

Volume 16

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Unity First



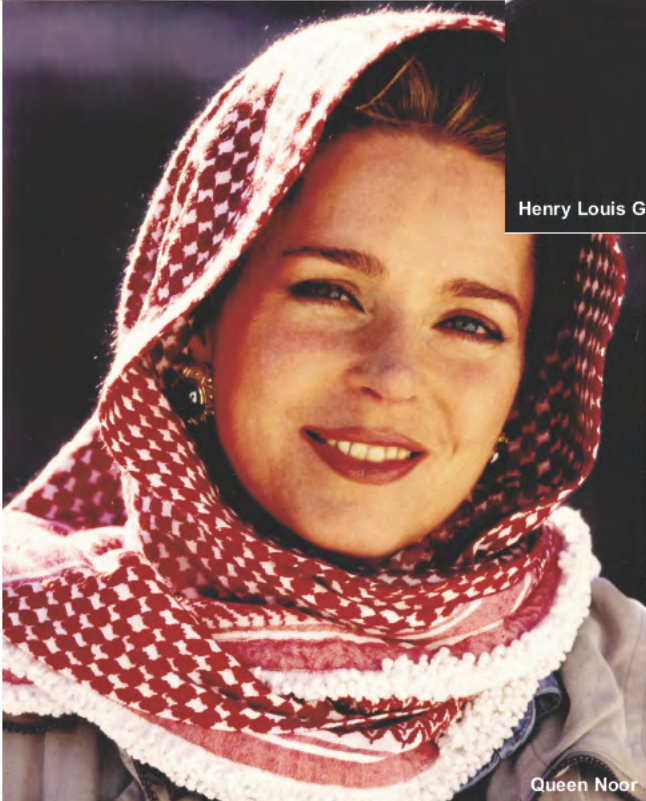
Kristy Yamaguchi



Eva Longoria



Henry Louis Gates



Queen Noor



Stephen Colbert



Malcolm Gladwell

PBS celebrates diversity: Faces of America

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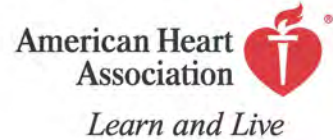
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2010 Go Red For Women® Educational Forum and Luncheon

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8:30 am – 1:00 pm

This empowering event will focus on women's heart health through educational forums, a speaking program featuring stress management consultant and humorist Loretta LaRoche, inspiring local survivors and a delicious heart healthy lunch.

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Janine & Tom Fondon



Celebrating the diverse history of our time

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Shown at the Urban League of Springfield's recent anniversary dinner are (left to right): STCC's Myra Smith, The MacDuffie School's Kathryn Gibson, Baystate Health's Bobby Rodriguez and Unity First.com's Janine Fondon

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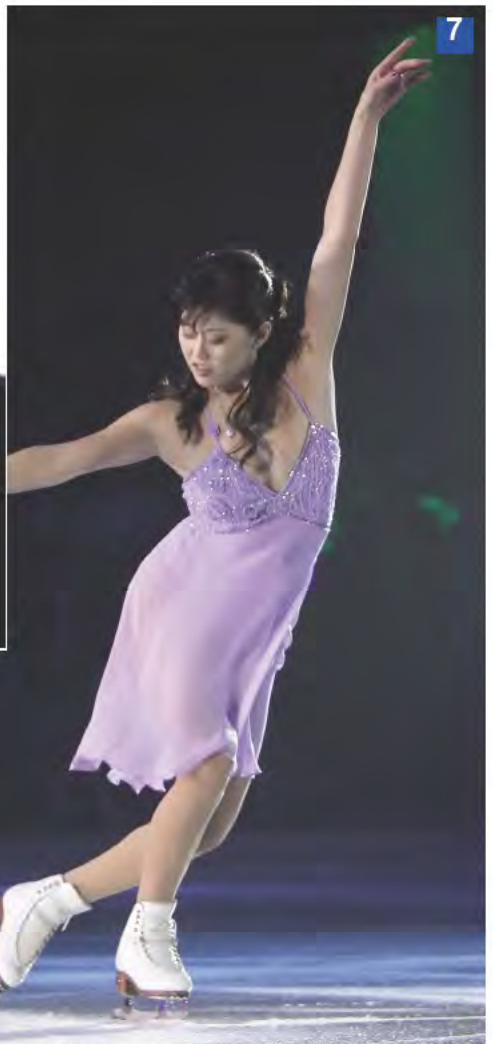


Milestones ⁵



Celebrating its 97th anniversary, the Urban League of Springfield recently held its annual dinner with keynote speaker U.S. Deputy Secretary Dennis Hightower. With the theme “Strong Business=Strong Communities,” the program saluted the League’s mission to enable African Americans to secure self-reliance, parity, power and civil rights. The event’s lead sponsors were MassMutual and Comcast. The major sponsors were Baystate Health and Bank of America.





Faces of America on PBS with Henry Louis Gates Jr.

Presented and written by Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates, Jr, "Faces of America" takes the quest begun in the "African American Lives" series to a new level by providing an understanding of American identity and history.

