunge*
Ngozi Seed*
Nubian Bookstore
Pinnellas County Urban League*
Pyramid Books (Shaheed African Shear Essence Salon
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 Spa*
All Eyes on Egypt:
AASAP-Atlanta
Alta s Hair Studio
Angel's Locs
Another Look Salon
Atlanta Urban League*
Brookhaven Boys & Girls Club
Celebrate (Charis Books & More
Deeply Rooted at Your Majesty
Deeply Rooted Natural Hair Care Center (East DeKalb Boys & Girls Club
Fine Art by Meisha Card*
Franklin Road Boys & Girls Club
George Washington Carver Boys &

Girls Club
Hamilton Books
Harland Discovery Teen Center
Headliners Hair
Homeland Village Isia Beauty and Barber
H.O.T.G.I.R.L.S.: Helping Our Teen Girls in Real Life Situations*
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
Khan s Books
Kinetic Kinks
Life is a Box of Crayons
Madina Baye Braiding World
Mahogany Books & Gifts
Medu Bookstore
Michael A. Grant Boys & Girls Club
Midtown Hair Studio
Natural Essence Hair Studio
Natural Hair Care Center
Newnan/Coweta Boys & Girls Club
NFL Youth Education Town*
Nubian Bookstore
Oh My Nappy Hair
PLGK Media*
Peachcrest Boys & Girls Club Ronnie's
Artistic Home
Salon Baptiste
Salon Panache
Samuel L. Jones Boys & Girls Club*
Select Atlanta Public Schools*
Select Nail Salons
Select Public Libraries
Shrine of the Black Madonna
Southpointe School of Massage & Wellness Spa*
Soul Sister Natural Haircare*
Spelman College
The Crowning Seat of Wisdom
Threshing Floor Academy of Arts & Sciences*
Timbuctu International Braid
Urban League of Greater Columbus*
Warren/Holyfield Boys & Girls Club
W.W. Woolfolk Boys & Girls Club
Youth Art Connection*

Illinois

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority*
Anderson Real Estate*
A.Phiip Randolph Pullman Porter Museum Gift Shop*
African American Images
Afri-Ware
Afrocentric Bookstore 1 & 2
Amazon Natural Salon
Black Culture Bookstore
Camp Butterfly*
Chicago Urban League*
Cultural Bookstore
Inspired Redesign
Dianne B. Natural Hair
DuSable Museum Trading Post
Free Your Mind
Full Circle Bookstore
Foster's Accounting & Tax Service

Heritage Books
Ibada Consulting
Mothaland Books
Native Touch Natural HAir Studio
Knowledge Center Books
Quad County Urban League
Order of Kush International
Organic Texture
Project Butterfly*
Malcolm X College
Mothaland Books
Roots
Select Chicago Public Schools*
Select Nail Salons
Select Public Libraries
Serena's Braids
Sirius Books (Sistastrong)*
Soul Salon Spa
Southern Illinois University
Edwardsville*
Springfield Urban League*
Street-Level Media*
The Forum for Empowerment*
The Hair Source
The Tribesman
Tri-County Urban League*
Underground Bookstore
Urban League of Champaign County*
Why Knot Concept Salon
Young Women's Empowerment Project*

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*
John Will Anderson Boys & Girls Club
(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 Bookstore

Kansas

Urban League of the MidPlains*
WSU Youth Empowerment Partnership*

Kentucky

CAP Institute*
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
Arinda's Place
Artistic Expressions Natural Hair
Braids Inc
Bowie State University

Boys & Girls Clubs: Silver Spring*
Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington*
Caravan Books and Imports
Club Lady Bug Girls Social Club*
D.I.S.C Design Hair Studio
Dreadz-N-Headz
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.
First Impression
Freestyle Natural Hair Design
Grassroots
Greater Baltimore Urban League*
Institute for Black Charities*
Jaha Hair Studio Karibu Books*
Lions Denn Natural Hair
Last Stop Hair Shop
Madame Walker Braiderly & School
My Hairitage
Karibu Books 1-6
Kingdom Kare Ministries*
My Sister's Keeper*
NAACP
Natural Blessings
Natural Elements
Natural Locs Hair Salon
Office of Minority Health Resource Center*
Select Baltimore Public Schools*
Sepia Sand & Sable
Shear XXposure & the Salon
Sierra Visions*
Sojourner-Douglass College
Stunin' Hair Designs by Tina*
SuperSistas*
Wisdom Natural Hair Care Salon
Tehuti Imhotep Wisdom Natural Hair Care Salon

