

Summer 2007



Tyra Sounds Off

**Celebrating
Curves**

Oprah Winfrey

Mo'Nique

Jill Scott

Raven Symone



WOMEN IN REGGAE

BLACK WOMEN AND PLASTIC SURGERY

BECOME A DYNAMIC DIVA

#1 SISTERS:

**Venus
& Serena**

Serena

Venus

**Big Sister
Column**



**HONORING
MOTHER EARTH &
SPIRIT**

**BOW WOW
SEAN PAUL**

**Check
Out Your
Tools For
Survival**

**Sisters Around
The World**

**Healthy
Self-Esteem**

THE SISTER STORE

offers exclusive, unique

sisterhood products

that can only be found at

www.sisterhoodagenda.com

MAGAZINE HOME DELIVERY

PROGRAMS AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

A Journey Toward Womanhood

Sisters: Healthy & Empowered (SHE)

Weight Control, Health & Wellness System

African American Women Knowledge Cards

A Journey Toward

Womanhood Kit for Parents

BOOKS AND JOURNALS

Beautiful.

Sister Journal for Girls

JEWELRY

Cowrie Shell Rings

Brass Ankh Rings

Brass Africa Rings

Loc Jewelry for Hair

River Stone Necklaces

T-SHIRTS

KEY CHAINS



Sister Angela's Note

I love summer!

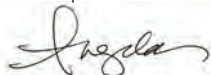
I enjoy the weather, the plants, the clothes and everything about a warm climate. The sun gives me energy and motivates me to be active. This issue is dedicated to Mother Earth & Spirit.

Due to global warming and climate changes, our lives are changing. Many of us walk around with our spirits needing adjustment. Like the earth, our spirits intuitively strive for balance. When we are not in balance, we have problems. Natural disasters and mental disturbances such as stress and disease are examples of imbalances attempting to correct themselves.

I am inspired when I learn about Elon's mission to help us all recognize the divine essence within us. Tec reminds us about maintaining healthy self-esteem. I appreciate how Majora relates environmental issues to economic justice. And who is not positively affected when reading about Lisa Price and how she transformed her love of nature into a profitable business by following her heart?

I love reggae music. Now that I understand what my sisters in reggae must go through to get their voices heard, I have even more respect and appreciation for them. Sometimes, we see our sisters struggling, but there is also hope and opportunity. Like Jackie Joyner-Kersey so eloquently stated, "Achievement is difficult. It requires enormous effort. Those who can work through the struggle are the ones who are going to be successful." Like the recommendations suggested in the essay, The Power of Listening, if we just listen, we can find the answers. We can meditate. We can rejuvenate. We can believe.

In the Spirit of Sisterhood,



Angela D. Coleman

President, Sisterhood Agenda, Inc.



Nick P



Angela D. Coleman Editor-in-Chief
Dawn Sebti Art Director
Deborah Anderson Assistant Editor
Ayana Contributing Writers
Algernon Austin
Dr. Anita Davis-DeFo
Aminata Dieye
Angelena Dockery
Leslie Green
Tec Jean
David Liknaitzky
Rachel Mamoss
Johan Reiners
Nancy Sai
Samantha Wern
Mark Pellecchia Technical Support

Sisterhood Agenda Executive Advisory Board

Deborah Anderson, Mathias Bishop,
 Bernice Coleman, Angie Colette Beatty, Ph.D.,
 Ila Couch, Anita Defoe, Ph.D., Aminata Dieye, Alfred
 Fornay, Jamaica Gilmer, Natasha Haughton-Allrich,
 Donna Hembrick, Dee Huggins, Gerry Mack, Antonia
 Martinez, Ph.D., Marcia Mattox, Michelle McKoy, Wardell
 Robinson Moore, Pearl Jr., Kim Pearson, Lynn Price,
 Melody Stockdale, Trina Scott, Cornel West

**Sisterhood Agenda, 524 Ridge Street,
 Newark, New Jersey 07104 (973) 230-2765
 www.sisterhoodagenda.com**

Sisterhood Agenda, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) charitable nonprofit organization created in 1994 to uplift and aid in the self-development of women and girls of African descent, a unique population with special needs.

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



Home Delivery & Donation

☐ **YES,**
 I want to help
 Sisterhood
 Agenda uplift
 women and
 girls of
 African
 descent!

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email: _____

Donation: _____

\$100

\$250

\$500

\$1,000

Other

(please specify): _____



**\$10
 Magazine
 Home
 Delivery**

Mail payments to: _____

Sisterhood Agenda, Inc., 524 Ridge Street, Newark, NJ 07104

or visit www.sisterhoodagenda.com to make a secure online payment.

This Issue is Dedicated to

**Mother
 Earth
 &
 Spirit**

IN this ISSUE



15 Tyra Banks



Bow Wow
22

3 Sister Angela's Note

6 Sister Mail

7 Hype

New Black Disney Princess
Dangerous Negro Movement
The Truth About "Acting White"
International Women and AIDS Summit
The Power of Listening

9 Sister Connections

Mercy's Crusade
La Case des Jeunes Femmes
Afro European Sisters Network
My Sister's Keeper
Camp Diva
Majora's Environmental Justice
Meet RoLanda: Earth Mama Healing

16 Black is Beautiful

Curvy Celebrities

19 Positive Vibrations

Women in Reggae
Bow Wow Bio
American Black Film Festival
Sean Paul

24 Our History & Heritage

Anna J. Haywood Cooper
Phillis Wheatley
Zora Neale Hurston
Audre Lorde
Octavia Butler
Maya Angelou
Alice Walker
Toni Morrison

26 Spotlight

#1 Sisters: Venus & Serena Williams

30 AHead of the Crowd

Versatile Locs

Three Questions for Nedjetti

33 Moving and Grooving

Jackie Joyner-Kersee

The CoGirlCo! Initiative

36 Tools for Survival

Don't let the 4P's Rule You

Big Sister Column

The Best Day of My Life

38 Global Partners

Kufunda Village in Zimbabwe

Ability in Kenya

South African Youth & Government

41 I Love Me!

Kiri Davis: A Girl Like Me

Sisters Around the World

Beautiful.

43 Inner Health for Outer Beauty

Healthy Self-Esteem

Nip, Tuck

What Do You Know About Microbicides?

46 Progressing with Fitness, Dignity & Pride

Elon: Dynamic Diva

Lisa Price Transforms Nature into Business

African Women's Leadership Summit

Youth Empowerment in South Africa

49 The Spirit of Central Park

50 Sneak Peak



30 Hairstyles

SISTERHOOD
AGENDA

5

SUMMER
2007



Ayana



I am truly speechless. Your website is so well-rounded. The detail that you have given to helping young girls is unbelievable. It is an absolute blessing to see content this positive so readily available. I wish you and your staff much success. Be blessed and keep up the perfect work.

Theresa, via email

Thank you so much for sharing the inaugural issue of *Sisterhood Agenda* magazine. It reads extremely well and looks like great effort went into making it exciting and interesting. I look forward to finding a copy at one of your partner location. Continued Success and Blessings!"

Amanda, Georgia

Greetings Angela D. Coleman! I first want to thank you for following through and sending the *Sisterhood Agenda* magazine for my students! The magazine is BEAUTIFUL! It is also PERFECT for what my young Black female students and future leaders need. I scanned through the magazine as soon as I got it and had to share it at that moment with a fellow teacher! I am definitely going to be using the contents and articles of this issue in my class in the next coming weeks. We still have four weeks of school, so this will be a perfect way to not only keep my students' attention but also educate and encourage them before we part.

Again, I thank you for sending the magazine. The contents are educational and engaging! I will be

put to good use with the girls in Philly. THANK YOU SO MUCH! Have a beautiful day!"

Terri, Philadelphia

I absolutely LOVE your magazine. You've literally included something for everybody. Thanks so much for this. I will definitely pick up a copy and share this good news.

Continue delivering the good word and keep up the good work! Much thanks to you and your staff!

Alesia, North Carolina



"Sisterhood Agenda is the perfect vehicle for this time to uplift and highlight things that are a true force for good." *Cornel West*

Congratulations on a superb magazine! It is filled with useful and informative information. I kept one (of course) and passed the others on to mothers who have daughters. Should you ever consider a "brothers" column let me know. Newark (we called it "New Ark" back in the 60's and 70's) will continue to be blessed by your commitment to the liberation and self-empowerment of our people.

Ahmad, North Carolina

This is to inform you that the package containing very beautiful and well-written magazines arrived yesterday. I am holding a copy right now in my hands. I love the quality of the production and the contents. This is truly wonderful, sacrificial and challenging. So much energy, time and resources have surely gone into production and distribution. Thank you most sincerely for the opportunity and privilege to learn from this too. Cod bless you and your team.

Emmanuel, Nigeria

Congratulations! It's great to hear about the new magazine, and the best of wishes. I remember Sisterhood Agenda from the very beginning and am glad to see that this seed has borne such good fruit. Take good care.

Riche', Alabama

Greetings from Uganda!

Just to let you know that we received in the mail today the package of magazines. They are wonderful! Congratulations! We will send some copies to relevant people here at the University, US AIDS and women's groups.

Trevor, Uganda

Seeing that you too having been blessed through the great, I AM for such a beautiful magazine. Your magazine makes me want more and living here in Alaska I hope that we can get a subscription.

Charlene, Alaska

Sisterhood Agenda magazine is available for home delivery. See details on page 3.)

THEYARD

Dangerous Negro Movement

DAN-GER-OUS NE-GRO:

1. an individual of African descent, whose educational background and assertive disposition pose an imminent THREAT to the current state of affairs.

2. identified by an acute sense of SOCIAL AWARENESS, non-complacency and a trenchant and relentless commitment to the BLACK community.

3. classified as the "Talented Tenth" and charged with uplifting the "masses" of the Negro race.

4. ANTI-APATHETIC.

5. committed to the social, political, and economic EMPOWERMENT of the Black community.

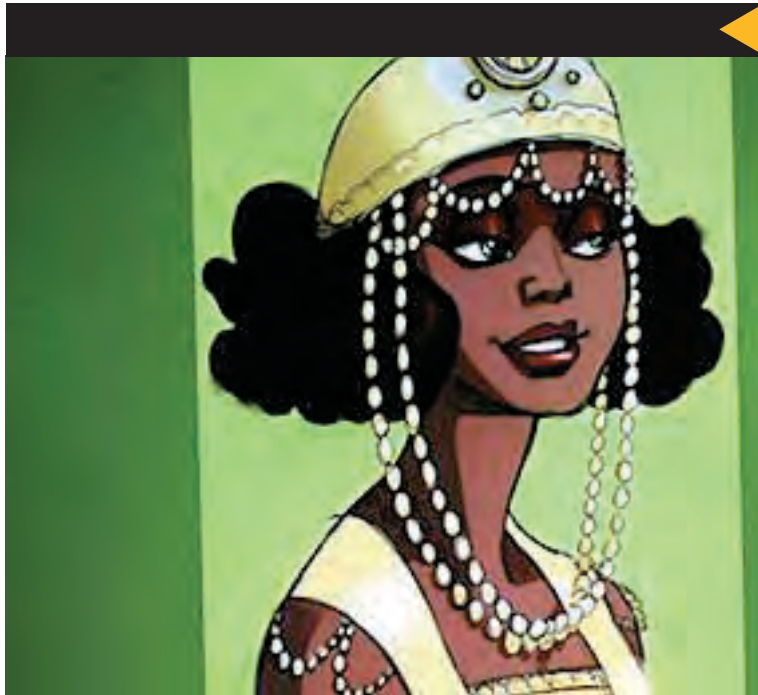
The aim of The Dangerous Negro Movement is to boost the number of socially conscious individuals in communities across America and increase their impact on the community. Their angle: pushing a smart and stylish clothing line that will serve as a visual representation of the Black Empowerment Movement.

dN Group LLC was created by seven Black college graduates. The company's mission is to help combat the negative and complacent mentalities that have become prevalent today.

Hip Hop artist Common (seen on MTV's movie special for his contribution to the film *Freedom Writers* wearing the dangerousNEGRO Definition t-shirt), is just one of many celebrities that has embraced the dangerousNEGRO movement. Most recently, new movie star Anthony Mackie appeared on ABC's hit talk show *The View* draped in another of their best selling shirts: *Educated Black Man Take One Home Today*.

The Frog Princess

Maddy, Disney's first Black animated princess.



SISTERHOOD
AGENDA

7

SUMMER
2007

New Black Disney Princess

By Nancy Sai

DISNEY STUDIOS WILL DEBUT ITS FIRST BLACK ANIMATED princess in the 2009 release of *The Frog Princess*. Her name is Maddy and she will be joining the likes of the eight other Disney princesses.

The film is a musical fairy tale set in New Orleans during 1920's Jazz Age. From a mix of voodoo, Cajun lifestyle, jazz-singing crocodiles and two hundred year-old fairy godmothers, the film holds magical fantasy Disney films are known for.

Chief Executive Roger Iger said the company chose New Orleans to show its support to the city after its Hurricane Katrina hit. He believes this setting and Maddy's strong character will bring excitement.

Prior to 1992, Disney Studios princess were predominantly White characters. Aladdin's Princess Jasmine served as the first non-White princess when she appeared in the winter of 1992. Three years later, Pocahontas, the American Indian princess made her mark and Chinese heroine, Mulan, eventually arrived in 1998. The large uproar about Disney's lack of an African American representation could have prompted the new decision to have a Black princess.

This film will be Disney's Studios return to its traditional hand drawn animation.



PLAY

The Truth About "Acting White"

BY ALCERNON AUSTIN

A STUDY BY THE GIRL SCOUT RESEARCH INSTITUTE SHOWS THAT BLACK and White girls experience equivalent levels of academically-oriented teasing. Forty-one percent of White girls reported that they worried about being teased for speaking or participating in class. Thirty-five percent of Black girls felt the same. These results are statistically equal because the margin of error is plus or minus 7 percentage points.