What made America? What makes us? These two questions are at the heart of the new four-part PBS series Faces of America with Henry Louis Gates, Jr. Building on the success of his previous projects, African American Lives (2006), Oprah's Roots (2007), African American Lives 2 (2008), and most recently Looking for Lincoln (2009), Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates, Jr. turns again to the latest tools of genealogy and genetics to explore the family histories of



12 renowned Americans. Filmed throughout Europe, Mexico, the Caribbean, and the Middle East, the series premiered nationally Wednesdays, February 17, 24 and continues until March 3, 2010 from 8-9 p.m. on PBS (check local listings).

Looking beyond the African American experience to the wider immigrant story, Professor Gates unravels the American tapestry, following the threads of his guests' lives back to their earliest origins around the globe. Along the way, the many stories he uncovers - of displacement and home-

coming, of material success and dispossession, of assimilation and discrimination - illuminate the American experience.

Professor Gates' guests include professor and poet Elizabeth Alexander, who composed and read the poem at President Barack Obama's inauguration, chef Mario Batali, comedian Stephen Colbert, novelist Louise Erdrich, journalist Malcolm Gladwell, actress Eva Longoria, musician Yo-Yo Ma, director Mike Nichols, Her Majesty Queen Noor, television host/heart surgeon Dr. Mehmet Oz, actress Meryl Streep, and figure skater Kristi Yamaguchi.

Each guest underwent dense genotyping to trace his or her father and mother's ancestry and admixture (i.e. their percentages of European, Asian, Native American and African

ancestry). In the process, one guest learns of a relation to Albert Einstein, another of a link to Charlemagne, and two others will come to find that they are distant cousins.

"We will reveal in rich detail the fascinating stories about our guests' ancestors, both since their arrival as immigrants to the United States, and before their arrival here, in the countries from which they emigrated," says Professor Gates, the Alphonse Fletcher University Professor and director of the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research at Harvard University.

"We hope to show how immigration of peoples from around the globe so profoundly has reshaped what it means to be 'an American' and continues to affect how we talk about identity today."

Making History

The History of Harvard University told through historic photographs



From W.E.B. Du Bois, the first African American to receive a doctorate degree from Harvard, to President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama, Harvard has shaped some of the most influential leaders of our time. As we get to know Harvard's many graduates, let's take the time to appreciate the "Historic Photos of Harvard University" (Turner Publishing) as presented by Dana Bonstrom. The book is a pictorial recollection of the oldest and arguably the nation's most prestigious institution of higher learning.

Thanks in part to a number of talented presidents and their visionary leadership, what began as a small private college eventually evolved into a university that now reigns as one of the world's leading institutions of learning.

With fact-filled photo captions and chapter introductions by Dana Bonstrom, *Historic Photos of Harvard University* rediscovers the fascinating past of one of America's foremost universities through nearly 200 rare photographs, reproduced here in vivid black-and-white.

Included in the book are landmark structures, generous benefactors, key events and the dedicated presidents who created the legacy of academic excellence.

One of the events covered in the book is the student protest at Commencement in 1977. Student activism at Harvard, as the Vietnam War drew to a close, turned to the divestiture of Harvard's investment of about \$400 million to \$600 million in companies doing business in apartheid South Africa. Shown in the book is the protest at graduation and there is reference to Jesse Jackson's 1985 speech who excoriated Harvard President Bok as

someone who "preached moralism by day" and but would "get; economic gratification at night."

Historic Photos of Harvard University belongs in the library of every graduate and all those devoted to America's favorite ivy-league school.

Historic Photos of Harvard University is part of Turner Publishing's *Historic Photos* series. These books, which highlight the history of the great cities, states, universities, legendary figures, and pivotal events across America, have been acclaimed as a staple in the collection of anyone who loves history.



Making History

Thousand Cranes Studio

Thousand Cranes Studio believes that art is for everyone, and works to bring fine art and world culture programs to the youth of our community.

Art exists as long as people continue to create. Creativity and innovation are skills needed anywhere, in any profession. Children need art in order to think creatively, learn problem-solving, and beautify their world.

Keeping the arts alive benefits everyone in a community, not just the artists.

At Thousand Cranes Studio, it is our studio's mission to bring an appreciation for fine arts, world crafts and world cultures to as many people in our community as possible.

At our studio, children will develop more than artistic skills. We hope they will gain a greater confidence which comes from discovering new abilities within.



Stan and Sheila Coly Our motto: "Conceive it, believe it, achieve it!"

Thousand Cranes Studio
505 Springfield St
Feeding Hills, MA 01030

Phone: (413) 789-1039
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THOUSAND CRANES STUDIO



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Inspiring Success

*Amy Hughes salutes
the late Robert M. Hughes*

*"My belief is that a person's
proximity to the almighty is
measured by the good deeds
that a person does on this Earth."*

Robert M. Hughes

Making History

Square One has a proud and distinguished history of serving the early education and care needs of our community's most vulnerable children--many of whom have experienced domestic violence, homelessness and poverty.

On Wednesday, May 12th from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., women from throughout

Western Mass are gathering for afternoon tea with Author Irene Smalls in support of Square One's efforts to improve the lives of children and families.

For information on the event or learn more about Square One, please call 413-858-3108.