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*
Gammi Phi Delta Sorority*
Guest Boys & Girls Club
Happy to Be Nappy
Howard B. Bloomer Boys & Girls Club
I'm Naturally Beautiful
James & Lynelle Holden Boys & Girls Club
Jeanette's Unisex Salon
Lloyd H. Diel Boys & Girls Club
Locks 4 Life
Mosaic Youth Theatre*
Paul Winfred Owens Memorial*
Pontiac Boys & Girls Club
Select Detroit Public Schools*
Select Nail Salons
Select Public Libraries
Sisters Who Are Powerful*
Southwestern Michigan Urban League*
Urban League of Flint*
Urban League of Greater Muskegon*
Wayne State University
Visions Interpersonal*

Minnesota

Black History Month Store*
Minneapolis Urban League*
St. Paul Urban League*

Uhuru Books
United Deliverance Temple Church*
Mississippi
Adhiambo Bookstore
Urban League of Greater Jackson*

Missouri

Afrocentre Books & Cafe
Afro World
Cultural Essentials
Left Bank Books
Treasures of the Mind Bookstore
SistaKeeper Empowerment Center
Ujamaa Unlimited
Urban League 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

A Brand New Touch By Cookie
A Cut Above
Academy of Vocational Careers*
Angela Beauty Studio
Angels Beauty
Banessa Beauty Salon
Be Beautiful Parlor
Beys Touch Of Glass (Black Chamber of Commerce
Black Infant Mortality Reduction*
Books n Things
Boys & Girls Club of Newark*
Braids Galore
Braids R Us
Broadway Elementary School*
Carine's Ambience Hair Studio Cee Cut & Quarters
Center for Nonprofits*
Central High School*
Connies Beauty Salon
Cynthia s Natural Hair Salon* Distinctive Image
Diverse Generation Media
Dixons Hair Affair (East Orange
Campus High School*
Empower Today's Youth*
Essex County College*
First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens
Get Twisted
Girls Excel
Hazel's Deep Cleaning
Hair by Nedjetti*
Horizons Bookstore
Hudson Perinatal Consortium
Just Your Style Too
Karen Lynns Salon
K R Hair & Co
Just Us Books*
La Perfection Nails & Hair
Lees Beauty Salon
Lisbon Beauty Salon
Looking Glass Salon
Margos Stylistics Hair Salon
Partnership for Children of Essex*
Nail 3000 Nail Plaza Native Essence
Newark Day Center*
New Jersey Performing Arts Center*
Netukhisa Bookstore
Newark Community Health Centers*
Nu Loc Hair & Body Spa
Mind & Soul Bookstore
My Sistahz Keeper Association*
Orange Extended School Day Program*

Ourstory Books & Gifts
Partnership for Children of Essex*
Top Shelf Plus*
Sacred Thoughts Bookstore
Select Nail Salons
Select Public Libraries
Select Newark Public Schools*
Serengeti Plains
Sirca Reaction
Source of Knowledge
St. Philips Academy*
Strengthen Our Sisters*
The Bradford Brown Gallery*
The College of New Jersey*
The Nubian Queendom*
TropicalClinics*
Tunde Dada House of Africa
Unity Dance Group
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*
Westside High School*
Zion Academy*

New York

Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center*
African American Women in Cinema*
African Hair Braiding
African American Women in Cinema*
Afrigenix
Aids Community Research Initiative of Amercia*
Antekqua's Hair
BillHodges Gallery
Black Hair
Broome County Urban League*
Brownstone Books
Buffalo Urban League*
Caribbean Women's Health Association
Designer Braids & Trade
Dyaspora Salon & Day Spa
Gay Men's Health Crisis*
Girls Inc.*
Hair Fashions East
Health Department of New York*
Hue-man Bookstore
Indigo Cafe and Bookstore
Inner Beauty Solutions*
Khamit Kinks*
Just Us Women Productions, LLC
Langston Hughes Community Library & Community Center*
Lil SISTA*
Marta Valle Secondary After School
Boys & Girls Club
Merrick Park Baptist Church*
National Association of Black Female
Executives in Music & Entertainment*
National Coalition of 100 Black Women*
National Council for Research on Women*
NBA/WNBA*
Navy Yard Boys & Girls Club
New York Urban League*
Nubian Heritage Bookstore Rueban's
Select Nail Salons
Select New York City Public Schools*
Select Public Libraries
Sirca Designs
Sisters Making a Difference*
Sisters Uptown
Society of Neith Street*
Soulistic NYC
Tendrils Hair Spa
The Educational Alliance Boys & Girls Club-Edgies