The proponents of the "acting White" hypothesis claim that Black students experience much more academic teasing than White students, but they have never presented any direct evidence to support this assertion.

The educational researcher Ronald F. Ferguson has found that the key to popularity for Black and for White students lies in having cool clothes and being funny. For both groups, scholastic achievement is not important to being popular.

Much of the concern with "acting White" has been based on a desire to address the very real achievement gap between Black and White students. But while leaders have been fixated on the "acting White" hypothesis, they have neglected the real reasons for the gap such as early childhood education, teacher quality, and making college more affordable.

DO YOU WORRY THAT YOU MIGHT BE TEASED WHILE YOU ARE...		
	BLACK GIRLS	WHITE GIRLS
speaking or participating in class?	35%	41%
participating in class groups?	33%	35%
traveling to and from school?	20%	20%
N=	162	1,613

Source: Adapted from Girl Scout Research Institute, *Feeling Safe: What Girls Say* 2003, 41.

THE POWER OF LISTENING

Listening to the Voices and Aspirations of Disconnected Youth, a new report released by The Youth Development and Research Fund (YDRF) takes a candid look at America's current drop-out situation from the perspective that matters the most—disconnected youth. The Center for Labor Market Studies

at Northeastern University estimates that one out of every four African Americans between the ages of 16-25 are not in school, jobless and on the street. Written by Edward DeJesus, this report speaks directly to parents, programs, and schools trying to get youth back on the road to greater success, offering recommendations such as:

- Provide meaningful transferable work experience
- Provide effective substance abuse and mental health services
- Alter traditional hours of operation
- Secure reliable and quality childcare
- Understand youth culture, methods and values.

For a copy of the report, visit: www.YDRF.com

International Women and AIDS Summit

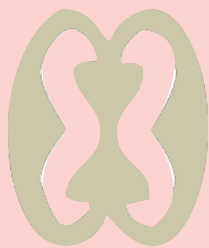
Urgent action to cut rising HIV infection rates among women and girls will be planned at what is billed as the world's first international summit on women and AIDS.

The summit, announced by the World YWCA, a global women's organisation, will take place in Nairobi from July 4 to 7, 2007.

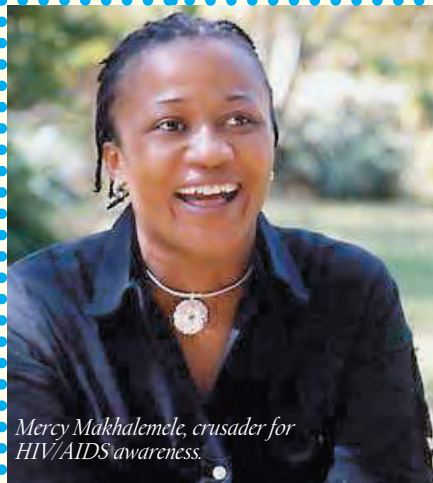
Noting that up to 80 % of new infections occur in girls and young women, the YWCA said the summit would explore issues such as poverty, violence against women, children's rights and access to decision-making and resources.

It would gather over 1,500 representatives, including policy makers, celebrities, community health workers and activists. Among the speakers will be the 2004 Nobel Peace laureate, Wangari Maathai, Kenya's health minister, Charity Ngilu, former Irish president Mary Robinson, and UNAIDS executive director Peter Piot.

The International Community of Women Living with HIV and AIDS has the support of the UNA Global Coalition on Women and AIDS and UNFPA.



Sister CONNECTIONS



Mercy Makhalemele, crusader for HIV/AIDS awareness.

MERCY'S CRUSADE

MERCY WAS BORN MASIAS Elizabeth Makhalemele in 1970 and raised in meadowlands with her sister and two brothers. She is the youngest daughter of Victoria and the late Ratau Mike Makhalemele, who was an internationally renowned jazz musician.

Mercy is a real township girl, inspired by the spirit of her ancestors along with her cultural inheritance. She is well motivated and originates from the Basotho tribe who are known as "Mankanyane a nkwe e tala" which means green tiger that does not harm nor fear human.

Mercy's Early Years

Mercy went to school at Lejoe-leputsoa primary school and completed her matric at Anchor high school with a distinction in English, Accountancy and Business economics.

Early Adulthood

Her first child, Thabang, meaning happiness, was born in September 1989. Her second bundle of joy, a daughter, came in 1993 named Nkosikhona, meaning the Lord is with us.

It was during Mercy's pregnancy when she went for voluntary counseling

and testing for HIV at the antenatal clinic at the Chris Hani Baragwanath hospital where she was told to be HIV positive. Mercy was deeply shocked and saddened by the news, when she was told that Nkosi was also HIV positive it became a double blow.

When Mercy thought of telling her family of her status, that did not sound normal to her until she told her partner. After she told him, he physically assaulted her and threw her out of the house with the two kids, Thabang and Nkosi. To worsen Mercy's situation, his partner went out to tell Mercy's employer, who reacted by firing her on the spot.

Mercy had to work as a domestic helper in order to get an accommodation and to raise the two kids. During that process her partner passed away of meningitis, an AIDS-related disease. A year after her partner's death in 1996, the young Nkosi passed away at the age of two years.

The Healing Process

Mercy did not sit back, she sought help. With the assistance of lawyers and judges, she was given a platform to propagate the charter of rights on HIV/AIDS. Her efforts to the existence of the charter known amongst the infected and affected contributed so much to the structures worldwide; it even became a benchmark in AIDS prevention and advocacy.

The Highlights

Mercy spoke publicly for the first time in 1993 (the same year she was diagnosed) at the University of the Witwatersrand. It was an event hosted by the AIDS Consortium at its first conference on Legal Rights and AIDS. Through her hard work and commitment working with the University, she was awarded with an Honorary Masters Degree in recognition of her work on Human Rights and HIV.

She is the first woman to speak at the South African National Parliament in

1995 a year after Ex-President Nelson Mandela's inauguration. She went further to address the Botswana Parliament in Botswana 1999.

Middle Adulthood

Dr. Makhalemele hosted the first HIV and AIDS TV series called Beat-It which is now known as Sayaiqoba, which dealt with issues related to HIV and AIDS and mostly encouraging people with HIV and AIDS to live a more productive and healthy lifestyle. She is also the first columnist living with HIV, for *Bona Magazine AIDS Action Column*, which reached thousands of Africans.

In 2000 she founded the Tsa-Botsogo Re-Awakening Centre, a healing centre for individuals infected and their families affected. Centre programmes

include the Mothers Voices Project, Sistahs In Action Project, Teenagers Living with a Challenge, and other services such as technical assistance, skills-building, case management, health and social advice, distribution of educational materials and condoms, weekly prayer and support group meetings.

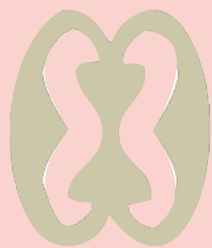
Mercy finds so much joy in and a sense of appreciation everyday of her life because thousands of people are reached and supported by the Centre. She brings hope to mankind as she continues to speak out on the livelihood of people in the world.

On the 6th July 2004, Dr. Masias Cowper (nee Makhalemele) became the first Black woman living well and healthy with HIV to receive one the most prestigious awards, The Nelson Mandela Health and Human Rights Award for the continued commitment and dedication to serve the world on issues related to Health and Human Rights. In April 2005, Dr. Cowper was recognized as a Senior Research Fellow by The Health Inequality Program at Duke University in North Carolina.

SISTERHOOD
AGENDA

9

SUMMER
2007



Sister CONNECTIONS



Participants with La Case des Jeunes Femmes have non-conventional jobs in auto mechanics and glass framing.

ENGLISH

Re-entering the Job Market and the Fight Against Poverty:

La Case des Jeunes Femmes (CJF)

By Aminata Dieye

THE ISSUE OF SOCIO-PROFESSIONAL rehabilitation presents a challenge for African countries. More and more, outgoing students are joining the ranks of the unemployed and most of them barely have the technical knowledge necessary to make it in the job market. Added to this is the inadequate education of girls, many of whom leave school very early and have few alternatives as either to staying at home or working jobs that expose them to violence and abuse.

Women and girls' education is a priority that Senegal addresses in its National Plan of Action for Women, which it adopted following the World Conference for Women in Beijing. Many steps have been taken towards improving the education of Senegalese girls and women and addressing women's exclusion in the development of socio-economic opportunities.

Senegal has set up socio-educational Centers, youth centers and other facilities for the technical education of women in different regions. A brief review shows us that these facilities don't reflect the profile of youngsters, above all of girls. The training that is offered for girls is always tied to the teaching of traditional skills such as cooking, hygiene, and sewing whereas there exists other more competitive sectors.

La Case des Jeunes Femmes was created in light of all of these issues that prevent young Senegalese women's participation in the development process.

The CJF aims to provide a means

for young women to leave dangerous situations and to reinforce their own skills through technical training and consciousness raising activities. Indeed, economic independence and awareness-raising are very important in improving the status of women and girls. La Case des Jeunes Femmes offers uneducated young women an exceptional opportunity to receive professional training that allows them to take part in the working world, which is today highly competitive.

La Case des Jeunes Femmes claims to be an instrument for the promotion and protection of young women's economic, social, and cultural rights. It demonstrates that there is an alternative to school to succeed in life and find work. It supports and cultivates young women's ability in order to better equip them to face the job market.

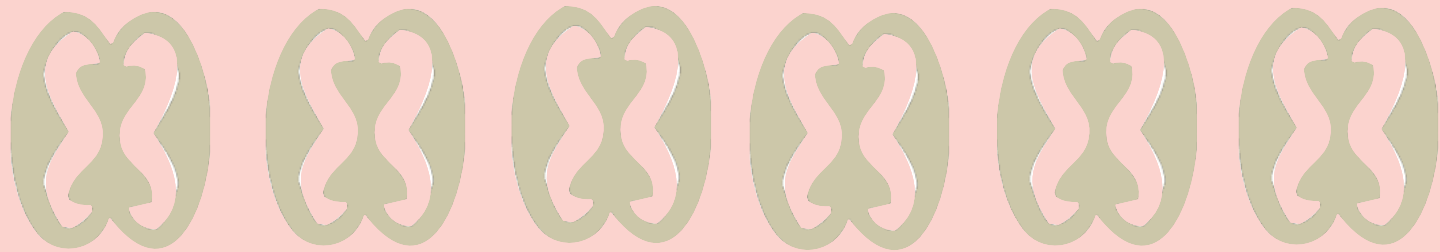
Other countries can learn from Senegalese enthusiasm around this project; further determination within and outside Senegal will hopefully allow for the expansion of this action into other communities.

FRENCH

La réinsertion socio-professionnelle dans le cadre de la lutte contre la pauvreté: La Case des Jeunes femmes

Par Aminata Dieye

LA QUESTION DE LA RÉINSERTION socioprofessionnelle constitue un défi pour les pays africains. De plus en plus, les sortants de l'école viennent grossir les rangs des chômeurs et, la plupart d'entre eux n'ont aucune qualification technique pour être insérés dans les circuits du marché de travail. A cela s'ajoute, le peu d'éducation des filles qui très souvent sortent très tôt de l'école et n'ont aucune alternative que



de rester à la maison ou d'exercer des métiers qui les exposent à des abus et violence.

L'éducation et la formation des femmes et des filles constituent un des domaines prioritaires pour le Sénégal qui l'a inscrit dans le Plan d'Action National de la femme adopté après la Conférence Mondiale de Beijing sur les femmes. C'est à ce titre que plusieurs initiatives ont été prises pour améliorer l'instruction des femmes et des filles sénégalaises et de répondre à l'exclusion des femmes par rapport aux opportunités de développement socio-économiques existantes.

Le Sénégal a mis en place des Centres socio-éducatifs, des espaces jeunes et d'autres structures concernant l'Enseignement technique féminin dans les différentes régions.

Un bref bilan nous montre que ces structures ne répondent pas très souvent au profil des jeunes, surtout des filles. Les formations qui sont offertes sont toujours liées pour les filles à l'enseignement traditionnel à savoir la cuisine, l'hygiène et la couture alors qu'il existe d'autres créneaux plus compétitifs.

La Case des Jeunes femmes offre une chance aux jeunes femmes déscolarisées ou qui n'ont pas eu l'opportunité de fréquenter l'école de bénéficier d'une formation professionnelle qui leur permet de s'insérer dans le monde du travail, qui, aujourd'hui, dans un contexte mondial de haute compétitivité, a besoin de produits bien formés.

La CJF est entrain de toucher les écoles et dans le cadre de la lutte contre les violences à l'encontre des jeunes et surtout des jeunes filles. C'est ainsi que des concours sont organisés dans ces desdits écoles et collèges pour permettre aux jeunes aussi bien dans leur quartier que dans les écoles d'être des relais pour la lutte contre la violence.

La Case des Jeunes Femmes se veut un instrument de promotion et de protection des droits économiques, sociaux et culturels des jeunes femmes. Elle montre qu'une autre alternative à l'école est possible pour réussir et avoir un métier.

Le soutien de la communauté à la réalisation du projet montre le besoin croissant des populations de trouver une réponse à la précarisation des budgets des ménages.

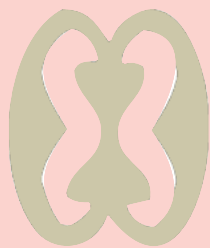
The Afro European Sisters Network



The Afro European Sisters Network (AESN) is a site that focuses on networking Black women in and outside of Europe. As women tell their stories, it allows others to learn lessons from their lives. Sharing this knowledge also empowers women . AESN is a network where Black women can improve themselves by achieving goals and having an overall better way of living.

SISTERHOOD
AGENDA

11
SUMMER
2007



Sister CONNECTIONS



MY SISTER'S KEEPER

Changing the World,
One Sister at a Time

By Leslie Green

Run by sisters, Leslie Green and Lucretia Bailey, My Sister's Keeper (MSK) connects women of every culture to others who share common needs, desires, and aspirations.