Meet author Irene Smalls at Square One's Spring Tea !
May 12, 2010



This Is Where It Starts

THE BRIM and CROWN SHOP

My name is Richard Little, and I am the Proprietor of The Brim and Crown Shop located at 439 White St., Springfield, Massachusetts. I'm an ardent hat wearer and have been since I purchased my first Borsalino hat as a teenager in the late 1970's. I knew then, that I would some day open a shop where men could purchase top quality clothing and other accessories.

Well, much has changed since the 1970's, and my plans changed as well. I decided to become more specialized, and provide a resource that has been absent from the area for many years. I decided to open The Brim and Crown Shop, specializing in Mens and Ladies top quality hats and other fine accessories. We opened our doors to the public

on March 19, 2005.

As mentioned above, things have changed since my first purchase, and hats are no exception. I have found that there are many more hat styles, colors, materials and variety than there were years ago. Therefore, people have more options and styles to choose from than ever before.

The variety of styles and array of Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter colors are endless. Whether you prefer designer originals, dress, casual, sporty, leisure or just plain old "old-school," there is a hat for every occasion and every life style.

It is my belief that for those customers who truly enjoyed wearing hats previously but



other fine accessories.

The Brim and Crown Shop's mission statement: To provide the best quality hats made from the best materials, from some of the best and well respected names in the millinery profession.

The Brim & Crown Shop
Men's and Ladies Hats & Other Fine Accessories

were unable to purchase a top quality product of late, we (The Brim and Crown Shop) intend to be their resource and supplier of choice for top quality men's and ladies hats and

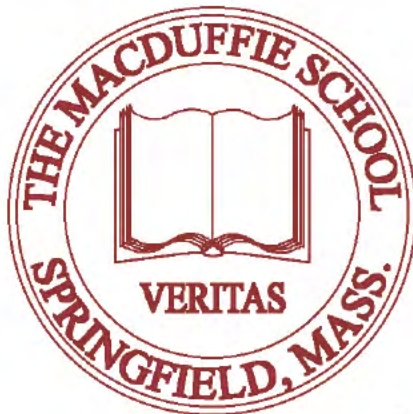
"BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT FULLY DRESSED WITHOUT YOUR BRIM or CROWN"

Making History

The MacDuffie School Celebrating 120 years of Excellence

The MacDuffie School, celebrating 120 years of excellence in education, salutes Bobette Reed Kahn, the first African-American boarding student who graduated in 1969! Mrs. Kahn gave the Commencement Address at MacDuffie in 2008.

She spoke about the challenges she faced at MacDuffie, fitting in as an African-American student with a “flat Midwestern accent,” and how she overcame those difficulties



to succeed not only in school, but also in life. MacDuffie encouraged her to “dare to be different!”

After graduating from MacDuffie, she attended Williams College and the Harvard Divinity School.

Bobette was the second



Bobette Reed Kahn

African-American woman ordained in the Episcopal Church.

Over the years, she has worked in various administrative positions at Choate-Rosemary Hall, as the Director of the New England Office of

Independent Educational Services, at the University of Connecticut Law School, and as Admissions Director at Miss Porter’s School. She is Principal of Kahn Muni Finance. L.L.P.

Ayanna C. Crawford

Educator and Speaker

Ayanna C. Crawford is an educator, motivator, event planner with a BS in psychology, M.Ed. She currently works as an Academic Intervention teacher and Afterschool coordinator, Responsive Classroom Facilitator at the Gerena Montessori Elementary School in Springfield.

She is also a member of the Operational leadership team at the school.

Ayanna is inspired to make a difference in this world.

“I believe the children are our future and I want to motivate and give people the tools they need to work on

their dreams and succeed in life,” says Ayanna.

“Black history Month is a time to reflect on the greatness that African-American people have contributed to the way of life for all Americans.”

“Be the change you want to SEE and Live life to the fullest.”

Ayanna C. Crawford



Ayanna Crawford

Making History

Springfield's WTCC celebrates 40 years

Known as The Community's Choice, WTCC-FM, the radio station of Springfield Technical Community College, recently celebrated its 40th birthday.

WTCC's 4,000 watts signal, unusually strong for a college radio station, reaches south beyond Hartford and north, in some areas, nearly to the Vermont border. The station broadcasts from its studios on the first floor of Garvey Hall at STCC.

With more than 100 volunteer members and program hosts from the surrounding communities, the station provides local programming 24 hours a day, at 90.7 FM. Many program hosts have been with the station for 20 years or more.

WTCC's schedule reflects the region, providing a highly diversified range of programs. Among those are following themed programs: Caribbean, Portuguese, Italian, Greek, Native American and Polish.

There are several gospel and jazz programs, as well as R&B, blues, and classical music. Black Spectrum programs are the focus on week day mornings, and Latino shows on weekday afternoons. There are several talk shows that cover local issues by community-based hosts and area guests.

WTCC is an active part of the community, participating in area events, often broadcasting live from festivals and concerts, and offering activities for area children.

The station is led by a board of elected station volunteers, and governed by a board of directors composed of professionals from the community, the station, and the college. Board chair Janine Fondon, President and CEO of Unity First, says, "This station is truly



Denise Stewart



Shown left to right: Luis Rodriguez and Maurice Lindsay

a jewel in our community. We're proud of our record of 40 years of quality, local programming and we look forward to continuing as a relevant resource for the community."