The Brotherhood/Sister Sol*
The Educational Alliance Boys & Girls Club-H.S. of Economics & Finance
The Educational Alliance Boys & Girls Club-PS 142
The Schomburg Center*
Tulari s Regal Movement
Turning Heads Salon & Spa
Urban League of Long Island*
Urban League of Rochester*
Urban League of Westchester County*
Willie Mae Rock Camp
Women s HIV Collaborative of NewYork*
Wosa's Natural Hair
WNBA*
Yisrael School of Learning*

North Carolina

A Difference Bookstore
AIDS Community Res. Association*
African Land*
Ayana s Glory Locs
Bamar Courts Boys & Girls Club*
Bennett College
Blacknificent
Birchwood Heights Boys & Girls Club
Conduit*
Braids R Beautiful
Coastal Carolina HorseSense*
Creative Interchange*
Cultural Freedom
Divine Women of Faith*
Durham County Social Services*
Girls Club of Wake County*
Glory Locs
God Given Beauty
Hatyi Heritage Center*
Families Living Violence Free*
Hayti Heritage Center*
Hickory City Schools*
John Avery Boys & Girls Club*
Johnson C. Smith University
Lockstar Upscale Natural Hair Salon
Mocha Moms*
Mt. Vernon Christian Church*
Neighbors in Ministry*
North Carolina A&T State University
North Carolina Central University
Numbers Child Care*
Raleigh Girls Club*
S. Estes Family Resource*
Saint Augustine s College
Schatzi's Design Gallery and Spa
Shaw University
Select Durham Public Schools*
Select Public Libraries
Sophia Sunflower Salon*
The Hair Source
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*
Young Women of Promise*

Ohio

Abdul's African Art
Africentric Personal Development*
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*
The Harambee Leadership Academy*
The PanAfrican Institute*
Urban League of Greater Cincinnati*
Urban League of Greater Cleveland*
Warren-Trumbull Urban League*

Oklahoma

Urban League of Oklahoma City*
Metropolitan Tulsa Urban League*
EtaPiNu Sorority, Inc

Oregon

Reflection Cofee & Books
Urban League of Portland*

Pennsylvania

African American Museum
African Expressions
Alkebulan Bookstore
Atajmil Salon
Au Naturelle
Basic Black
Beauty Colliseum
Brownstone Natural Hair:
Dana Styling Salon
Duale Holistic Hair Care
Haneef's On South
Endless Creations
Exavia s Locks & Twist
Indigofera*
It's A Mystery to Me Bookstore
Malika Kambe Umtazi Sorority*
Million Women March*
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*
Young Wisdom Corp*
Young Women s Leadership School*
Zulene Creative Touch Design

Rhode Island

Urban League of Rhode Island*

South Carolina

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

Tennessee

Afro Books
Hill Financial Services
Knoxville Urban League*
Memphis Urban League*
Select Memphis Public Schools*
Sisters to Sisterhood Support Group
Urban League of Greater Chattanooga*

Urban League of Middle Tennessee*

Texas

AOC Books
African Imports
Austin Area Urban League*
Black Images Book Bazaar
Black Book Worm
Cush City
Ebony Hair Expressions
Emeth Books and Gifts
Exhale African American Books
Houston Area Urban League*
Knappi by Nature
Komen Breast Cancer Foundation*
Lock Shoppe Hair Salon*
MainStreet Books
Mocha Sisters Organization*
Nu World Books
NyAHsia Sistahood*
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
Travel for Fun
Unkle Funky s Daughter Natural Hair Salon
Urban League of Greater Dallas
and No. Ctrl TX*