Members agree to be an MSK Sister by first committing to help someone else and then, in return, they are eligible to receive assistance from another member. The mission is to help women realize that we are more alike than different. Everyone has something to offer whether it's tangible or wisdom, encouragement, advice or motivation. Women share many common bonds and situations in life that will require them to seek assistance.

Sometimes it's hard to find a friend or someone who will be willing to help free of charge. It's sad but we know it's true. If there is one woman who has four cars and she only uses two and there is another woman, a single mother of 4 kids who needs a car but can't afford it...why not give her a car? If an elderly woman needs nice clothing to wear to church and there's an MSK sister who owns a clothing store or just has a closet full of nice dresses that she doesn't wear...why not help? If there is a young woman trying to start her own business and there are MSK members who can serve as mentors...we want to help make those connections. The possibilities are endless!

The network is gearing up for their 1st annual Conference July 21st in Lanham, MD. The focus is "A Day of Empowerment, A Lifetime of Change." With MSK, you've got friends for life!



CAMP DIVA motivates girls to approach their own power and lead happy, healthy, and productive lives.

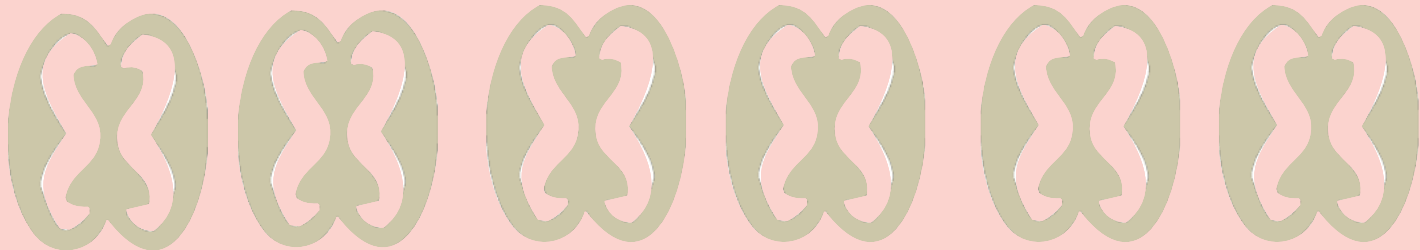
Mission: To provide opportunities for teen girls to prepare themselves spiritually, physically, socially, emotionally, intellectually, and culturally, for their passage into womanhood through after school programs and summer retreats.

History: On October 15, 1998, the sun rose with brightness and new beginnings for a little sunshine named Miss Diva Mstadi Smith-Roane. On January 25, 2004, dark clouds overwhelmed us and carried our little sunshine away. A firearm tragically took Miss Diva's life. Diva was 5. (Firearms are the second leading cause of death for young people 10-24 years of age, and for every child killed, four are wounded).

During her time with us, Diva lived up to her name, which means "divine goddess." Diva had many positive influences in her life. She developed characteristics such as being able to love unconditionally, respect, laughter, a positive attitude, and leadership qualities. Diva possessed a pure heart, and she led by example. She greeted everyone with her big bright eyes, friendly smile, sweet gentle voice, and a sincere hug.

In remembrance of Miss Diva Mstadi Smith-Roane, Spa Travelers developed CAMP DIVA in summer 2004, allowing her spirit to live through us. In addition to the CAMP DIVA Summer Retreat, an after school program was added in fall 2006. Both have been designed to represent all of the characteristics and images that create a true Diva.

Clover Smith, Diva's mother states, "I hope that Diva and I are an inspiration to the girls and mothers and that they will accept and remember the love given to them in the camp when they need to overcome the obstacles they will encounter in life."



Majora's Environment Justice



Majora Carter, founder and executive director of Sustainable South Bronx.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE through innovative, economically sustainable projects that are informed by the needs of the community, is what Majora is about.

Majora Carter is an award-winning community activist, organizer and life-long resident of the Hunts Point community in the South Bronx. She is the founder and executive director of Sustainable South Bronx, a community organization dedicated to the implementation of sustainable development projects for the South Bronx that are informed by the needs of community and values of environmental justice.

Majora has conceived and raised funds for key community projects including the South Bronx Greenway, a bicycle/pedestrian greenway along the South Bronx River, and the Hunts Point Riverside Park, the first South Bronx waterfront park in 60 years.

Meet RoLanda: Earth Mama Healing



Earth Mama healing founder RoLanda Allaha Wilkins.

RoLanda Allaha Wilkins is an Earth Mama who is constantly healing! She is the great, great granddaughter of Winnie Parks who was an enslaved African in Fairfax County, Virginia. She describes herself as a universal spiritualist, ancestral ceremonial leader, health & innovative program administrator and global community organizer.

Sisterhood Agenda caught up with RoLanda after she just returned from Honduras working and supporting Carifuna midwives with supplies, medicines and continuing education. In return, they share their traditional methods, including herbal medicines. The Carifunas are the descendents of Africans who refused to be enslaved by the Spanish or to fight for the British. RoLanda does this in her role as the National and International Coordinator of Birthing Project USA (BPUSA). BPUSA is the only national African American maternal and child health program in the United States. The program has been replicated in over 83 other communities including Canada and Honduras.

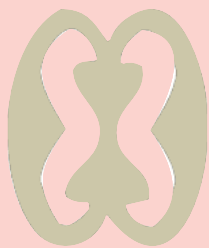
In another role, RoLanda is the program manger of the Judge Alice Lytle Academy of Dreams Program, a risk-reduction youth leadership program which helps young girls and women create dreams for the future and develop a plan to make their dreams come true.

And finally, RoLanda Allaha is the founder of the Earth Mama Healing, which assists and provides safe healing space for women and girls of the African Diaspora to gather to connect, release and heal. By conducting ceremonies, ritual work, workshops and retreats, Earth Mama Healing facilitates positive life changes.

RoLanda believes in working, supporting and uplifting African children everywhere.

SISTERHOOD
AGENDA

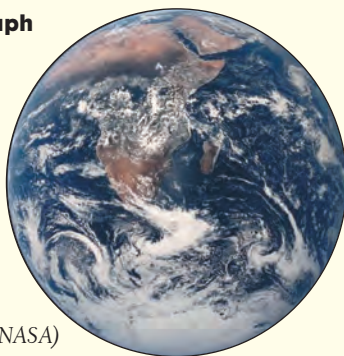
13
SUMMER
2007



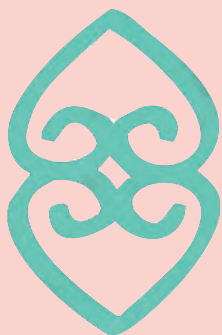
Sister CONNECTIONS

MOTHER EARTH & SPIRIT

The crew of Apollo 17 took this photograph of Earth in December 1972 while the spacecraft was traveling between the Earth and the Moon. The orange-red deserts of Africa and Saudi Arabia stand in stark contrast to the deep blue of the oceans and the white of both clouds and snow-covered Antarctica.



(Courtesy NASA)



ASASE YE DURU

"The Earth Has Weight": symbol of providence and the divinity of Mother Earth. This symbol represents the importance of the Earth in sustaining life.

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.

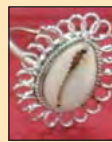


\$9.95 SALE

Available at the Sister Store: www.sisterhoodagenda.com

ONLY \$4.95

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.



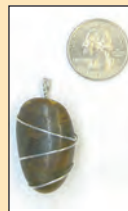
Brass Ankh Ring

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 Goddess 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

TYRA BANKS SOUNDS OFF

APPROXIMATELY 25 POUNDS HEAVIER THAN THE PEAK OF HER MODELING CAREER, TYRA HAS OPENLY AND honestly shared her modeling pose secrets, shown unretouched photos of herself, appeared on television without makeup and made a point to reveal herself as an average woman. Tyra Banks made it clear to the public how she felt about weight and criticism when unflattering photos of Tyra in a bathing suit were published in national magazines. She wore the same bathing suit that she was criticized in and vented her anger and frustration at being called “fat” on an episode of *The Tyra Banks Show*. Even when she first became a model, critics said she was too big. Tyra wanted to prove that women can be bigger than model-thin and still be beautiful. She believed at 161 pounds, she said, that she was still “hot.”

Evidence that the pressure to be thin can be intense in the media industry, Tyra Banks began losing weight and recently claims to have lost 30 pounds during the last five months. As we learn more about Tyra Banks, the woman, anyone would agree that she epitomizes “Black is Beautiful” at any weight.

The Early Years

Tyra attended an all-girls Catholic school in Inglewood, California. At age 17, she received her first modeling job with a trip to Paris through *Elite Model Management*.

The Supermodel

Tyra the first African American model to grace the covers of *GQ* and was named “Woman of the Year 2000.” She was also the first to African American model on the cover of *Sports Illustrated's Swimsuit Issue* and the cover of the *Victoria Secret* catalog. Tyra was named “Supermodel of the Year” in 1997.

The Producer

Tyra Banks quit modeling to build a media empire in 2005 after America's Next Top Model, the reality series she created and executive produced, has several successful seasons. For many years, she was named one of the *50 Most Beautiful People in the World*.

The Talk Show Host

The Tyra Banks Show debuted in 2005 with Tyra as the creator, host and executive producer. Dealing with issues facing women, Tyra has celebrity guests and engages in stunts related to social issues. For example, she dressed as a man and a 350-pound overweight person to make a point. During the same year, she successfully reconciled a feud between her and supermodel Naomi Campbell after Naomi appeared as a guest on her show.

The Business Woman

Tyra owns her own production company, *Bankable Productions* and was called the “Supermogul with a Business Model” by *Time* magazine when they named her on their 2006 list of “100 People Who Shape Our World.” Tyra hopes to showcase the journeys women take to find empowerment with an intelligent, sophisticated and humorous sensibility, while blurring racial and social stereotypes.

Tyra's Nonprofit:

Tyra demonstrates her dedication to today's youth through *TZONE*, an annual summer camp experience for teenage girls designed to enhance independence and self-esteem. It is Tyra's hope that *TZONE* will transition into an organization that will build a sisterhood movement by raising funds and making grants to nonprofits that serve low-income women and girls and foster supportive female relationships through innovative programs and services.

In Tyra's Words:

“It's important to make people feel good, to show compassion, to be uplifting and to help people expand their horizons. We should encourage people, discover new talent and creativity, and give people a chance to realize their full potential.



SISTERHOOD
AGENDA
15
SUMMER
2007

Birth Name: Tyra Lynne Banks
Height: 5' 10"
Birth Date: December 4, 1973
Birth Place: Los Angeles, CA
Profession: Model, Actress, Producer, Writer

BLACK IS BEAUTIFUL

MORE CURVY

They say that curves are coming back.
We say that they never went away!



**OPRAH
WINFREY**



JILL SCOTT

AND FABULOUS SUPERSTARS



JENNIFER HUDSON

"Why should I feel like the minority when the majority of America is a size 12? Plus, a lot of singers don't sound the same

SISTERHOOD
AGENDA

17
SUMMER
2007

when they lose weight...Hey, somebody has to represent the big girls. Why not me?"

—Jennifer Hudson

“ America,
trust me
when I tell
you, baby, let's
get back to
sexy big girls.
No shame to
our game.”

—Mo’Nique



MO'NIQUE

Lionel Hahn/Abaca



Jerome Ware/Zuma Press

RAVEN SYMONE

Women in Reggae

MOST LOVERS OF REGGAE MUSIC KNOW ABOUT MALE legends and artists such as Bob Marley, Beres Hammond, Buju Banton, Beenie Man, Sean Paul, and others. But what about the females? Often used as scantily clad props on flyers and CD covers to sell the work of male performers and DJ's, sister vocalists are somehow invisible in the male-dominated world of reggae. Their musical works are not celebrated, some are unavailable or hard to find, and others are unreleased.

The Jamaica Association of Female Artistes (JAFA) site sexual harassment and exploitation as deterrents to female entry into the business citing horror stories that are "numerous, nasty, and often tragic." Unfortunately, sisters in reggae also get paid considerably less money. Here is a sampling of women in reggae:

SISTER NANCY

aka Nancy Russell, from Kingston, Jamaica. Winston Riley was the first producer to take Nancy into the recording studio in 1980 for her debut, "Papa Dean". She performed "Chalice A Fe Burn" and "Boom Shacka Lacka" at Reggae Sunsplash. In 1982, her debut "One Two" was released, featuring the title track, "Aint No Stopping Nancy", "Bam Bam" and "Only Woman DJ With Degree". She also recorded a classic rendition of "King And Queen" with Yellowman. With producer Henry "Junjo" Lawes, she recorded "A No Any Man Can Test Sister Nancy", "Bang Belly" and another Yellowman combination, "Jah Mek Us Fe A Purpose".

SHELLY THUNDER

The dancehall queen emerged with "Kuff" on Mango Records in the late '80s. The song about keeping men in check was an instant hit. Shelly became the female equivalent to Shabba and Cutty Ranks. She continued to chart with other "man-checkers" like "Sometimes a Man Fi Get Kuff", "Walk Out a Mi House", and "Bway Nuh Come Back". It has been stated that women libbers loved her and bad boys respected her. She later became a Christian singing gospel tunes.



LADY C

aka Janice Fyfe. Known for her song "Breeze Off" with the chorus:
So no badda come ya
wid yuh gali gali trend Just

ease off breeze off Yuh no hear sey
skettel bomb no dey a road again thru yuh
get me now, yuh waan look mi friend
Just ease, off breeze off

LADY SAW

aka Marion Hall. A Jamaican singer known as "the first Lady of Dancehall". She is the



first female deejay to win a Crammy (which she did with No Doubt for "Undemeath It All"), to go triple platinum with the same single, to go gold

(with Colleen Fitzpatrick Vitamin C for "Smile"), and to headline shows outside her native Jamaica. Her first big successes came at the beginning of the 1990's, when gun talk ruled the dancehalls of West Kingston. Recording for the local Diamond label, she injected a heavy dose of sexually explicit lyrics, known as "Slackness", into the music but from her perspective as a female: "I know I have a lot of female fans. Everybody asks me why I have so much female fans. But I guess it's because I always defend them and sing for them. I love my female fans."