As a non-profit, educational station, WTCC is supported by underwriting from community businesses and organizations, and through annual fundraising efforts.

In celebration, let's recog-

nize the station's contribution to the Springfield community and its legacy on the campus of Springfield Technical Community College.



Recent 40th anniversary events were highlighted by a concert in December and January reception.

Springfield Technical Community College Diversity Council celebrates 5th Anniversary with upcoming events

The public is invited to attend a wide variety of special events this spring at Springfield Technical Community College. Some of these events will also be broadcast live on WTCC, the STCC radio station at 90.7 FM.

The following events are sponsored by the STCC Diversity Council which celebrates its fifth anniversary this year, of presenting speakers

February 25

Nu Direxion, musicians from the greater Hartford area, will perform smooth jazz, reggae, pop, and classical R&B in the Scibelli Hall Theater on Thursday, February 25. Performances are scheduled for 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m and are part of the Diversity Council

series.

March 11

Dr. John Francis, "The Planetwalker" will speak at STCC on Thursday, March 11 at 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. in the Scibelli Hall Theater. Francis walked the planet for 22 years, remaining silent for 17 years. Now he will discuss how the current environmental crisis is a reflection of world-wide social and economic inequity, and therefore resolving the crisis must involve not only science but also humanitarian issues. This presentation is part of the STCC Diversity Council speakers/arts series.

April 8

Derrick N. Ashong (also known as DNA) will be featured on

WTCC 90.7 FM



Celebrating 40 Years
as the
Community's Choice

WTCC is the radio station of
Springfield Technical Community College

March 11, 2010
11:00 am and 6:00 pm
Building 2, Scibelli Hall
Theater

Dr. Francis is known to the world as the Planetwalker. He walked the planet for 22 years and remained silent for 17 years.

Dr. Francis will discuss how the current environment crisis is a reflection of world-wide social and economic inequity and that any attempt to resolve the crisis must not only address the scientific issue, such as climate-change and deforestation but also the humanitarian issues.

From peace and justice to everyday civility, Dr. Francis contends that our connection to the earth as well as each other is at the heart of the environmental crisis.



Thursday, April 8 at 11:00 in the theater of Scibelli Hall. Born in Ghana and educated at Harvard, Ashong is a musician, artist, activist and entrepreneur.

April 15

Nataraj: Performing Arts of India will present dances and music of India on Thursday, April 15 in the Scibelli Hall theater. Performances are scheduled for 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., and are sponsored by the STCC Diversity Council.

April 27

The Changing Face of Families, and Creating More Sensitive/Appropriate Services for LGBT Persons will be the topic of Dr. Abbie Goldberg of Clark University on Tuesday, April 27 at 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., in the Scibelli Hall theater. The presentation is part of the Diversity Council series.

For more information contact Myra Smith at 413-755-4414.

Education First

One of the top concerns of parents is making sure their children get a good education. Parents want to hold schools accountable for the success of their children and they want to be assured that the teachers are doing their jobs effectively.

Springfield's Superintendent of Public Schools Dr. Alan J. Ingram understands the sentiments of parents and wants to make sure the school systems does its best to educate the students it serves.

To date, according to Springfield Public School System statistics, the following percentages reflect student performance:

- The Springfield Public School graduation rate is 54%
- 64% of students scored lower than proficient on the English Language Arts test
- 74% of students in the district scored lower than proficient on Math.

In most cases, the achievement gap between Whites and African Americans and Latino/Hispanics is clear and distinct.

- come first
- teamwork, trust and mutual respect are expected
- everyone will share in the accountability
- our core business is teaching and learning
- parents and community are partners

For Ingram, a strong foundation is key to success. "We have a lot of work in front of us," says Ingram. "The blueprint for moving forward is our vision, mission and values. Our priorities are clear and we know that we cannot do our work in a vacuum."

Ingram included some 70+ people in the formation and finalization of this strategic plan. "We formed a clear vision of building a culture of educational excellence, where all kids can do well and schools are safe."

Helping students

Appointed in May 2008, Ingram immediately began working with more than 70 community members represent-



Dr. Alan J. Ingram

"I want to continue to raise the expectations of our students and our students will rise to those expectations."

Alan Ingram

Knowing the numbers, Ingram has set forth a strategic vision and plan to reverse the trends. He says, "I need the support of everyone including students, parents, teachers, support staff, administrators and community members to create success for the students and entire system."

- As a foundation, Ingram instills several core values:
- Our students will always

ing business; faith-based; and public and private education, union and parental interests to define the district's strategic planning framework.

Ingram is responsible for the effective operation of the district, composed of 51 campuses, more than 25,000 students, nearly 5,000 employees and an approximate annual operating budget of \$356 million.

During his first year as Superintendent, Ingram identified student attendance as a critical area in need of immediate attention. He implemented an attendance improvement initiative that resulted in an attendance increase from 89.4 percent to 90.4 percent that year. This year, a new attendance policy that provides incentives for students to return to school coupled with the creation of a Springfield Student Attendance Resource Center are expected to accelerate the attendance progress.

Early into his second year, Ingram presented the School Committee with the 2009-2012 District Strategic Plan. Based on input gathered from key stakeholders, the plan focuses on work processes and organizational alignments that will

improve student achievement, student attendance, the high school graduation rate and school safety. The multi-year Strategic Plan is built upon the tenants of sound leadership, core values, customer focus and systems thinking.