Utah

Sam Weller Books
Virginia
Ancient Techniques Natural Hair
Braiding Service*
American Diabetes Assciation*
Ashoka*
African Attractions
Ashanti Village*
Atlantic Bookpost
Boys & Girls Club in Prince William*
Boys & Girls Club-Hylton Branch*
Boys & Girls Club Heiser Branch*
Boys & Girls Club-Carteret
Mortgage Branch*
Happily Natural Day*
Karibu Books
National Society of Black Engineers*
Norfolk State University
Northern Virginia Urban League*
Nubian Village Academy*
Nuwbeings Salon
Respect for Life Daycare*
Positive Vibes
Respect for Life Daycare*
Self-improvement
The Girls & Co.*
The Literary Boutique
Urban League of Greater Richmond*
Words of Wisdom Books and Gifts
Urban League of Hampton Roads*
Vision for Victory*

Washington

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*
Mbesa Women Bamenda*
Struggling Youths Common Initiative Group*

Ethiopia

YWCA of Ethiopia*

Ghana

Babacor International Company Ltd
Charismatic Faith Chapel*
Tomorrow Pioneers Foundaton*
Forces of Light*
Hope for Africa Network*
Global Nourishing Organization*
KoFeBean Entertainment
SERUPA (Samoro Investment Ltd
VisionNet Group
African Rural Development Movement
ARUDMO
Network of Women in Growth*

Kenya

Ability International*
East Africa Institute of Certified Studies*
Gender Empowerment*
Mathare Yetu Self Help Group
Munjeche Self Help Group
TropicalClinics*

Lesotho

Less AIDS Lesotho*

Malawi

Young Women's Forum

Nigeria

African Christian Youth Development
Foundation
Community Child Education &
Development*
Ameh's Ventures*
Benevolence Multimedia Incorporation
Carefind Communications
Diamond Girls Club*
Echoes*
Isa Global Investment
Jadeas Trust*
Schoolsng.com*
Muslim League for Accountability
Odre Enterprises
Silver Quill Nigeria*
Nitz Ventures*

Senegal

Case des Jeunes Femmes*

Sierra Leone

Jesus For All Nation*
Gateway Women

South Africa

Conquest for Life*
Masimanyane Women s Support
Centre*
Disabled Women Integrated Programme
South African Fisherwomen s

Association*
 South African Youth Ministries*
 Tsa-Botsogo Re-Awakening*
 Youth Empowerment Network*

Tanzania

Christian Vision Ministry
 Karudeca

The Gambia

The Organization for Women
 Advancement*

Uganda

Karwemera United Women Association
 Kibugambaata Girl Child
 Empowerment Project*
 Kijanju Women and Girls Empowerment
 Kikumu Agriculture Research Centre
 Lugeye Primary School Women
 Association
 Mango Tree*
 MVU Orphanage Centre*
 Rugendabara Foundatoin for Health &
 Rural Development*
 The Kids League*
 Theo Life Ministry*
 Tuungane Children's Foundation*
 Uganda Muslim Women Association for
 Daawa & Development*
 Namayina Rural Women Development
 Programme

Zambia

Christian est. Trust of Zambia*

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe Women Finance Trust*
 The Leadership Agenda/ The Word
 Institute

Cananda

Ford Publicity*
 Images Barber Shop & Beauty Salon*
 Young Women for Life*
 GtaGirlsRule

Caribbean

Bahamas

Alma's Hair Care Center
 Beauty Loft
 Council for Women in the Bahamas
 Crisis Centre
 Donovan'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
 Trinity Beauty Salon
 Ultimate Image

Barbados

Barbados Council of Women
 Caribbean Women's International
 Network

Centre for Gender and Development
 Studies
 Development Alternatives*
 Institute of Social and Economic
 Research-University of the West Indies
 Select Beauty Salons
 Summer Work Adventures
 Women and Development Unit

Jamaica

Bureau of Women's Affairs Center for
 Gender & Development Studies Select
 Beauty Salons
 Sistren Theatre Collective*
 YMCA of Kingston
 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
 Caribbean Association for Feminist
 Research and Action
 Select Beauty Salons

U.S. Virgin Islands

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

Europe

AfroEuropean Sisters Network*
 Black Women in Europe*

United Kingdom Bermuda

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

Wales

Chocolate Pink Hair and Beauty*

London

Aman Holistic Therapy Center
 Blaque 2 Naturals
 Foundationz
 Kamalii*
 Maarifa Books Masimanyane Women's
 Support Centre*
 Morris Roots
 Purely Natural
 World Association of Girl Guides and Girl
 Scouts in the Western Hemisphere



CULTURAL JEWELRY



Cowrie Shell Ring

This elegant, best-selling cowrie shell
 ring is inspired by the romance of
 Africa and women of African
 descent, in particular: Cowrie shells,
 once used as currency in Africa,
 symbolize wealth, status and beauty.