PATRA

aka Dorothy Smith. The queen of dancehall and reggae diva known throughout the world as Patra and Lady Patra was

born the second of five children and the only daughter of Jamaican parents. Patra has contributed greatly to breaking down the gender barriers that continue to inhibit women from entering and excelling in reggae music. The success of her debut effort resulted in gold sales and continued requests for collaboration by other artists. Her talent and sexual frankness have resulted in respect by the industry and her public.

JUDY MOWATT

Judy Mowatt joined a singing trio called *The Caylettes* in 1967. When the group split she continued as a solo act. She and Rita Marley first sang together when Marcia



Griffiths needed some harmony vocals on a song she was recording at *Studio One* with Bob Andy. The trio settled on the name the *I-Threes*. She recalls, "We felt highly privileged to be asked to work with such a great performer. I was excited. I saw it as divine intervention. Because Bob Marley is a messenger of the Lord, and God has chosen me to work with that messenger. I felt really elated."



MARCIA GRIFFITHS

aka the Empress of Reggae Music. An *I-Three* harmony with the legendary Bob Marley and the Wailers. For over

20 years, she has been the "Electric Boogie" star. When Jamaica celebrated its 40th year of independence in 2002, Marcia received the *Prime Minister's Award of Excellence*.



RITA MARLEY

aka Alphonita Constantia Anderson, was born July 25, 1946 in Santiago de Cuba. Rita is the widow of Reggae musician Bob Marley. Rita married Bob in February 1966 and then became a singer in his backup vocals group, the *I-Threes*. She converted to the Rastafari movement after witnessing Haile Selassie on his visit to Kingston, Jamaica in 1966. After Marley's death, she continued to record albums under her name and took care of Marley's estate.



SISTER CAROL

aka Carole East. Sister Carol is one of Jamaica's top entertainers. Born and raised in the ghettos of Kingston until

the age of 14, her family immigrated to Brooklyn, NY in 1973 to look for work. The thriving dancehall scene in New York City in the 70's would lead Sister Carol to a path that would include movies, albums and television appearances after releasing her first two records, *Liberation for Africa* and *Black Cinderella*. She received a Crammy nomination for her highly regarded 1996 release, *Lyricaly Potent*.

SISTERHOOD
AGENDA

19
SUMMER
2007

MARCIA AITKEN

The well-known skank of Marcia Aitken's similarly extended "I'm Still In Love" (familiar to many as the basis for Donna & Althea's smash hit, "Uptown Top Ranking", and very successfully covered by Sean Paul & Sasha in the new millennium.



NADINE SUTHERLAND

Raised in Kingston with her three brothers, she won a local Tastes talent competition at age 9. Tuff Cong A&R man, Sangie Davis, was there and invited

her to record at Marley's studio on Hope Road. This alliance resulted in her debut single Starvation, released in 1980 when she was just eleven years old and the Until album. She, Pam Hall and J. C Lodge formed the most in-demand trio of backing singers in Jamaica. "Action" was her breakthrough hit, but many singles were

released including: "Want To Go Home and Since You've Been Gone," "Love Potion," "Wicked Dickie" (with Buju Banton), "Right Track" (with Mad Cobra) and Slam version "Please Me", as shared with Spragga Benz, and "More Than Loving" (with Capleton).

SENYA



aka Olive "Senya" Grant. Senya is a gifted songwriter and performer from east Kingston, Jamaica. Blessed with a beautifully melodic voice and fused with the eternal grass roots spirit of social consciousness, struggle and perseverance, her musical development began when she was young in the early 1970's under the tutelage and guidance of her mentor, the seminal and

legendary Hippy Boys, Upsetters and Wailers bassist Aston "Family Man" Barrett. Previously she could be found with her demo tape at Harry J's studio, trying to catch the ear of a producer who would record her, but they ignorantly thought that her songs contained too many references to JAH. ...But, it was precisely that heavy vibration that caught the attention of Bunny "Jah B" Wailer, who brought her to Family Man. After being schooled for some time in the rootical foundation of the music, Senya entered Randy's studio in 1974 with producers Family Man and Clive Chin backed by the Wailers band. In the sessions that resulted she eloquently echoed the haunting voices of the oppressed in songs such as "Oh Jah Come" and "Children Of The Chetto".

SASHA

aka Karen Chin. Born in East Kingston, she left for the United States to join her mother in New Haven, Connecticut several years



ago. She started rapping on talent shows. After recording "That Sexy Body" she re-recorded "I'm Still In Love With You," a smash hit with Sean

Paul. No longer doing the hardcore songs that jumpstarted her career, Sasha says, "I write suggestive lyrics. I don't say things, I just suggest it. When I say hardcore, I don't mean the raw chaw, I don't even curse. If I curse I make them up, like raam scraam. I make up my own things. I don't know if it is that I've matured over the years, but I am not that kind of artist."

TANYA STEPHENS



aka Vivienne Stephenson. Tanya was born 1973 in Kingston, Jamaica and is one of the most influential reggae artists that emerged in the late

1990's. Tanya is most known for her hits "Yuh Nuh Ready fi Dis Yet" and "It's a Pity", which achieved Tanya international recognition.

In an industry historically dominated by male artists with an occasional sexual vixen, Stephens introduces an element of advanced creativity not common in her era. She is both ahead of her time, with ideological dissertation, and reminiscent of a past era when soul music by the likes of Marvin Caye and Bob Marley reigned supreme. Her album *Rebelution* was released in August 2006 and the first single "These Streets" was a number one hit in the Caribbean. The album was totally sold out in Jamaica and other parts of the Caribbean.

The UNIA-ACL Presents
The Fifth Annual
Happily Natural
 featuring Special Guests Queen Afua & Runoko Rashidi

Saturday August 25, 2006 Noon - 7pm
 Hotchkiss Field Community Center
 701 E. Brookland Park Blvd (RVA)

Vendors Spaces \$75.00
 Call 804-304-2892 FMI
 www.happilynaturaldays.com

Logos: Naturally You!, DIVA, KHA, TROPICAL SOUL, and others.



FILM LIFE'S IITH ANNUAL AMERICAN BLACK FILM FESTIVAL (ABFF) announced its 2007 dates: October 25-29. The festival, which had been held for the past five years in South Beach, Miami, has relocated to the West Coast with festival activities centered in West Hollywood and Beverly Hills. Film submissions for consideration for the 2007 ABFF are being accepted through July. Submission forms, deadlines and eligibility criteria are available online at www.abff.com. Founded in 1997, the mission of the festival is to strengthen the Black filmmaking community through resource sharing,

education, artistic collaboration and career development. Since its inception, over 400 independent films have been screened, 70% of which have gone on to secure theatrical or DVD distribution. Festival alumni include director Sylvain White (*Stomp the Yard*) and producers Rob Hardy and Will Packer (*Stomp the Yard*), producer Roger M. Bobb (*Daddy's Little Girls*) and writer/director Frank E. Flowers (*Haven*). The ABFF was born out of the need to generate distribution opportunities for independent Black films and promote cultural diversity within the motion picture industry. It is widely considered the premier Black film market. Festival attendance is expected to exceed 5,000 people.

"The move to Los Angeles is an important part of the festival's evolution. We intend to work more closely with the studios and create a more potent marketplace for buyers and producers of independent Black cinema. With the support of our corporate partners, we will continue to facilitate distribution opportunities for these films," said Jeff Friday, Founder/CEO of Film Life, Inc.

SISTERHOOD
AGENDA

21
SUMMER
2007

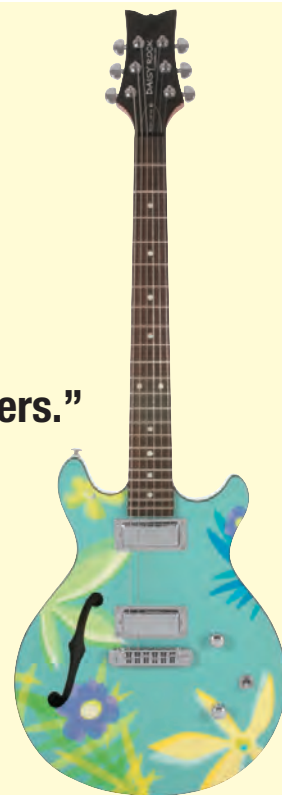
Win this guitar from Daisy Rock Guitars!

Soul Sister Contest

To enter, submit an essay on the topic, "Soul Sisters."

Submit to sistermail@sisterhoodagenda.com or Sisterhood Agenda,
524 Ridge Street, Newark, NJ 07104.

The winner of the contest will win this beautiful guitar and have the winning essay with individual photograph published in an upcoming issue of *Sisterhood Agenda* magazine.



BIO BOW WOW

Bow Wow, aka Shad Gregory Moss, formerly known as Lil' Bow Wow, was born in 1987 in Columbus, Ohio, USA. When he was just eleven years old, Bow Wow was introduced to Jermaine Dupri, who made him a famous rapper.

Albums

2000: Beware of Dog

2001: Doggy Bag

2003: Unleashed

2005: Wanted

2006: The Price of Fame

2007: [Title To Be Announced 12/07]

Singles

2000: Bow Wow "That's My Name"
(featuring Snoop Dogg)

2000: "Bounce With Me" (featuring
Xscape)

2001: "Puppy Love" (featuring
Jagged Edge)

2001: "Chetto Girls"

2002: "Thank You"

2002: "Take Ya Home"

2002: "Basketball" (featuring
Jermaine Dupri)

2003: "Let's Get Down" (featuring
Birdman)

2003: "My Baby" (featuring Jagged
Edge)

2004: "Let Me Hold You" (featuring
Omarion)

2005: "Like You" (featuring Ciara)

2005: "Fresh Azimiz" (featuring
Jermaine Dupri)

2006: "Shortie Like Mine" featuring
Chris Brown)

2007: "I'm a Flirt" (featuring R. Kelly)

2007: "Outta My System" (featuring
T-Pain)



Sean Paul



Reggae sensation
Sean Paul at the
Teen Choice Awards

SISTERHOOD
AGENDA

23

SUMMER
2007

Sean Paul Hopes To Curb Youth Violence In Jamaica With His Music

Instead of singing about lighting up, ladies, or partying, Sean Paul's maturity includes a need to address guns and kids in the streets of Jamaica. After losing people close to him to violence, including a founding member of his Dutty Rock crew, he states, "I need to say something to people."

AFRICAN AMERICAN FEMALE WRITERS



Anna J. Haywood Cooper

Anna J. Haywood Cooper wrote "*Colored Women as Wage-Earners*" in 1899. The article, published by Hampton Institute, called for full gender equality including wage compensation for domestic work performed by women.

Phillis Wheatley

(c. 1753-1784) After being kidnapped from West Africa as a child and taken to Boston on a slave ship, Phillis Wheatley landed in relatively fortunate circumstances-servitude in a Boston family that treated her well and encouraged her education. There she was able to cultivate her natural gifts for verse and language. By the time she published her first poems in 1767, Wheatley had also mastered Greek and Latin (to the amazement of local scholars, many of whom had genuinely believed such feats to be beyond the capacity of Africans). Many of Wheatley's subsequent poetic works, written in the English neoclassical style, were published in *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral* in 1773. Wheatley's literary reputation and personal magnetism gained her admiration both in the United States and England, and after her death she became a potent symbol of Black intellectual accomplishment in the ideological battle against slavery.





Zora Neale Hurston

(1891-1960) Flamboyant and proud, Zora Neale Hurston was a brilliant chronicler of African American life. Hurston grew up in Eatonville, Florida, the first incorporated all-Black township in the United States; her imagination was fired by the rich oral tradition of the rural South and her sense of self undisturbed by prejudice. "I used to climb to the top of one of the huge chinaberry trees," she wrote in her autobiography, "... and look out over the world. The most interesting thing that I saw was the horizon. ... It grew upon me that I ought to walk out to the horizon and see what the end of the world was like." Hurston set out to do just that, studying at Howard and Columbia Universities. She was a lively presence in the Harlem Renaissance before undertaking the field studies of southern Black folklore that would be documented in the classic *Mules and Men* (1935) and would permeate such luminous works of fiction as *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.

Audre Lorde

(1934-1992) "When I dare to be powerful—to use my strength in the service of my vision, then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid." The daughter of Caribbean immigrants who settled in Harlem, Lorde graduated from Columbia University and Hunter College. Her first poem was published in *Seventeen* magazine while she was still in high school. Lorde was a self-described "Black lesbian, mother, warrior, poet." However, her life was one that could not be summed up in a phrase. Lorde co-founded the Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press and formed the Sisterhood in Support of Sisters in South Africa. In 1989, she helped organize disaster relief efforts for St. Croix in the wake of Hurricane Hugo. Late in life, Audre Lorde was given the African name Gamba Adisa, meaning "Warrior: She Who Makes Her Meaning Clear." It is a name that applies to her whole life. Her struggle against oppression on many fronts was expressed with a force and clarity that made her a respected voice to many segments of society.