Today's Success

"We have had pockets of success," says Ingram as schools focus on student achievement and set bold and clear expectations.

"I want to continue to raise the expectations of our students and our children will rise to those expectations. Also, I want to reengage children and parents -- and encourage parents to meet with their children's teachers."

NEA Foundation Awards \$1.25M to Springfield

A Springfield partnership bringing together an education union, the school district, and community leaders has been selected to participate in a \$1.25 million, five-year effort to transform a set of the area's most challenged schools into local and national models for teaching and learning.

The NEA Foundation, an independent, public charity that supports educators' efforts to close student achievement gaps, announced the award today.

"Good schools, schools that provide real educational opportunity, have a clear focus on

teaching and learning. In good schools, skilled teachers and effective administrators agree on strategies, structures, practices, schedules, and resource sharing plans," said Harriet Sanford, President and CEO of the NEA Foundation. "Real opportunities for kids grow when the whole educational system keeps its eye on the prize."

The NEA Foundation selected Springfield and two other districts from among more than 14,000 school districts nationwide to participate in the first major expansion of its signature Closing the Achievement Gaps Initiative. This six-year-old initiative supports union-district partnerships to develop and implement comprehensive, sustainable

approaches to closing the achievement gaps and advancing academic achievement.

"During the past six months of NEA Foundation-supported planning, Springfield has undertaken bold improvement efforts," Sanford said. "They have developed new, powerful community partnerships, focused on principals and teachers as key leaders for the development of their plans, and experienced a dramatic increase in district/community collaboration."

"This grant opens the door to great things for the students of Springfield," Massachusetts Teachers Association President Anne Wass said. "It creates a structure for teachers and administrators and everyone with a stake in the Springfield

Public Schools to work together to make a difference for the children of this city. Incredible things can happen when teachers are given a voice, a seat at the table, and an opportunity to share their years of classroom experience and expertise."

"This school district has been very transparent and honest about the urgent need to close the achievement gap so that the proficiency level of all our students – not just some of them – is raised," said Superintendent of Springfield Public Schools Dr. Alan J. Ingram. "This multi-faceted, collaborative approach is well grounded and clear in its focus. I know it will help us make great inroads in this important work and we can't wait to get started."

Going Global at Berklee



Danilo Perez and Marco Pignataro

BERKLEE GLOBAL JAZZ INSTITUTE IN BOSTON

Berklee announces the inaugural class for the Berklee Global Jazz Institute (BGJI), a unique center at the college designed to foster creativity and musicianship through various musical disciplines. World-renowned pianist Danilo Perez serves as its artistic director. Students may pursue a performance degree, diploma, or a two-year certificate through the Institute. Experiential and service learning will also be integral to the program. Explains Marco Pignataro, managing director for the BGJI, "They've been given this great musical talent. We'll teach that as artists, they are responsible to positively affect their communities."

Rivier College Celebrates Black History Month

Through March 3, 2010, Rivier College Art Gallery presents **KEEPING RHYTHM: Three African American Artists** Nashua, NH—

Through March 3, 2010, the Rivier College Art Gallery will display “Keeping Rhythm”, works by three African American artists: paintings, drawings and prints by Paul Goodnight, collages by Ekua Holmes, and fiberworks by Ed Johnetta Fowler-Miller.

On February 25 at 7 p.m. in the Rivier College’s Dion Center Reception Room (see info to the right), Ekua Holmes will share her personal narrative and the philosophy and experiences that shape her art.



Rivier COLLEGE

420 South Main Street • Nashua, NH 03060

This exhibition probes visual signifiers that give the African American experience an important place in the cultural and spiritual life of our nation. The artists are highly acclaimed for their accomplishments, both in

Join us....

February 25 at 7 p.m.
Rivier College Black History Month reception for Artist Ekua Holmes
To attend, send an email to: multiculturalaffairs@rivier.edu
or visit www.rivier.edu.

the United States and abroad.

Currently, Goodnight’s work is in the international group show that will travel in the United States and then in South Africa to commemorate the 2010 World Cup

events; Holmes is a participant in Harvard University’s Black Arts Festival; Miller is conducting workshops as an Arts Management Envoy from the United States to the Ivory Coast, Africa.

The Rivier College Art Gallery is free and open to the public Mondays through Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. and 6 to 8:30 p.m. and on Fridays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For additional information call (603) 897-8276. The Gallery is located at 431 South Main Street (Memorial Hall on the second floor, accessible by elevator and six low steps) in Nashua, New Hampshire.



Pictured: American Songbook-Bridges. Collage by Ekua Holmes.

Learn more at www.rivier.edu

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- ▶ You'll get a quality education at one of the most affordable private colleges in the region: we award more than \$6 million in financial aid each year.
- ▶ Choose from more than 60 degree programs.
- ▶ Enjoy programs that promote diversity and engage the campus in conversations about social justice, presented by Rivier's Office of Multicultural Affairs and Multicultural Student Organization.

Check us out online!

Day, evening, graduate and doctoral programs, small classes, and a convenient location—Rivier College has everything you need to meet your personal and professional goals.



