

Unity First

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First Lady Michelle Obama





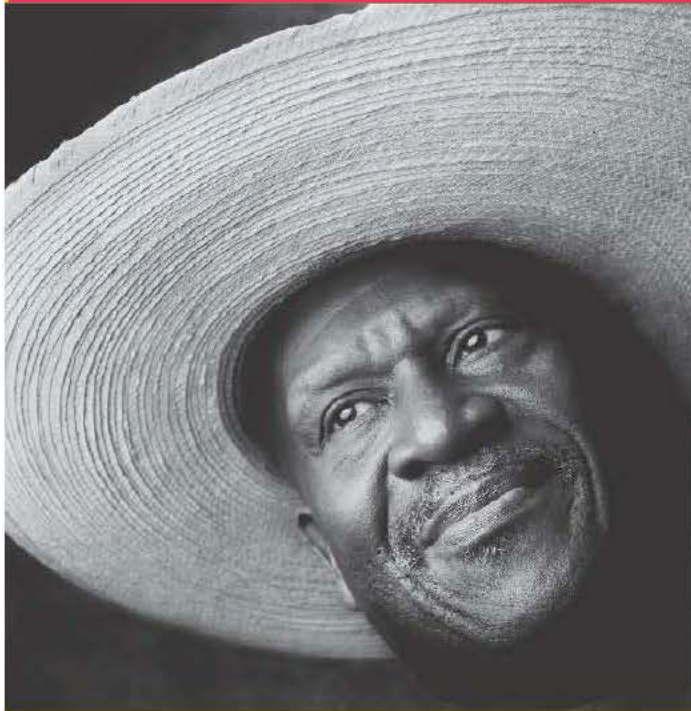
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Ballet Hispanico

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This issue celebrates Women's History Month

Take a look at the special
tribute section.

*"All of us driven by a simple
belief that the world as it is
just won't do... that we have an
obligation to fight for the world
as it should be."*

Michelle Obama

We Salute ...

First Lady Michelle Obama

In honor of Women's History Month 2009, we salute the leadership of First Lady Michelle Obama who leads with distinction. She brings a new hope to this nation and renewed inspiration to the world. As First Lady, Michelle Obama looks forward to continuing her work on the issues close to her heart — supporting military families, helping working women balance career and family and encouraging national service. We send a special congratulations to First Lady Michelle Obama in honor of Women's History Month and support her as a great First Lady and role model.



President Obama issues Women's History Month proclamation

President Obama marked the observance of International Women's Day and Women's History Month in the United States, by saying that, "the United States stands with people around the globe to reaffirm our commitment to the equality, freedom, achievements and advancement of women. With or without awards or acknowledgement, women have taught us about hope, about courage, and about opportunity."

President Obama's Women's History Month proclamation pays tribute to the powerful contribution of women. The Proclamation reads as follows: "With passion and courage, women have taught us that when we band together to advocate for our highest ideals, we can advance our common



Ellen Swallow Richards

well-being and strengthen the fabric of our Nation. Each year during Women's History Month, we remember and celebrate women from all walks of life who have shaped this great Nation. This year, in accordance with the theme, *Women Taking the Lead to Save our Planet*, we pay particular tribute to the efforts of women in preserving and protecting the environment for present and future generations.

Ellen Swallow Richards is known to have been the first woman in the United States to be accepted at a scientific school. She graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of



Marjory Stoneman

Technology in 1873 and went on to become a prominent chemist. In 1887, she conducted a survey of water quality in Massachusetts. This study, the first of its kind in America, led to the Nation's first state water-quality standards.

Women have also taken the lead throughout our history in preserving our natural environment. In 1900, Maria Sanford led the Minnesota Federation of Women's Groups in their efforts to protect forestland near the Mississippi River, which eventually became the Chippewa National Forest, the

first Congressionally mandated national forest.

Marjory Stoneman Douglas dedicated her life to protecting and restoring the Florida Everglades. Her book, *The Everglades: Rivers of Grass*, published in 1947, led to the preservation of the Everglades as a National Park. She was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1993.

Rachel Carson brought even greater attention to the environment by exposing the dangers of certain pesticides to the environment and to human health. Her landmark 1962 book, *Silent Spring*, was fiercely criticized for its unconventional perspective. As early as 1963, however, President Kennedy acknowledged its importance and appointed a panel to investigate the book's findings. *Silent*



Rachel Carson

Spring has emerged as a seminal work in environmental studies. Carson was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom posthumously in 1980.