SISTERHOOD
AGENDA

25
SUMMER
2007



Octavia Butler

(1947-2006) Butler was born and raised in Pasadena, California. Octavia Jr., nicknamed Junie, was a shy daydreamer, and later diagnosed as being dyslexic. She began writing at the age of 10 "to escape loneliness and boredom." "I was writing my own little stories and when I was 12, I was watching a bad science fiction movie ... and decided that I could write a better story than that. And I turned off the TV and proceeded to try, and I've been writing science fiction ever since." In 1979, she published *Kindred*, a novel that uses the science-fiction technique of time travel to explore slavery in the United States. Butler began her *Xenogenesis* trilogy in 1987. In 1994, her novel *Parable of the Sower* was nominated for a Nebula for best novel, an award she finally took home in 1999 for a sequel, *Parable of the Talents*. The two novels provide the origin of the fictional religion *Earthseed*. One of very few African American women in the field of science fiction, Butler won both Hugo and Nebula awards. In 1995, she became the first science fiction writer to receive MacArthur Foundation "Genius" Grant. Butler wrote *Fledgling* in 2005 before her untimely death in St. Croix in 2006.

Maya Angelou

(B. 1928) “I speak to the Black experience, but I am always talking about the human condition. About what we can endure, dream, fail at, and still survive.” Determination, the willingness to explore, to risk, to make mistakes and the strength to overcome them are hallmarks of the life of this poet, playwright, actress, singer, dancer, journalist, memoirist and professor. Angelou’s unique gift as a literary communicator, driven by a spirit unbowed by cruelty and racism, has made her writing universally resonant. “I love the art of living,” she has said, “so I try to live my life as a poetic adventure; everything I do . . . is a part of a larger canvas I am creating.” From her luminous autobiographical works, beginning with *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* (1970), to her historic reading of “On the Pulse of the Morning” at the 1993 presidential inauguration, Angelou has proven herself an artist whose work both defines and transcends her time.



Toni Morrison

(B. 1931) Through her imagination and power as a storyteller, Toni Morrison has become one of the most honored of modern writers; she received the Nobel Prize in literature in 1993. “I think long and hard about what my novels should do. They ought to identify those things in the past that are useful and those things that are not and they ought to give nourishment,” says Morrison, whose memorable characters are built out of her experiences growing up as a Black woman in a predominately White society. Born Chloe Anthony Woffard in Lorain, Ohio, Morrison studied at Howard and Cornell Universities before becoming an English instructor, an editor for Random House in New York and a professor at Princeton University. She published her first novel, *The Bluest Eye*, in 1970 to critical acclaim. Her subsequent novels encompass a virtuoso range of structure, style, and subject. They include *Song of Solomon* (1977), which won both the National Book Award and the National Book Critics’ Circle Award, and *Beloved*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize in 1988.



Alice Walker

(B. 1944) “The Black woman is one of America’s greatest heroes,” Alice Walker once told an interviewer, and her many books of poetry and prose are a powerful testament to this belief. Though she writes about the trials of all African Americans, the feminist perspective infuses her work, and the resultant vision has made her a commanding presence in contemporary literature. Her third novel, *The Color Purple* (1982), won the *Pulitzer Prize* and focused new attention on the enormous range of her work. A born story-teller in the Southern oral tradition, Walker conveyed in this book both the brutal victimization of women and the capacity for redemption even under the most heinous circumstances. Her first novel, *The Third Life of Grange Copeland* (1970), explores the effects of racists on three generations of a Black sharecropping family; *Meridian* (1976) depicts the courage of a woman involved in the civil rights movement. Walker also edited a collection of the writings of Zora Neale Hurston, one of her spiritual antecedents.



AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN KNOWLEDGE CARDS

This set of Knowledge Cards will introduce you to 48 eminent African American women. From the poet **Phillis Wheatley** (born c. 1753 in West Africa; brought to America as a slave) to the phenomenal athlete **Jackie Joyner-Kersey** (born in 1962 in Illinois, a multiple Olympic gold medalist) to African American women like **Oprah Winfrey** (born in 1954, billionaire host, producer, entrepreneur, philanthropist), they speak for themselves through the eloquent power of their lives and words:

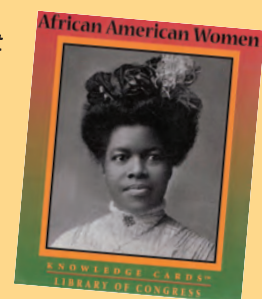
“Excellence is the best deterrent to racism or sexism.”

Oprah Winfrey

“The Black woman is one of the America’s greatest heroes.”

Alice Walker

Available at the Sister Store:
www.sisterhoodagenda.com



coverstory
coverstory
coverstory

SISTERHOOD
AGENDA

27
SUMMER
2007

REUTERS/Jason Reed

VENUS
AND
SERENA:

#1 Sisters



SCHOV/SIPA

Arguably the most underrated athletes in our time, Venus and Serena Williams managed to do the impossible.

Venus Starr Williams

Country: USA

Residence:

Palm Beach Gardens, FL

Date of Birth: 6/17/80

Place of Birth:

Lynwood, CA

Height: 185cm (6' 1")

Weight: 72.5 kg (160 lbs)

Turned Pro: 1994

Plays: Right;

Two-handed backhand

Career Prize Money:

\$16,398,689

Singles:

Career record: 439-103

Career titles: 34

Highest ranking: No.1

2/25/02

Grand Slam results:

Australian Open: F ('03)

French Open: F ('02)

Wimbledon: W ('00, '01, '05)

U.S. Open: W ('00, '01)

Doubles:

Career record: 89-16

Career titles: 10

Highest ranking: No.5

10/11/99

Olympic medal record:

Cold-Singles

Cold-Doubles

Sydney 2000



Kathy Hutchins/Hutchins Photo



Venus Williams Breaks Record

Venus Williams hit the fastest recorded serve in women's tour history at the French Open on Wednesday, May 30, 2007 in Paris. The speed of the ball was an impressive 128.8 mph. This serve broke the mark of 127 mph set by her sister, Serena, last year.

VENUS AND SERENA WILLIAMS TOOK THE TENNIS WORLD by storm beginning in the late 1990's. Coached by their outspoken father, Richard Williams, the Williams sisters have been credited with raising public awareness of their sport and with bringing the women's tennis game to a whole new level of power and athleticism. Growing up in the Los Angeles suburb of Compton, California, Venus and Serena Williams were the two youngest of five daughters of Richard and Oracene (Brandi) Williams. Raised as devout Jehovah's Witnesses, both Venus and Serena were home-schooled by their mother. Richard Williams dreamed of raising tennis stars, and Venus and Serena showed the most aptitude for the game. Both began winning tournaments when they were 10 years-old.

Mentally and physically, the Williams sisters are super strong. Venus acknowledges, "Some people say that I have an attitude-maybe I do. But I think that you have to. You have to believe in yourself when no one else does-that makes you a winner right there." The Williams sisters were so competitive on the tennis court, that they sometimes faced each other in the finals. Some may dismiss their success as luck, but Serena is quick to correct them: "Luck has nothing to do with it because I have spent many, many hours, countless hours, on the court working for my one moment in time, not knowing when it would come." Venus and Serena continue to play hard and win tournaments, even when critics dismissed them or did not expect great tennis from them.

Individually, they are awesome. The fact that Venus and Serena are sisters makes their individual feats as tennis professionals much

VENUS I Bet You Didn't Know:

Singles Titles: 29

Doubles Titles: 10

Favorite color: Blue

Favorite Movies:

"Shawshank Redemption",

"Tommy Boy", "Coneheads",

"Friday", "Mildred Pierce",

"Alice Doesn't Live Here

Anymore" and "Mahogany"

Favorite Flower: Carnation



JACQUES DEMARTHON/AFP/Getty Images



SISTERHOOD
AGENDA
29
SUMMER
2007

more astounding. Off the court, they are also distinct. Known for their fashion sensibilities, Serena and Venus completed courses at the Art Institute of Florida, where they studied fashion design.

In 2003, tragedy struck the Williams family when an alleged gang member gunned down her eldest sister, Yetunde, in Compton, California. Despite this unfortunate event, along with injuries that threatened their careers, the Williams sisters persevered, often relying on each other in times of need. Venus says, “I always like to win. But I’m the big sister. I want to make sure she has everything, even if I don’t have anything. I love her too much. That’s what counts.” In the spirit of sisterhood, they lift each other up in times of need, including giving each other advice. Serena says, “Venus told me the other day that champions don’t get nervous in tight situations. That really helped me a lot. I decided I shouldn’t get nervous and just do the best I can.”

Venus and Serena have traveled the world and soared great heights at young ages, always landing solidly on their feet. Competing in a sport known for its racism, sexism, classism and other divisions, Venus and Serena consistently break through hardships, rude remarks, unfair calls and underhanded deeds with a grace that most of us only wish we had. They are truly world class ladies of distinction, just by being themselves. Whenever and wherever they compete, Venus and Serena keep everyone guessing. Kids want to be like them, other athletes envy them and Sisterhood Agenda appreciates them.

Billy Farrell/PatrickMcMullan.com/Sipa Press

SERENA I Bet You Didn't Know:

Singles Titles: 23
Doubles Titles: 11
Favorite color: Pink
Favorite Author:
Maya Angelou

Most Memorable Moment:
Receiving an 'A' in geometry
Hobbies: Surfing,
Skateboarding, Watching
Cartoons and Playing Guitar



Serena Williams

Country: USA
Residence:
Palm Beach Gardens, FL
Date of Birth: 9/26/81
Place of Birth:
Saginaw, Michigan

Height: 178cm (5' 10")
Weight: 82 kg (180 lbs)
Turned Pro: 1995
Plays: Right;
Two-handed backhand
Career Prize Money:
\$17,790,522

Singles:
Career record: 335-69
Career titles: 28
Highest ranking: No.1
7/8/02

Grand Slam results:
Australian Open:
W ('03, '05, '07)
French Open: W ('02)
Wimbledon: W ('02, '03)
U.S. Open: W ('99, '02)

Doubles:
Career record: 94-15
Career titles: 11
Highest ranking: No. 5
10/11/99

Olympic medal record:
Cold-Doubles
Sydney 2000

AHead
of
theCrowd



Versatile Locs



Hair by Nedjetti/Photo: Kadelam.com/ www.nedjetti.com





THREE QUESTIONS FOR: NEDJETTI

A native of Queens, New York and presently based in Hillside, New Jersey, Nedjetti is a licensed cosmetologist who has been a natural hair care specialist for fifteen years and a natural hair educator for three years. In 2004, Nedjetti held the honor of guest speaker at the Toronto Natural Hair and Beauty 2nd Annual Show on natural hair. Nedjetti's amazing hairstyles have been featured in over forty fashion and hair magazines. June 2007, Nedjetti was key hair on a film called *You're Nobody 'til Somebody Kills You*, written and directed by Michael "Boogie" Pinckney and Spike Lee, Executive Producer. Her work has also appeared in *The New York Times*. Nedjetti has styled Jada Pinkett Smith, Sarah Jones, Eva Pigford, Erika Alexander, Paul Terget, Mos Def among others.

What makes natural hair fun and unique to work with?

For centuries, African descendants have been conditioned not to embrace their natural hair texture and as a natural hair care specialist and educator, it's my job to discontinue this debilitating mindset. I love watching our natural curls spring back after gliding the comb through it to create comb-coils twists or to watch it bounce with joy from double-strand twists. The true definition of "good hair" is when there isn't any breakage or damage to the follicles. "Good hair" has nothing to do with the type of texture of an individual. Coily-textured hair is unique because it contains natural body and volume without the need to manipulate it with man-made tools such as curling irons. It can be creatively styled without adding products to it, although products enhance sheen, the results are remarkably stunning with or without the use of products. I prefer to style from damp hair because this method doesn't cause stress on the hair and it increases the longevity of the hairstyle beyond two weeks oppose to when the hair is blow-dried. There are many options to natural hairstyling without adding extensions such as comb-coils, double-strands, cornrows, flat-twists, knots and combination technique styling. I'm a Sojourner Truth when it comes to coily-textured hair as it's my mission to educate the masses especially African descendents the spiritual beauty behind celebrating and embracing our God-given texture, regardless of its length. We must learn to love ourselves as is before we can truly love another.

Sometimes people do not want to get locs because they think that they will get bored with them. How can we make sure they never get bored?

Locs or Earthlocs as I like to refer to them are more versatile than some people give them credit. Earthlocs can be curled using various size rods, crinkled by braiding three locs together, or styled in numerous care-free, fun and elegant up-dos. Of course when locs are short, one has to exude patience because the truth is short hair has less options, but when they grow longer, the choices of hairstyles for your earthlocs are endless. The key component in growing locs is PATIENCE, once you apply this into your psyche, boredom will never be an issue.

Who is your favorite celebrity to style and why?

Not to take away from other celebrities I've styled, I feel my experience with Eva Pigford in Runaway Bay, Jamaica was such a joyous connection. We were there for three days and bonded beautifully, with a big/little sister feel to it. For me it's not about the person's celebrity status, but the spiritual union that can only surface by spending quality time together.

LOC JEWELRY



SISTERHOOD
AGENDA

31
SUMMER
2007

CHECK OUT
THE SISTER STORE AT:



www.sisterhoodagenda.com



NJPAC presents



Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey

Making Healthcare Work.



Summer Concerts

Kick off our 10th Anniversary season!

And Don't Miss
FREE MUSIC every
THURSDAY NIGHT
from July 5–August 30
with JPMorgan Chase
SOUNDS OF THE CITY!



Sunday, July 8 at 8pm

**Diana Krall/
Chris Botti**

\$128-\$48



Thursday,
July 19 at 8pm
**MusiQ
Soulchild**
with special guest
Chrisette Michele
\$58-\$23



Saturday,
July 28 at 8pm
Clay Aiken
\$98-\$38



Sunday,
July 22
at 5pm

**Vanessa
Williams**

\$83-\$23

Thursday,
August 2
at 8pm
**Smokey
Robinson**

\$88-\$48



Friday,
July 21 at 7pm
and 9:30pm
**Oleta
Adams**
\$58-\$48



Friday,
September 21
at 8pm
India.Arie
\$68-\$18

NJPAC

New Jersey PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

1-888-GO-NJPAC • WWW.NJPAC.ORG

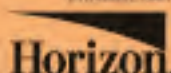
MEDIA PARTNERS:



WBGO.org
88.3 FM



10TH ANNIVERSARY LEADING SPONSOR



Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey

Making Healthcare Work.