Our Legacy



Shown (Left to Right): Springfield community leaders Edna Mapp and Rebecca Johnson in January 1991

Celebrating African American history in Springfield

“Lighting Up the Sky: 25 Years of the African American Experience in Springfield” will be the Black History Month exhibit in the Amy H. Carberry Fine Arts Gallery at Springfield Technical Community College. Fifty black and white photos taken by area photographer Edward Cohen will be on display; Cohen has taken thousands of photos since 1979 in the Springfield community.

The photo exhibit will be on view through February 26.

Cohen, who is a graduate of the electronic technology department at Springfield Technical Community College, as well as the bachelor’s degree program in mass communications at UMass Amherst, is a member of STCC’s radio station, WTCC-

FM. He has been producing radio programs at WTCC, 90.7FM, since the mid-1980s, and currently hosts the Great Black Music: Jazz program on Wednesdays from 10:00 p.m. to midnight.

The Amy H. Carberry Fine Arts Gallery at STCC is located on the lower level of building 28. Hours are Tuesday through Friday 12:30 to 4:30, and Saturdays 10:00 to 2:00. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Springfield Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Partial support also comes from STCC Student Activities.

Elder Douglas M. Williams was called home to be with the Lord on January 30, 2010. He was born in Brunson, South Carolina on February 7, 1944 to the late Reverend Willie E. and Beulah Williams. He was educated in the



Elder Douglas M. Williams

Hampton County Public School system and graduated in 1962. In 1964, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps where he served as an Artillery Officer and Sharp Shooter and completed two tours of duty in Vietnam. Elder Williams was a resident of Springfield, MA since 1970.

Elder Williams was a man of God who walked in faith and shared his love of the Lord with those around him. Elder Williams touched the lives of many people with his smile and generosity, and maintained his trademark sense of humor all the way to the end. In 1973, he and his wife began to sell beauty supplies as a home-base business. Their business grew to the point where they were able to open their first store at the corner of Mapledale and State Street.

The business moved to Midtown Plaza where it operated for over 20 years. Williams' Beauty Supply was one of the few black owned beauty supply businesses that carried a complete line of products for cosmetologist and barbers in the New England and Eastern New York areas. After retiring from his business, he worked at the South End Community Center. He was a partner in the Mid-Town Plaza and Merri Maid laundry mat. He served as a member on the Mason Square Concerned Citizens and was a lifetime member of the NAACP.

The spiritual foundation of Elder Williams started at a very early age, being born to a spiritual family. He was a charter member of Mount Zion Baptist Church, where he served as an usher, was ordained as a deacon, and served on the Board of Missionaries. He also served as a teacher for the Bible study and Sunday School. He was a pillar member of the Shiloh Community Church of God in Christ and held the offices of financial chairman and deacon. He was called into the ministry where he was licensed and ordained in 1997 as an Elder under Pastor Robert Daniels and served in the Shiloh Prison Ministry at Ludlow Correctional Facility. Since 1994, Elder Williams ministered with Faith Outreach Ministries at local prisons, shelters, and on the city streets.

Go Red For Women

The American Heart Association announces that it will host its first ever western Massachusetts Go Red For Women Educational Forum and Luncheon presented by The Yankee Candle Company on Tuesday, February 23, 2010. Over 300 women are expected to attend the inaugural luncheon taking place at the MassMutual Center in Springfield.

The luncheon will kick-off with registration at 7:30 a.m. followed by educational breakout sessions, a silent auction, inspiring western Massachusetts female survivor stories and educational keynote speaker, Loretta LaRoche. LaRoche is an international stress management and humor consultant and author of seven books.

Today, one in three females in the United States has some form of cardiovascular disease, but only 21% of women view heart disease as a health threat. And although cardiovascular disease claims the lives of more than 460,000 women each year causing almost one death per minute - it is preventable through education and research. The Go Red For Women luncheon is designed to empower women with the information, education and awareness needed to help reduce their risk of heart disease and stroke.

Two local women have been named Co-Chairs of the first annual event. Rebecca Sears, Healthcare Consultant and Beverly Beaulieu, Vice President Retail Sales & Merchandising Manager,



2010 Go Red For Women[®] Educational Forum and Luncheon

Presented by
YANKEE CANDLE[®]
America's Best Loved Candle[®]

Tuesday, February 23, 2010
MassMutual Center, Springfield
8:30 am – 1:00 pm

Florence Savings Bank will lead the recruitment of Western Massachusetts residents, survivors and the corporate community in this significant initiative.

"I am so happy to be involved with Go Red For Women and the Educational Forum and Luncheon," said Rebecca Sears. "As a business-woman with a family, I know what it is to try and balance multiple responsibilities while making cardiovascular health a top priority. This luncheon will provide the tools necessary to

local women so they too may have a healthy balance in their lives which is so important to heart health."

The Go Red For Women movement challenges women to know their risk for heart disease and take action to reduce their personal risk. Furthermore, the movement plays a leading role in providing women with the tools they need to lead heart-healthy lives. Since its inception in 2004, close to 1.2 million women have signed up for the Go Red For Women Movement and statistics show that 96% of

women registered achieved at least one health behavior change.