As shells from the sea, some believe that the
 cowrie shell comes as a token of recognition by
 the Goddess of Water.



Brass Ankh Ring

Adorn yourself with these
 exquisite and symbolic
 ankh rings as spiritual fashion
 for your fingers. Known as the
 key of life, symbolic of life and
 prosperity, male and females.

the ankh is an Egyptian symbol that is universally
 recognized.



Brass Africa Ring

Wear this beautiful brass
 Africa ring to take Africa with
 you everywhere! Showcase
 your identity and pride as a
 female of African descent.



River Stone Necklaces

All natural river stones
 symbolize Oshun, the Yoruba
 Coddess of the River, known for
 her feminine power, beauty,
 sensuality, love and healing
 abilities. Hand-wrapped in small,
 medium and large sizes on a
 black leather cord with a clasp.
 natural variations occur;
 (A variety of sizes with varying
 prices available).

Available at the Sister Store:
www.sisterhoodagenda.com

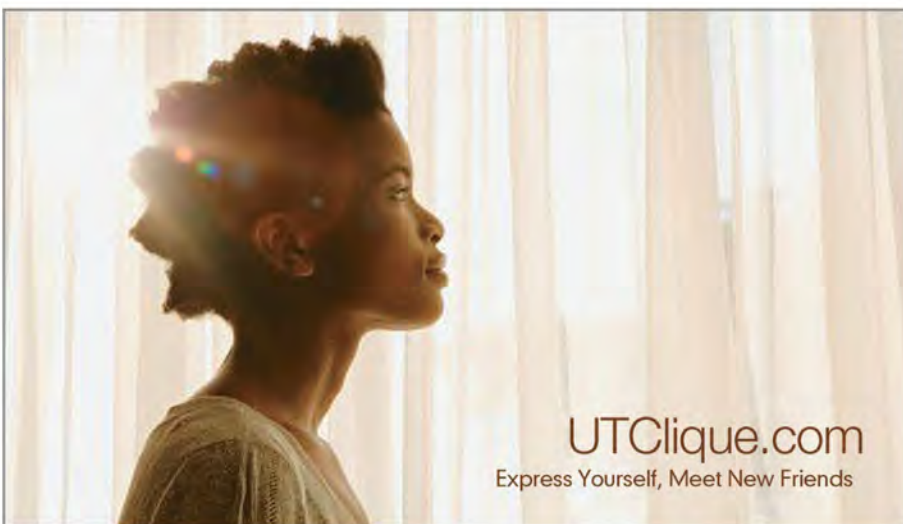


SISTERHOOD T-SHIRT SALE

"Sisterhood" is spelled in Egyptian hieroglyphics. Embrace the power of Black Womanhood! Showcase your unique style and spirit of sisterhood in this feminine, fitted baby doll t-shirt with capped sleeves. Metallic gold symbolizes wealth and black symbolizes our ethnicity.

\$7 SUPER SALE

Available at the Sister Store:
www.sisterhoodagenda.com



UTClique.com

Express Yourself, Meet New Friends

Sister Journal for Girls

Each Sister Journal is a colorful, spiral notebook that contains lined paper, cultural Adinkra symbols and affirmations created to uplift and guide our girls and young women. Adinkra symbols include those that represent illumination, challenging oneself, avoiding conflicts, sanctity and good fortune, unity and strength. Affirmations are positive thoughts directed at the self, phrased in the present and include:



"I am worthy of love and respect."

"My skin is a wonderful shade of brown."

"I am a beautiful Black Sister, who only grows more beautiful with time."