Moving & Grooving

JACKIE JOYNER-KERSEE



"Achievement is difficult. It requires enormous effort. Those who can work through the struggle are the ones who are going to be successful."

SISTERHOOD
AGENDA

33

SUMMER
2007

Jackie Joyner-Kersey is known as the best female athlete in the world.

JACKIE JOYNER-KERSEE (BORN MARCH 3, 1962) IS A RETIRED AMERICAN ATHLETE, ranked amongst the all-time greatest heptathletes. She won three gold, one silver and two bronze Olympic medals. Named after Jackie Kennedy, she currently lives in East St. Louis, Illinois. Joyner-Kersey was the first woman to score over 7,000 points in a heptathlon event (during the 1986 Goodwill Games). She was inspired to compete in multi-discipline events after seeing a 1975 television movie about "Babe" Didrikson.

As of August 2006, Joyner-Kersey holds the world record in heptathlon along with six all-time best results and her long jump record of 7.49 m is second on the long jump all time list. In addition to heptathlon and long jump, she was a world class athlete in 100m hurdles and 200 meters, in the top 60 all-time in those events.

Jacqueline Joyner was born in East St. Louis, Illinois, and went to UCLA, where she starred in both track and basketball. She is the sister-in-law of the late Florence Griffith Joyner. Her brother, Al Joyner, is also an Olympic gold medalist, having won the Olympic triple jump in Summer Olympics 1984. *Sports Illustrated* voted her the greatest female athlete of the 20th century. In 1986, she received the James E. Sullivan Award as the top amateur heptathlete in the United States. She also has a star on the St. Louis Walk of Fame.

Along with the sudden death of her sister-in-law in 1998, Joyner-Kersey endured other great tragedies as a young child. When she was 11, she saw a man get killed. A few years later, she called her grandmother to talk, only to find out her grandmother too, had been killed. Also, when she was a freshman at UCLA, she suddenly had to return home when her 37-year-old mother contracted a rare form of meningitis. By the time she arrived, her mother was in a coma and brain dead. Since her father could not bring himself to have life support removed from his wife, it fell to Jackie and Al to authorize removal, which they did.

Perhaps her greatest challenge, however, was physical. She suffers from exercise-induced asthma, and on more than one occasion had to be hospitalized following an event.

A subway station on the St. Louis Metrolink is named for Jackie Joyner-Kersey.

Moving & Grooving

THE COGIRLGO! INITIATIVE

THE MISSION OF THE WOMEN'S Sports Foundation is simple: to advance the lives of girls and women through sport and physical activity. The health of today's girls is threatened by inactivity, and too many girls are not physically or psychologically healthy, happy or confident about their ability to succeed in life. Women's Sports Foundation research and numerous other research studies point to physical activity as a proven solution to the serious health and societal problems faced by girls today.

Regular participation in physical activity during childhood and adolescence promotes the development of a positive body image, confidence, and self-esteem and has been shown to improve academic performance and career success.



Physical activity also reduces a girl's health risk for:

- obesity/being overweight
- heart disease
- diabetes
- alcohol, tobacco and illicit drug use
- osteoporosis
- unintended teen pregnancy/sexually transmitted disease
- cancer/breast cancer
- pathogenic dietary behaviors/disordered eating

After 31 years of grant making, 4 research studies on the relationship of sports and physical activity to risky health behaviors and 4 years of field testing physical activity and risky health behavior curriculum materials involving more than 1,400 girl-serving-organization partners, the Women's Sports Foundation is solidly positioned to address girls' physical inactivity and health.

Critical Health Risks Girls Face

One in every six girls is obese or overweight; overweight women are 60% more likely to die from breast cancer.

One in three teens gets pregnant by the age of 20.

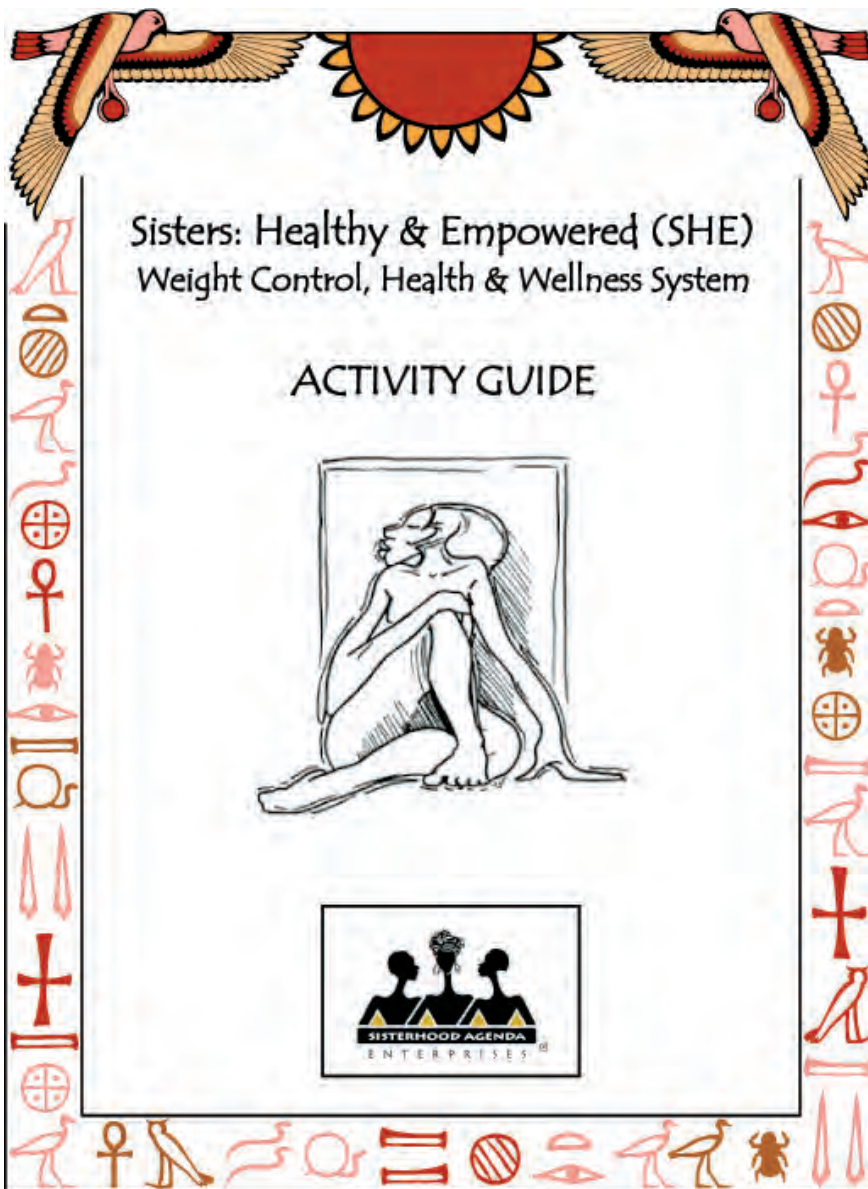
One in four girls in grades 9-12 currently smokes; lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths among women.

One in three adolescent girls will experience depression, anxiety or eating disorders

One in four high school girls reports she does not like herself; 78% of 12th grade girls are unhappy with their bodies.

Girls aged 4-19 have significantly higher "bad" cholesterol levels than boys; heart disease is the #1 cause of death among American women.

In May 2004, the Foundation celebrated its 30th anniversary by launching **GoGirlGo!**, a three-year initiative to get one million girls physically active. The Foundation works with a diverse network of key influencers, funders and sport-participation-opportunity providers who are committed to this mission.



SISTERS: HEALTHY & EMPOWERED (SHE) WEIGHT CONTROL, HEALTH & WELLNESS SYSTEM

A powerful system designed specifically for women and girls of African descent, Sisterhood Agenda's Sisters: Healthy & Empowered (SHE) Weight Control, Health & Wellness System incorporates several of the most successful strategies for health and weight control.

The program's flexibility allows agencies to succinctly transfer the latest research findings into workable, practical action steps for participants. A holistic approach, sisterhood support, cultural sensitivity, guided movements and meditation are some of the characteristics that make the system unique.

The Sisters: Healthy & Empowered (SHE) Activity Guide

includes over 30 weeks of activities and a meditation supplement.

Activity weeks include:

You're Never Too Old or Too Young
Being a Big Loser
Movin' and Groovin'
Your Inside is Affecting Your Outside
Black is Beautiful

Available at the Sister Store:

www.sisterhoodagenda.com



WNBA ALL-STAR 2007 TO TAKE PLACE IN UNITED STATES CAPITAL Verizon Center in Washington, DC on Sunday, July 15 at 3:30 p.m.

"Bringing the WNBA All-Star Game to Washington is a reward for our fans and testament to what a great market this is for women's basketball," said Sheila Johnson, President and Managing Partner of the Washington Mystics. "We look forward to hosting the greatest players in the world, and this is a fitting occasion for the Mystics as we celebrate 10 years in Washington!"

On game day, select players will again compete against each other in the **Dribble, Dish & Swish Skills Challenge** as well as the **Three-Point Shoot Out**. In 2006, the WNBA concluded its historic tenth season with an action-packed WNBA Finals. The 2006 WNBA Finals capped a playoff run in which the WNBA saw significant increases in attendance and viewership.

TOOLS FOR SURVIVAL



Personal Empowerment

"Strategies for Creating Life and Work Success"

Don't Let the 4P's Rule You

by Anita Davis-DeFoe, Ph.D.

AS WE JOURNEY TO SUCCESS, challenges will provide us with a steady dose of life lessons that contribute to our growth. Self-knowledge opens the door to a better awareness of life dreams and personal goals. If you find that you are not progressing professionally or personally, make sure that you are not being plagued by one of the 4P's.

What are the 4P's? The 4P's are beliefs, attitudes, and habits that hinder our personal growth or cause us to sabotage ourselves.

One common "P" is *prejudice*. Generally, when we think of the work prejudice, we associate it with racial issues. In many instances, our deepest prejudices relate to self. Some of us are our own worse enemies, and we walk around filled with constant feelings of inadequacies. We tell ourselves, "I'm Not Good Enough," "I'll Never Achieve My Dreams," on and on we go, verbally abusing ourselves nonstop. Practice learning to love and accept yourself. Recognize that you are unique and realizing that you have been blessed with a unique talent that is your responsibility to discover.

If that is not bad enough, some of us toss a heap of *pessimism* into the mix. No matter what the situation, we expect and just seem to know that the worse is going to happen. If this describes you right now, work to change your attitude to a more positive mindset. Put the Law of Expectancy to work for you. After all, we receive what we expect.

Being *purposeless* haunts some people. Purposeless people have few goals, very few concrete plans and can often be heard bragging that they are "just going with the flow." Without a vision for one's future, achieving very little becomes relatively easy. An individual without purpose is vulnerable to opinions, self-doubt and self-sabotage. Listen to the yearnings deep within your spirit. There you will find your life's purpose.

The fourth P is that old dream crusher that is also poor time management's best friend; *procrastination*. Procrastination is a learned behavior and through diligence you can overcome it. Procrastination often results from being uncertain about what to do, having unclear goals to start with, having a negative attitude, feeling overwhelmed, waiting until the last minute, or planning but never doing because you're waiting for the right time to come along. To combat procrastination, prioritize the things you need to need, do the things that contribute to accomplishment of your goals, and use your time wisely.

We all have a day of birth; we all will have a day when we are transformed from the physical to the spiritual; and we all have a period of time, the precious time we must use to live our lives to the fullest. Don't let the 4P's rule you. Don't let the 4P's steal your joy. Dare to dream my friends, pledge to soar.



BIG SISTER COLUMN

Dear Big Sister,

My friends have boyfriends, but I don't. Is something wrong with me? Please help!

A.J., age 17

Dear A.J.,

Are you sure all of your friends have boyfriends? Even if it is true, boys do not define you as a young woman. There is nothing wrong with wanting companionship, but please do not sacrifice your standards and your sense of self-worth for anyone. At age 17, you are just beginning to know and understand who you are. Take your time, what's the rush?

Everyone tells me I have low self-esteem. I guess it's true. How can I feel better about myself?
S.M., age 23

Dear S.M.,

Self-esteem is a measure that reveals how much you possess self-love and self-acceptance. Did you read our article about self-esteem on page 43? The author, Tec Jean, is correct when stating the five guidelines: 1) Know yourself: be confident, 2) Do not be in denial, 3) Love yourself, 4) Respect yourself and 5) Protect yourself. Please read it, copy it and post it on your mirror to review each morning. Also, read *Beautiful* and read the affirmations in Sisterhood Agenda's *Sister Journal*. Believe in your inner, divine qualities and surround yourself with positive people—you can increase your self-esteem if you really want to.



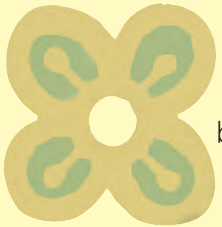
The Best Day of My Life



Today, when I awoke, I suddenly realized that this is the best day of my life, ever! There were times when I wondered if I would make it to today; but I did! And because I did I'm going to celebrate! Today, I'm going to celebrate what an unbelievable life I have had so far: the accomplishments, the many blessings, and, yes, even the hardships because they have served to make me stronger. I will go through this day with my head held high, and a happy heart. I will marvel at God's seemingly simple gifts: the morning dew, the sun, the clouds, the trees, the flowers, the birds. Today, none of these miraculous creations will escape my notice.

Today, I will share my excitement for life with other people. I'll make someone smile. I'll go out of my way to perform an unexpected act of kindness for someone I don't even know.

Today, I'll give a sincere compliment to someone who seems down. I'll tell a child how special he is, and I'll tell someone I love just how deeply I care for her and how much she means to me.