Women from all walks of life are encouraged to attend the Go Red For Women Luncheon and learn how to take charge of their heart health. For more information on sponsorship, to donate to the silent auction or to purchase tickets, call Linda Martins, Regional Director at 414-735-2109 or go to www.americanheart.org/westernmaluncheon.

Another Voice



Parent to Parent Empowering parents to help prevent their children from drugs or substance misuse.

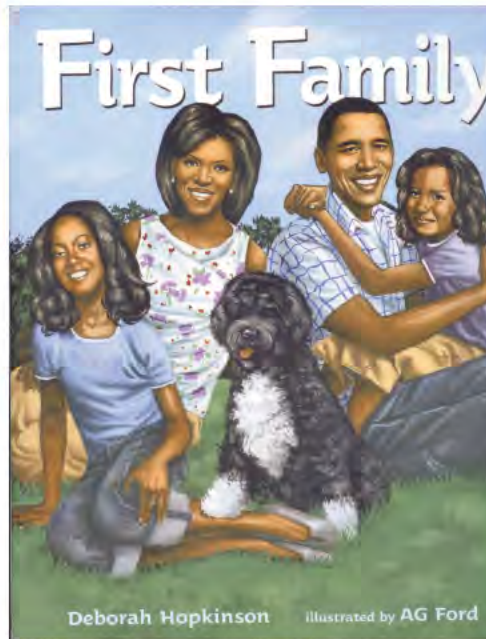
As we celebrate and reflect on the numerous contributions Afro-Americans have made to the world, parents you must not forget to share the information with your children on a daily basis. I salute the contributions made by those historic Black men and women who sacrificed their lives to make sure all people would be free to lead productive lives.

I thank Dr. Carter G. Woodson for his idea of setting aside a special time to reflect on and reserve the rich heritages and contributions made by Black people. We should teach our children their rich heritage on a daily basis. I also believe it is important to have that special time set aside to raise the con-

sciousness of Afro-Americans of their rich history.

My mother was a woman of few words, but she taught me to help others, especially the elderly. She used to say, "Without the older people none of us would be here." This meant to me that we all should value those upon whose shoulders we stand and our heritage.

Dr. Woodson initiated Negro History Week in 1926, which later evolved into Black History Month in 1976, so that Black children would grow up with knowledge of their ancestors. Dr. Woodson wanted to make sure the truth would be revealed of numerous Afro-Americans contributions to discovery, pioneering, development and inventions made to



America and the world. Dr. Woodson chose the second week of February to honor heroes like Civil Rights Leader W.E.B. Du Bois and Abolitionist Frederick Douglas who were born in February.

My mother was a living walking history book. She shared many stories with me. One story was that Sarah Boone invented the ironing

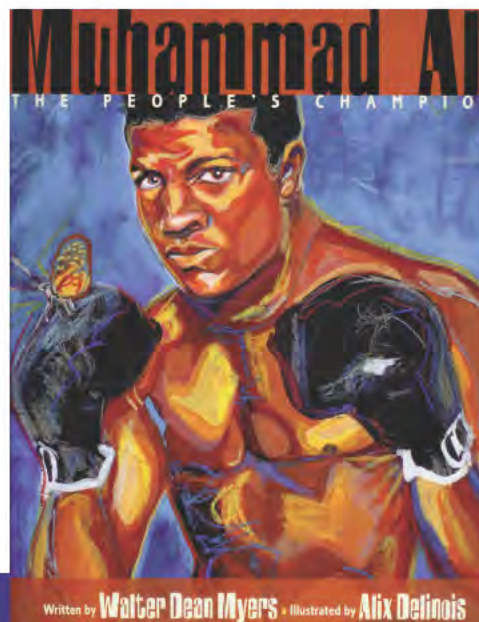
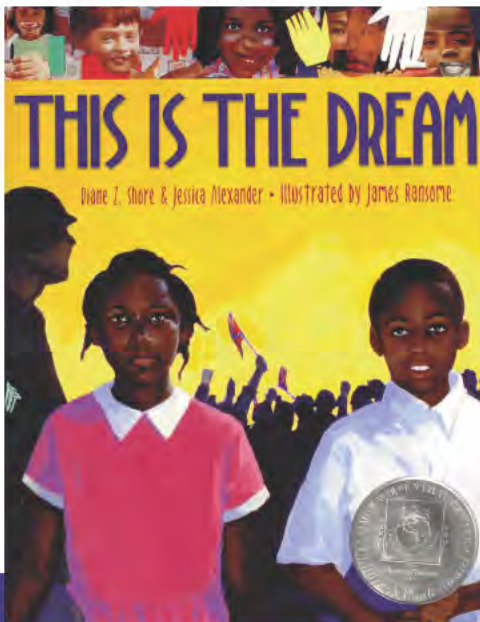
board in 1892. My mother said without Miss Sarah Boone she would not have been able to do her job. My mother was an entrepreneur who washed and ironed clothes for several people in the neighborhood for a fee. She was very thankful for Sarah Boone's invention.

Parents it is your responsibility to make sure your children get off to a healthy start in life, physically, mentally and spiritually. Make sure your children know at an early age that they have a reason to be proud. Teach your children that they can achieve in spite of discrimination or any obstacles they may encounter. Make sure your children know that the media's negative portrayal of Black children is not the majority. Also, that there is a lack of portrayal of the many contributions made to society by their grandparents, great-grand parents, etc.