Available at the Sister Store: www.sisterhoodagenda.com

Beautiful.

by Jamaica Gilmer & Angela D. Coleman
 in partnership with Sisterhood Agenda



NOW
 available at the
 Sister Store

www.sisterhoodagenda.com

every Black girl is Beautiful.

A Journey Toward Womanhood

A Journey Toward Womanhood is 13-week intensive and comprehensive program with 52 module hours designed for girls of African descent ages 12-17. Rooted in the African "rites of passage" tradition of young women gathering in groups to receive guidance from older women, **A Journey Toward Womanhood** is a program with a modern approach to instilling knowledge of cultural roots and community awareness.

A Journey Toward Womanhood builds and maintains healthy self-esteem, instills cultural pride and self-appreciation, teaches life and social skills or self-sufficiency and discourages teen pregnancy, juvenile delinquency, school dropout, and drug abuse.

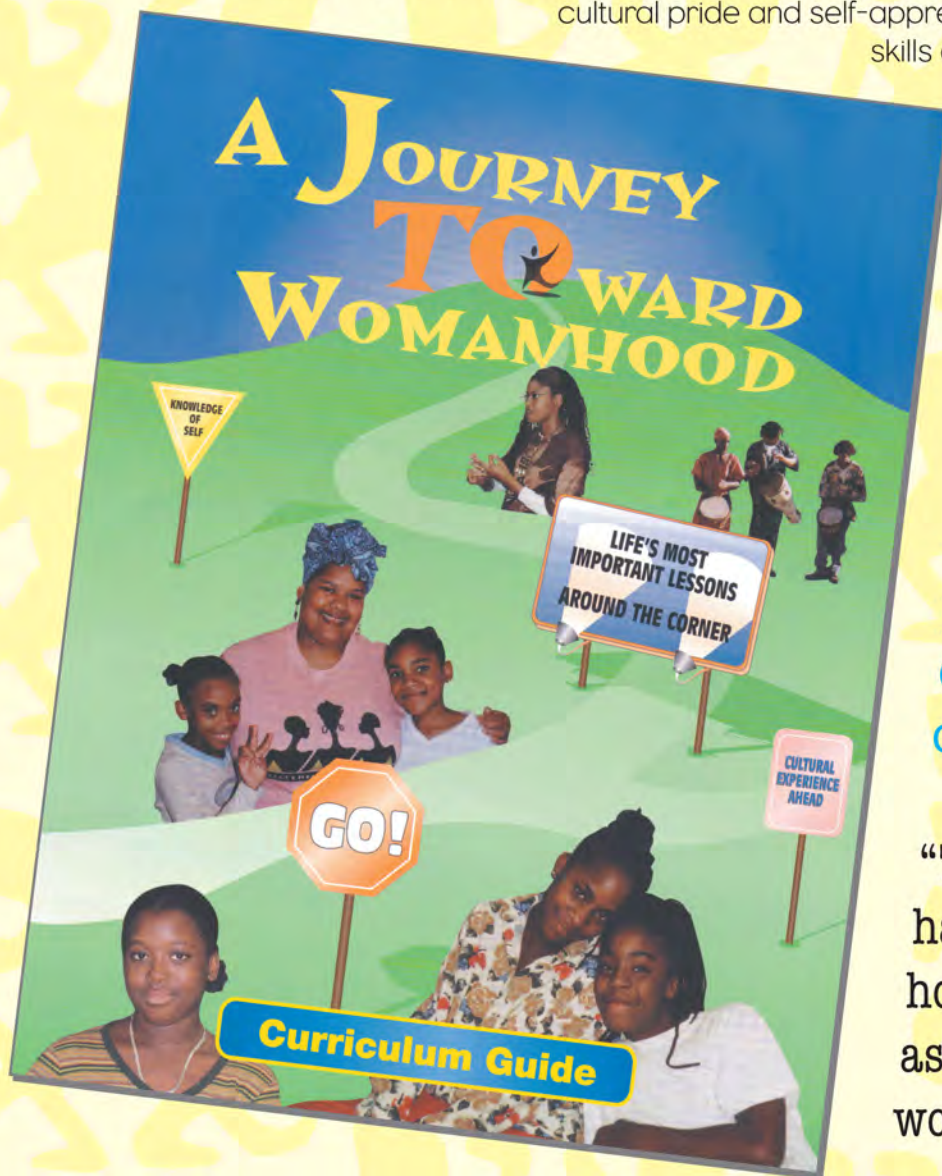
Parents and Participants say:

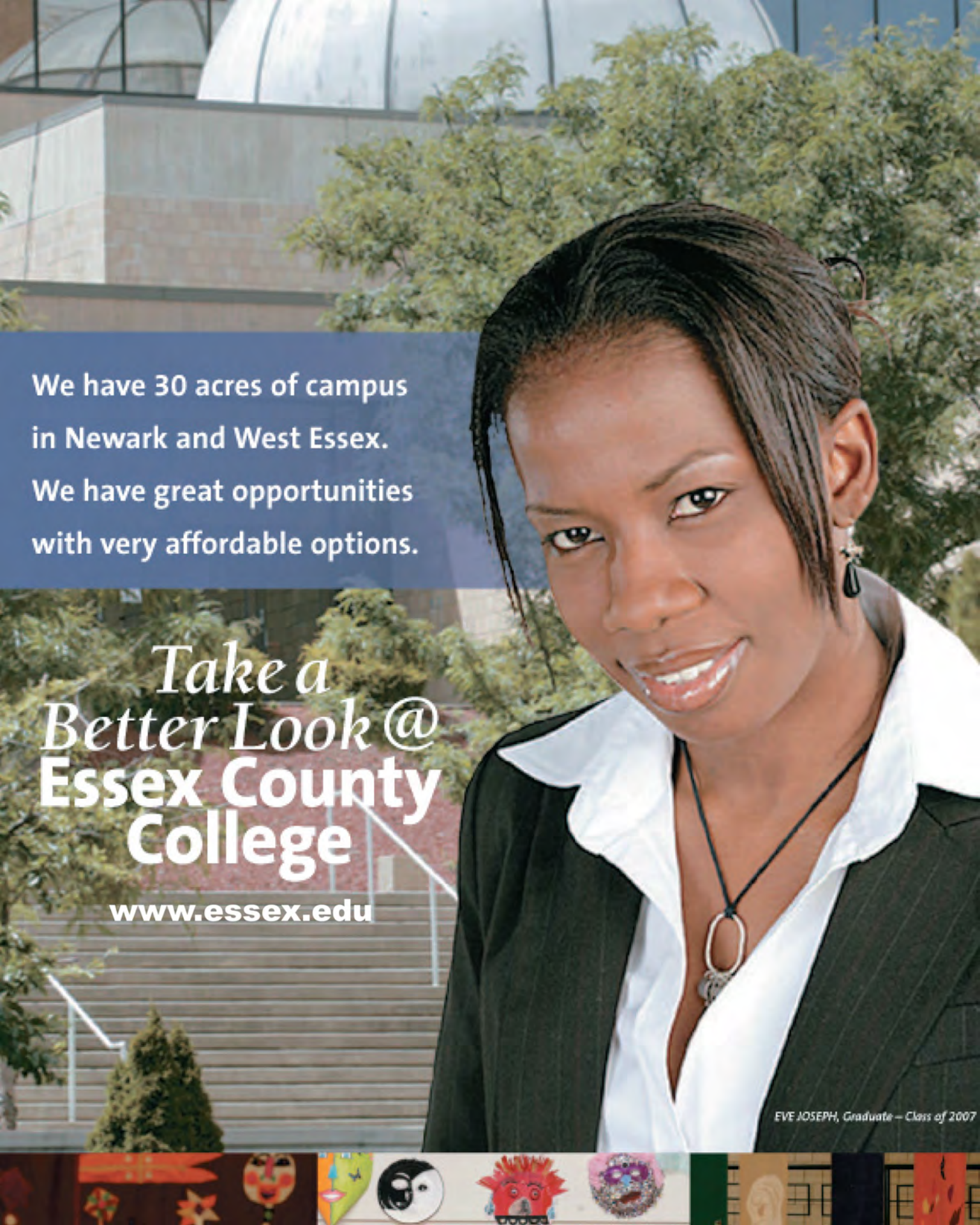
"A Journey Toward Womanhood is a wonderful program that changed my daughter's life."

"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 the Sister Store at www.sisterhoodagenda.com.





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with very affordable options.

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