Today is the day I quit worrying about what I don't have and start being grateful for all the wonderful things God has already given me. I'll remember that to worry is just a waste of time because my faith in God and his Divine Plan ensures everything will be just fine.



And tonight, before I go to bed, I'll go outside and raise my eyes to the heavens. I will stand in awe at the beauty of the stars and the moon, and I will praise God for these magnificent treasures.



As the day ends and I lay my head down on my pillow, I will thank the Almighty for the best day of my life. And I will sleep the sleep of a contented child, excited with expectation because I know tomorrow is going to be the best day of my life, ever!

- Author Unknown



SISTERHOOD
AGENDA

37
SUMMER
2007

GLOBAL PARTNERS

Kufunda Village in Zimbabwe

By Samantha Wern

I AM SAMANTHA WERNER, A THREE-MONTH VOLUNTEER AND student intern at Kufunda Village just outside the bustling city of Harare. I could sum up Kufunda in a few sentences, maybe even a few words, but that would do little justice to such an organization stirring courage and passion in the hearts of all who dare to embrace the promise of hope.

Kufunda is, in a word, *remarkable*. It is a quiet sanctuary, a grounding place in which individuals gather to develop tools and abilities that allow them to become contributing members of the communities they call home. Rising inflation, staggering unemployment and the unreliability of whether or not some will live to see another day are daily obstacles that most Zimbabweans rise to greet as they would the morning sun, but such challenges only drove Kufunda founder Marianne Knuth to make her dream of a self-sustainable learning and demonstration center amidst such difficulties a reality.

Today, Kufunda supports seven rural communities by educating them through leadership and community development workshops and encouraging endeavors such as Permaculture farming, HIV/AIDS herb and nutrition gardens, composting toilets, pre-schools and orphanages, and income generating projects that vary from peanut butter processing to crocheting handmade bags.

The word *Kufunda* is Shona for learning; this is the true essence of Kufunda. In daily living at Kufunda, we strive to learn from our mistakes and share our experiences with others so that each of us can continue to develop in partnership with one another. Everything can be seen as a learning process and everyone has something to contribute.

The women of Kufunda serve as examples of empowerment to females all over the world. Many are spearheading their own income generating projects, caring for their own families and orphans, educating their children and the community's children in basic life skills and in being responsible and caring human beings.

Just a few of the female “Kufundees” (people living and working at Kufunda):

Lorraine is living with H.I.V. while raising four children and working full time in Kufunda's HIV/AIDS herb and nutrition garden.

Sikhetiwe works full time in the Permaculture gardens, assists the kitchen staff, is beginning a small business selling broiler-chickens with her husband, and raising her son.

Ttsi takes care of four children, works at Kufunda as the accommodations manager preparing dorm rooms and meals for incoming visitors, and serves as a community organizer commuting between Kufunda and the village of Rusape communicating information between the two.

“Kufundees” are the people working and living at Kufunda.

Women



Families



Friends





Ability's beauty pageant contestants prove that there is beauty in everyone.



*Rachel Mamoss, founder,
Ability International*

SISTERHOOD
AGENDA

39
SUMMER
2007

Ability In Kenya By Rachel Mamoss

Ability International is an organisation formed to give equal opportunities for persons with disabilities especially women and children who are more disadvantaged and vulnerable.

This all started when my daughter turned ten. On the day she was to celebrate her birthday she had an attack. She was first diagnosed with malaria by the doctor and she would get fits. The doctor assured me that she would get well with medications. The attacks continued for months and resulted to more tests and scans that eventually revealed epileptic attacks. This was the beginning of my long journey to clinics, therapy centres, etc.

One of the parents whom I was attending therapy treatments with had a child with cerebral palsy. The child had been raped by her own father, she confided to me. I thought, this gal is disabled and what if she was infected with HIV/AIDS? I talked to the mother about it and she agreed to take her for a test. The test was positive.

As I was helping this family, I realised that nothing had been done to treat or inform disabled people about HIV/AIDS. I found out the deaf, who only understand sign language, the blind who read Braille, have no information at all in regard to HIV/AIDS, which still stands as the number one killer disease in the world.

This is when I thought of registering and finding solution to give equal opportunities to disabled individuals. Now, you may ask, why women and children?

Facts have shown women are more at risk of getting infected and are also the ones who spend more time with patients at home than men. Women in Kenya are divorced for giving birth to disabled children. Children are born with HIV/AIDS and others are orphaned by the same disease. If they are disabled and infected in a society that looks at them as a curse, some do not even see the sun for the rest of their lives as their families consider them outcasts.

Ability International is committed to changing this attitude and tell the world that everybody God created is beautiful, useful, and has purpose.

Ability started by hosting the first ever beauty pageant in Africa for women with disabilities. The event was so successful. The world was so shocked how brilliant and beautiful these women were:

- They had plans for future and goals for themselves.
- They thought and saw things just like the rest of us do.
- They were critical about national issues.
- The pageant encouraged disabled individuals, parents of the disabled and companies to think of employing them, including them in organizations and budgets to fight HIV/AIDS.

Ability International created the first HIV/AIDS commercial in sign language, opened the first clinic for the deaf and trained educators in sign language.

GLOBAL

PARTNERS



Youth in the South Africa Youth Ministers Programme participate in real government activities.

South African Youth & Government

By Johan Reiners

THE RECENT NATIONAL BUDGET SPEECH BY South Africa's Minister of Finance, Mr. Trevor Manuel, was attended by four of South Africa's Youth Ministers of Finance. Guests of the honourable minister were flown into Cape Town from the north and east of South Africa included: Thabelo Lekala from Mpumalanga, Stanton Lee Prithipaul, a learner from Timol High in Gauteng, Sthembile Mngadi from Nobhala, and Furfirey Shagufta from Rylands High in Western Cape. The four youngsters are part of the South African Youth Ministers Programme, an award-winning unique concept in youth service to introduce young people from poor and disadvantaged communities to the principles of good governance, democracy and good citizenship.

Based on a simulation of real parliament, learners in secondary schools elect on a democratic basis (as in the real general elections) ten youth ministers. The youth ministers each receive a portfolio and are responsible to make a difference in his or her constituency. To lead the ministers, youth presidents (community development workers) are appointed. These workers undergo one year training in community development practice. During this one-year, 94 Youth Presidents will receive computer training, get their drivers licences and are responsible for implementing community projects along with the elected youth ministers.

During 2007, the Programme, in collaboration with the South Africa Department of Justice, will concentrate on the practical implementation of the Victim's Charter, safe schools for all, awareness of the Maintenance Act and spreading of information about violence against woman and children. To get the ball rolling, Youth Parliaments are conducted in all 4 provinces where the programme is being implemented. At the parliaments, new ministers are being sworn in and resolutions are taken on how to implement the focus programmes in the community. Youth Parliaments and the programme is not only about brainstorming and talking, it's all about dirtying of the hands and feet. Door-to-door outreaches in local communities, taking a brush to paint and shovels to dig – all form part of making a difference. With newly acquired knowledge and skills, the community benefits from young people who serve.

The South Africa Youth Ministers Programme goes into communities suffering from drug abuse, gangs and crime, creating an opportunity for young people to rise above their circumstances by giving them responsibilities, empowerment, education and trust. The programme is currently being implemented in 4 South African provinces in 42 schools with 840 youth ministers and 94 youth presidents. It has a direct impact on 50,000 learners and numerous members of communities.



Kiri Davis explores issues of self-esteem and racial identity among Black girls with her film, *A Girl Like Me*.

Kiri Davis: A Girl Like Me

KIRI DAVIS IS A YOUNG AND GIFTED filmmaker, writer and entrepreneur. She began expressing her artistic talents earlier, first as an entrepreneur designing and selling her own jewelry line and then as a filmmaker. She has directed several short films and became famous with her first documentary “*A Girl Like Me*”, which she produced when she was only sixteen.

Only seven minutes long, *A Girl Like Me* explores the standards of beauty imposed on today's Black girls. The film shows how such beauty standards and cultural ignorance affect self-esteem and self-image. In the film, we see 15 out of 21 Black children choose a White doll over a Black doll when given a choice between the two. They also consistently claim that the White doll is “nice” because she is White and the Black doll is “bad” because she is Black. When the credits roll at the end, we see images of Black girls getting their hair permed and pressed. One girl gets a weave.

Since 2005, the film received numerous awards including the Urban League Guild: “Vanguard Award,” Hampton Film Festival “Golden Starfish Award,” and

The Media That Matters “Diversity Award.” “*A Girl Like Me*” has also been featured in over twenty film festivals including the *Tribeca Film Festival* and has screened worldwide.

Kiri has been presented with the “*Racial Justice Award*” by the National YMCA in April and received the 100 Black Men of America's “*Outstanding Youth Award for Broadcast Media*” in June.

Kiri was featured on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *The Today Show/Headline News*, *Good Morning America*, *ABC World News*, and *Sharp Talk* with Al Sharpton. National radio shows include: *The Steve Harvey Morning Show* and National Public Radio's “*Talk Of The Nation*.”

Kiri's goal is to develop more projects that will help her community and give a much-needed voice to issues that pertain to people of color. She recently graduated early from Urban Academy in New York City and plans to attend Howard University.

A Girl Like Me may be viewed on YouTube or “<http://www.kiridavis.com>” www.kiridavis.com.



SISTERHOOD
AGENDA

41
SUMMER
2007



Ayana

Sistas Around the World

By Ayana, Age 8

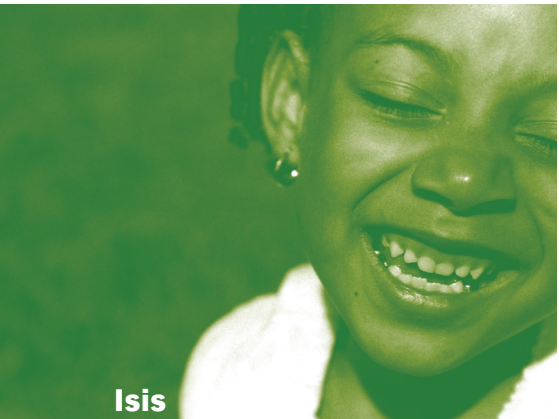
Sistas around the world are cool!
 We are the sistas around the world.
 We are unique and beautiful.
 We come in different shapes and colors and sizes.
 We love African music.
 We dance to the music and follow the rhythm to our path.
 We never stop.
 We are nice and powerful and no one can stop us!



Cynnamon



Rachel



Isis



Diamond



Symone

Pages from *Beautiful.* by Jamaica Gilmer & Angela D. Coleman in partnership with Sisterhood Agenda.

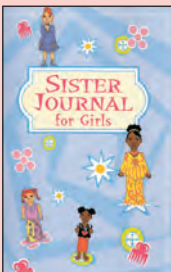
Beautiful. by Jamaica Gilmer & Angela D. Coleman
 in partnership with Sisterhood Agenda



NOW
 available at the
Sister Store
www.sisterhoodagenda.com

every Black girl is Beautiful.

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

INNER HEALTH FOR OUTER BEAUTY

HEALTHY SELF-ESTEEM

BY TEC JEAN

What is healthy self-esteem? Healthy self-esteem is the ability to have dignity and acceptance in one's self. However, one of the most prevalent issues that many girls and young women suffer from is a deficiency in healthy self-esteem. They find it very hard to combat this poor trait. Here are some of the core characteristics and steps that will help build a strong sense of self-assurance to overcome this deplorable phenomenon.

Know yourself: be confident

As a girl and young woman, knowing who you are will help gain the confidence that no one can capture from you. When you know yourself, it certainly honors you with this tremendous interior sensation that is irreplaceable and undefeatable.

Consequently, lack of confidence will only serve a purpose of holding a person back from getting further in life. It is something that you can begin to conquer by treating yourself as valuable; confidence is the key to achieving anything in life. It is required to get both small and big things accomplished. Insecurity can be very detrimental.

Do not be in denial

Some people think that it is good to be in denial. However, being in denial with yourself is very dishonest and can only lead you into failure, which will bring stress and unhappiness. One way to better your self-esteem is to be honest with yourself and not belittle your character.

Love yourself

Realistically, if you plan on loving anybody, then the first step is to admire yourself. Love should be a reflection of one's self to the other. Loving yourself is appreciating and accepting who you are and what

you have without saying, "I wish I had this or that." Admiring yourself is all about being comfortable when you look in the mirror and eventually strut when imagining the good qualities that are self-inherited.

Respect yourself

Respecting yourself allows others to demonstrate the respect that is merited to you. Sometimes females with low self-esteem tend to do things that would degrade their image just so they can get attention. However, when you respect yourself, you do honorable and accountable things. Particularly as girls and young women of African descent, respecting yourself should always be a priority, not just an alternative.

Protect yourself

Protecting yourself is a combination of knowing who you are, loving and respecting yourself, and being conscious of your surroundings. All of us should look within to see if loyalty and trustworthiness is self-imminent. Otherwise, protection is immensely deficient. In addition, originality is also a tremendous form of self-protection.

Healthy self-esteem is something that can help women live comfortably and respectfully. Without a strong base of self-worth, people will take advantage of you whenever they feel it is necessary. Therefore, it is vital to unconditionally love, respect and accept the good and the bad while striving to become better on a daily basis. Doing so will help to emancipate yourself from that horrible mental state of mind of neglecting yourself to fully and essentially respecting the self, both internally and externally.

SISTERHOOD
AGENDA

43
SUMMER
2007

NIP, TUCK

By ANCELENA DOCKERY

Most females have something about themselves that they would like to change. The thoughts range from "My behind is too big," "My lips are too big," "I wish my breasts were larger." The list goes on and on. The Don Imus controversy created a worldwide dialogue about Black women. Many questions were asked about how Black women are portrayed in music videos by rappers. But, perhaps, an important question that was not asked is: "How do we view ourselves?"

Apparently, many Black females believe there is room for improvement.

According to a survey by the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS), the number of minorities getting plastic surgery quadrupled between 1997 and 2002.