Teach your children about the inventions made by their ancestors for example; the traffic light, street sweeper, thermostat control, peanut butter, light bulb, refrigerator and the fire escape ladder, to name a few, were all invented by Black people.

Teach your children, by example, the importance of having integrity, dignity and respect for themselves and others. Keep a positive attitude, stay hopeful, and be true to your self and faithful to your Creator.

Mable Lene Sharif



Future

ONEUNITED BANK announces new home loan programs to urban communities

New Super Smart Home Loan Program Available 24/7

OneUnited Bank announces the launch of new lending programs for urban communities. Its Super Smart Home Loan Program offers 30-year and 15-year fixed rate loans at great rates to provide an opportunity for customers to refinance out of undesirable home loans or obtain a mortgage to buy a new home or investment property. OneUnited is also introducing a multi-family loan program to finance affordable housing.

"For many years, we have promoted well thought out home mortgages, when others promoted subprime loans. These subprime loan programs set families up for future failure," states Kevin Cohee, Chairman & CEO.

"We think Black History Month provides a symbolic moment for our community to focus on our past accomplishments to inspire us to engage in activities that will lead to greater economic empowerment. Now we see an opportunity for our community to take advantage of more affordable home prices and low interest rates to become first time home buyers, purchasers of investment properties or to refinance existing high rate or adjustable rate mortgages."

To support the needs of urban communities, OneUnited Bank has rolled out its innovative Super Smart Home Loan Program.

OneUnited has introduced a super smart fixed rate mortgage program that has no hidden fees, no prepayment penalties, no rate escalations due to late payments and no other tricks. For customer convenience, the Super Smart Home Loan Program is offered online 24/7 (www.oneunited.com/home-loans). In addition, OneUnited has expert Home Loan Consultants for enhanced personalized service and customer satisfaction.

"We want to thank our supporters including Representatives Barney Frank and Maxine Waters. We recognize our responsibility to help our community make supersmart decisions when it comes to home mortgages. A well-thought out home financing will ensure that there are sufficient resources to support the mortgage and home maintenance expenses. This allows the homeowner to comfortably pay for their home and build equity over time," states Chairman Cohee.

OneUnited Bank

OneUnited Bank (www.oneunited.com) is the first Black-owned interstate bank and the first Black-owned online bank in America. The Bank is a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) and has received the highest Bank Enterprise Award from the U.S. Department of Treasury for five years due to its community development lending. Its mission is to be the premier bank serving urban communities by promoting finan-

cial literacy and wealth building, and offering affordable financial services. OneUnited has grown through a combination of organic development and by acquiring community banks that share its mission, including Boston Bank of Commerce in Boston, Massachusetts, Founders

National Bank and Family Savings Bank in Los Angeles, California, and Peoples National Bank of Commerce in Miami, Florida.

Academic & Behavioral Clinic

Now Hiring!!!!

Academic & Behavioral Clinic (ABaC) is a Black Owned and Operated, SOMWBA certified, JCAHO-accredited, licensed mental health clinic, specializing in the treatment of children, adolescents, adults, and families in Springfield, Massachusetts and the surrounding area. ABaC provides individual, family, and group therapy, psychological and neuropsychological testing, therapeutic mentoring, In-Home therapy, as well as a community support program.

ABaC is currently seeking Psychiatrists, (with specialty in child and adolescent psychiatry), Nurse Practitioners, Masters and Doctoral level psychotherapist, Associate (or at least two years of college) or bachelor degree paraprofessionals as mental health associates.

Please mail resume to: ABaC 155 Maple Street, Suite 402, Springfield, MA 01103 Attn. Credentialing Department or d.watson@abac-inc.net

Business

Get to know the New England Black Chamber of Commerce

The New England Black Chamber of Commerce (NEBCC) is dedicated to fostering the economic development of the black community, particularly through the support of some 100+ Black-owned businesses and professionals. It has helped secure over \$300,000 in financing for our member businesses in 2009 and plans to greatly exceed those numbers in 2010.

We provide business counseling, business roundtables, monthly Networking opportunities for business owners and professionals, and informational sessions on business development.

In 2010, NEBCC will expand throughout New



Shown right, Maegan Brooks, Esq.

England through a web-based effort that will provide opportunities for our members to access our workshops via podcast as well as easily network with each other through interactive business-to-business offerings. Visit our website at www.neblackchamber.org and become a member! Corporate sponsorships are available.

NEBCC Courses and Activities

Website Design & Tutorial.
February 22, 2010, 5:30pm-8:30pm,
 NE Black Chamber, 1127 Main Street,
 Springfield, MA.

We will create a basic website for you and provide a 3-hour tutorial on web start-up & maintenance, online payment methods, marketing & design.
 Cost, \$575.00, Members Cost: \$415.00.

Monthly "Networking After 5" on
February 25, 2010, 5:30pm-7:30pm,
 The Keg Room, 87 State Street, Springfield, MA.
 Turn Contacts into Contracts! This event is the
 PREMIER Black Business & Professional
 Networking Event in Western Massachusetts!
 Build Business Relationships. Free, Open to All.
 To Register for our Workshops and for more
 information on membership, please call
 Yvonne Byam at 413-731-6444.

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