So, what is the cause of this big shift? Some believe that because socioeconomic factors have changed for Black women, plastic surgery is more accessible. Yet, during the civil rights era, the cliché was "Black is beautiful." Plastic surgery among African American women was unheard of. Not only could most Black women not afford cosmetic surgery, the African American community shunned it. We've all heard "God don't make no mistakes."

Dr. Karen Low, an African American plastic surgeon in Greensboro, NC, recently stated, "People want to look good, but they also want to avoid any criticism that might come from the community, which has for years supported larger frames, wider noses and not-so-perfect features. Changing those things is

sometimes seen as an insult to our ancestors and to the culture." Now, with a different economy, African American women have more choices in the way they look.

The American Society of Plastic Surgeons, in 2005, reported that African Americans accounted for more than 760,000 cosmetic procedures performed. The report shows that the most common cosmetic procedures among African Americans are nose reshaping, liposuction, and breast reduction. Television shows such as Extreme Makeover encourage women to undergo surgery and fix their perceived flaws.

For others, plastic surgery has a medical basis. Ashley Evans (named changed), 17, of Raleigh, NC is seeking breast reduction. She wears a size 38DD. As a teenager, Ashley struggles to find shirts that fit. "I've had cysts and my back hurts a lot," she said. "I feel like I'm getting a hunch back."

However, most cosmetic surgery is elective. With media images portraying unhealthy and unrealistic images of beauty, such as the super thin look, it is no wonder most women are not satisfied with their appearance. While the old way would be to hit the gym to tighten up problem areas or just live with the "flaws," there is a growing trend among African American women to nip and tuck.

No matter where you stand on the issue, if you or someone you know is considering plastic surgery, it is important to do your homework and thoroughly research the issue. Once you undergo the knife, there is no going back.

IN ADDITION TO BODY IMAGE ISSUES, SKIN ISSUES RUN DEEP:

Social comparison theory dictates that we compare ourselves to the females that we see on a regular basis: in home, at school and in the media. Consider this:

- Lighter-skinned enslaved African Americans received better treatment.
- The most commonly requested minimally-invasive cosmetic procedures for Blacks are: Botox, injectable fillers and chemical peels.
- Many Black sororities rejected candidates who they considered "too dark."
- Skin-bleaching products generate \$95,000,000 per year in business.
- More teenagers are getting plastic surgery before their bodies and minds have matured.
- There are emotional and physical risks to any surgery, including anesthesia risks, potential mistakes and even death.

REMEMBER: INNER HEALTH FOR OUTER BEAUTY!

INNER HEALTH FOR OUTER BEAUTY



WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT MICROBICIDES?

On March 8, International Women's Day, the Microbicides Development Act (MDA) was re-introduced into the United States Senate and House, with bipartisan support. Currently, 53 Representatives and 18 Senators have signed on to the MDA, which, if passed, will help ensure that the US government's commitment to microbicide research and development is increased substantially. Senator Barack Obama, who introduced the MDA in the Senate, said, "It is time to speak the truth and acknowledge the facts. It is women who are more susceptible to the HIV infection, in part as a consequence of biology, but mostly because of uneven power between the sexes around the world. It is a fact that marriage is no protection from HIV transmission for women."

The Women's HIV Collaborative of New York, along with CMHC's Prevention Policy department, co-coordinate the NY Microbicides Working Group – a local campaign which supports a global effort committed to raising awareness about how effective microbicides could prevent the spread of HIV by putting the power of prevention in women's hands.



Empowering Women

How does a microbicide empower women? Biologically, women are two to four times more vulnerable than men to contract HIV infection because of the surface area of their vaginas. Their vulnerability increases due to their lack of economic and social power, especially in situations where women cannot control sexual encounters or insist on protective measures such as abstinence or mutual monogamy. Many women who get infected with HIV have only one partner – their husbands. This trend is lethal to women, devastating to families and puts children at risk. For these reasons, HIV-positive women are some of the most vocal advocates for microbicides.

Presently, there are no microbicides on the market. The first generation of microbicides is likely to be available within the next five years. But this is largely due to the government's commitment to microbicide research, since pharmaceutical companies are not currently devoting research and development money in this area. Right now, barely 2% of the U.S. budget for HIV/AIDS research – only two cents of every dollar – is spent on efforts to find a safe, effective microbicide. However, a positive sign of the government's commitment is the creation of the Microbicide Prevention Network in the recent restructuring of its research networks.

A first generation microbicide is likely to reduce risk of transmission by no more than 40 to 60 percent. However, even a "partially effective" microbicide can provide substantial protection from HIV, especially if used consistently. For example, even a 60% effective product could result in preventing 2.5 million HIV infections in three years. The real goal is to incrementally improve both the effectiveness of microbicides and the range of sexually transmitted infections that they target.

Local Advocacy

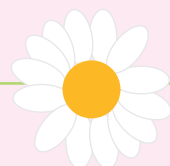
The availability of a microbicide depends largely upon how many people are demanding them. Therefore, as part of a national effort, the NY Microbicides Working Group is working on initiatives to urge our City Council and local Congress representatives to support the MDA. The working group also hosts quarterly meetings and provides ongoing training to organizations and individuals. If you would like to get more information about a working group in your area, check out the Global Campaign for Microbicides website: www.global-campaign.org.

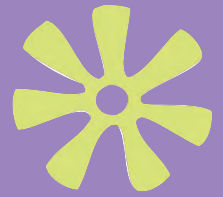
Submitted by The Women's HIV Collaborative of New York. The organization was formed in April 2000 to respond to the need for a broad-based research and advocacy network focused on mitigating the impact the epidemic was having on women, and to demand timely, gender-specific research, resources and policies. Over the last seven years, the Collaborative has organized over 75 community events and meetings that have engaged hundreds of participants on topics that intersect with HIV/AIDS in women, and developed a number of reports, resources and educational materials.

SISTERHOOD
AGENDA

45

SUMMER
2007





Finesse, Dignity Pride &

ELON: DYNAMIC DIVA

*Elon Bomani
encourages all women
to be Dynamic Divas.*



ELON BOMANI WENT FROM homeless to wealthy by investing in the real estate market five short years ago. Ms. Bomani was a job-less, single-mother after her husband took all of her funds out of her bank account. After living temporarily in a shelter and learning everything she could about wealth, she started investing in real estate with a meager \$36 dollars in her checking account. One and half years later, Ms. Bomani, amassed 3 million dollars in real estate and built a net-worth of \$1.5 million dollars-an astounding feat for a homeless mom!

Now, Elon Bomani is a stay-at-home mother who wants to help others become millionaires, too. Elon has penned a new book called *Dynamic Diva Dollars-For Women Who Aren't Afraid to Become Millionaires*. In this book, Elon shares her wealth building investment secrets that develop a millionaire mind via the spirit, mind and body connection; turn bad debt into good debt; design a business on a shoe-string budget; and invest in

real estate. Offering tools to assist others, Elon believes that crisis equals opportunity. Rather than blame her ex-husband, she realizes that she was creating this life and that she put herself where she was. As a child to a single mother on welfare and a drug dealer dad, Elon had to stop speaking poverty words and acting with a poverty mentality. Choosing to create her own heaven, Elon shares some of her insights with *Sisterhood Agenda* readers:

What is a dynamic diva?

A dynamic diva is a whole, complete and balanced woman who is healthy, wealthy and wise. Divas have a negative reputation for being difficult, but a diva is evolved divinity within a woman, the essence of God. In other words, we are the source, the power that we are looking for.

How did you become wealthy?

I immersed myself and educated myself about wealth. I copied and did what wealthy people do, but in my own way.

Luck is opportunity with preparation.

What is your area of specialty?

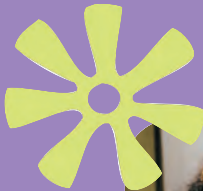
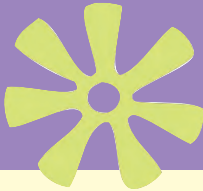
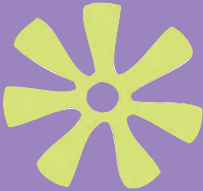
I am a natural practitioner. I provide African holistic health information, wealth management and daily inspiration to heal, encourage, educate and inform.

What words of wisdom do you have for our readers?

Material things do not define us. The universe will provide. You don't have to live a perfect life, but a life that is on purpose. When we have imbalances in our lives (spiritual, financial, etc.), other areas of our lives are affected. Before we can be healthy and happy, we must first reconnect with the power inside us because balance leads to success. We can all evolve and come into our divine essence.

Any last words?

I do not tell my story to impress, but to press upon you the fact that you can do it, too!



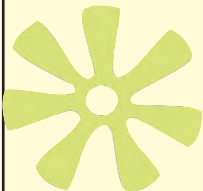
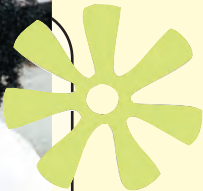
Lisa Price Transforms Nature into Business

CAROL'S DAUGHTER FOUNDER LISA PRICE, ADMITS THAT SHE IS "enthralled with fragrance and flowers." Following her heart-felt dreams, she transformed her hobby and love for fragrance into a skin care business in 1993. Going from bankruptcy to successful entrepreneur, Lisa used \$100 in cash and her home kitchen to build the company to revenues in the millions with over 350 all-natural products for face, hair, body and home. Of Trinidadian ancestry, Lisa faced her fears about money and low self-esteem and shares her strategies for success in the book, *Success Never Smelled So Sweet*.



*Lisa Price, founder,
Carol's Daughter.*

Consistent with her love and appreciation for Mother Earth, company products are tested on people, not animals and do not contain harmful additives or fillers. Lisa encourages young women to think about starting their own businesses using little or no money and following their spirits. The Carol's Daughter mission is embodied in its products and people and takes form in the words: "We the people of Carol's Daughter are dedicated to providing exceptional products inspired by nature with a love for family to enhance ones sense of well being."



SISTERHOOD
AGENDA

47
SUMMER
2007

AFRICAN WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Oct. 17-20, 2007
Philly, PA

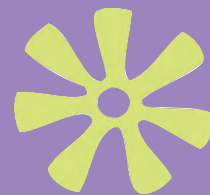
African Heritage & Cultural Parade
Sun. Oct. 21, 2007

"From The Grass Roots Through The Glass Ceiling"

**Saluting Black Women from Antiquity to
Present Day and Paying Tribute to
"The Mother of Civilization"**

For more information call: 267-299-6424
mwmsistahood@aol.com

Million Woman March 10-Year Anniversary Reunion Mass Gathering



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA

DAVID LIKNAITZKY

THE YOUTH EMPOWERMENT Network, based in South Africa, implements a programme, *Facing the Future with Courage*. The basic underlying assumption of the programme is that, in the context of the historically inadequate education system in South Africa, sustainable development of young people is only possible if they themselves take responsibility for their own learning and development.

Facing the Future with Courage is a programme that primarily seeks to awaken young people to their capacity and potential to grow and develop. While the knowledge and skills developed on the

programme are important, even more crucial is the ability of participants to acquire self-confidence, and become creative and independent self-developers. Ultimately, it is the person's ability to transfer what he or she has gained on the programme to everyday life that matters. The programme aims to give participants the attitudes and skills necessary for life-long learning. Furthermore, it aims to free people from the bondage of self-imposed and societally-imposed limitations.

The programme focuses on shifting the limiting mindsets of participants, of freeing their minds, and affirming each

person's unique gifts that he or she brings to the world. The emphasis is not so much on what is a problem or a deficit, but on highlighting and appreciating what is already in each person as abundant possibility, and on building on and re-inforcing the positive attributes and qualities of each person. The Youth Empowerment Network can, therefore, be seen as a vehicle for a much deeper personal transformation in participants, that will not only give them a range of life skills, but also perspective, balance and resilience that will stand them in good stead for the rest of their lives.

YOUTH Empowerment
NETWORK



Better to light a candle than to curse the darkness

Tel: +27-11-447-8752

Fax: +27-11-788-3005

P O Box 1123

Parklands, Johannesburg

2121 South Africa

E-mail: impaq@pixie.co.za

Website: www.yen.org.za



The Spirit of Central Park

SISTERHOOD
AGENDA

49
SUMMER
2007

WITH A MASTER PLAN FIRST DESIGNED IN 1858, CENTRAL PARK IS ONE OF THE URBAN wonders of the world, a green oasis in the great concrete, high-rise landscapes of New York City. It is so naturally part of the Manhattan environment that many people do not realize it is entirely man-made. New Yorkers treat Central Park as their big backyard and over 25 million visitors play ball, walk their dog, attend a concert, go for a run, row a boat, swing in a playground, or wander through the 843 acre oasis every year.

Central Park is more beautiful today than ever, due to a public-private partnership between the Central Park Conservancy and the City of New York. When the state of the Park declined in the 1970's, a group of civic-minded New Yorkers dedicated themselves to preserving, restoring, and maintaining the public space.

The Central Park Conservancy is not only a good steward of this great space, but also of the environment. For example, there are over 120 trees in the Park that date back to the 19th century. A centennial tree has dispersed enough oxygen in its lifetime for one person to breathe for twenty years. The Conservancy takes careful measures to care for these trees. Via "The Mount," most of the Park's organic waste—logs, branches, wood chips, shrubbery clippings, and leaf litter—is processed into the top-quality mulch and compost that is essential for keeping Park landscapes green and healthy. The Conservancy also encourages recycling on the Great Lawn and at events.

Information about Central Park has been provided by the Central Park Conservancy.

**SNEAK
PEAK**

Erykah Badu





IN our NEXT ISSUE

African Heritage Theme Park



Erykah Badu Mos Def

Black Girls and Golf

**South African
Fisherwomen Association**

Protecting Yourself on the Internet

Colleges and
Universities

Nas

Wyclef Jean

**The Caribbean Association for Feminist
Research and Action**

SOUL SISTER



MORE!

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.