Grace Thorpe, another leading environmental advocate, also connected environmental



President Obama

protection with human well-being by emphasizing the vulnerability of certain populations to environmental hazards.

In 1992, she launched a successful campaign to organize Native Americans to oppose the storage of nuclear waste on their reservations, which she said contradicted Native American principles of stewardship of the earth. She also proposed that America invest in alternative energy sources such as hydroelectricity, solar power, and wind power.

"These women helped protect our environment and our people while challenging the status quo and breaking social barriers. Their achievements inspired generations of American women and men not only to save our planet, but also to overcome obstacles and pursue their interests and talents. They join a long and proud history of American women leaders, and this month we honor the contributions of all women to our Nation."



Remembering history-maker Shirley Chisholm

Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Chairwoman Barbara Lee, and members of the CBC held a portrait unveiling ceremony honoring the late Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm. This year marks the 40th anniversary of Congresswoman Chisholm's swearing in as a Member of the House. In honor of the occasion, Speaker Pelosi said, "When Shirley Chisholm joined our colleagues Chairman John Conyers and Chairman Charlie Rangel, among others, to found the CBC, it had just 13 members. In that year, 1969, she imagined the organization that would grow to 42 members today and serve as the conscience of the Congress. It stands as a tribute to Congresswoman Chisholm's vision of a Congress that represents all Americans. Less than a year before she died, Congresswoman Chisholm was asked how she wanted to be remembered. She said then, 'I want history to remember me not just as the first Black woman to be elected to Congress, not as the first Black woman to have made a bid for the presidency of the United States, but as a Black woman who lived in the 20th century and dared to be herself. I want to be remembered as a catalyst for change in America.' Today, as we welcome this beautiful portrait to the Capitol grounds, we ensure that Shirley Chisholm will indeed long be remembered as a catalyst for change in America. A brave pioneer, Shirley Chisholm was unwilling to settle for the status quo. With this portrait, we make certain that when the story is told about some of the most critical struggles in our nation's history - the unending fight for the ideal of equality that is both our nation's heritage and our hope - Shirley Chisholm's name is remembered."



Civil Rights pioneers honored on Stamps

The sacrifices of 12 civil rights pioneers are now immortalized on postage stamps to mark the NAACP's 100th anniversary. Now available, the stamps honor the achievements of Ella Baker, Daisy Gatson Bates, J.R. Clifford, Medgar Evers, Fannie Lou Hamer, Charles Hamilton Houston, Ruby Hurley, Mary White Ovington, Joel Elias Spingarn, Mary Church Terrell, Oswald Garrison Villard and Walter White. Shown above is Mary Church Terrell (left) (1863-1954), who as a writer, activist, and lecturer, was a powerful advocate for racial justice and women's rights in America and abroad. Also shown is Mary White Ovington (right) (1865-1951), who spent some time at Harvard and was a founder of the NAACP.



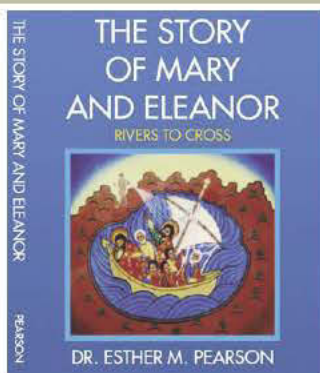
Focusing on helping Black girls in New York City

UnityFirst.com's Janine Fondon celebrated with the initiators of New York City's Black Women for Black Girls Giving Circle (BWBG), a funding initiative of The Twenty-First Century Foundation and the Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) at their major opening event in support of helping Black girls. The collective released a study commissioned by BWBG and IWPR, that examines the lives of Black girls living in the city of New York. The report finds that the impact of poverty significantly affects the lives of Black girls in the city. About three-quarters of the girls in the study live in low-income communities and households.

The Story of Mary and Eleanor: Rivers to Cross



Dr. Esther M. Pearson



ship qualities. It was this awareness that connected Eleanor Roosevelt and Mary McLeod Bethune in a symbiotic relationship. Both women were determined to insure the 'Negro' had educational opportunities. Both knew that this was in the best interest of the country. Lastly, both knew that working together they could make a difference in the present that would have great and lasting effects in the future.

"The inter-relationship, interdependency, and interconnectedness of Mary McLeod Bethune and Eleanor Roosevelt meant the uplift of the 'Negro', the uplift of women, justice for the nation, and a source of healing for the 'negro' and White racial groups' dubious past.

"Each of these women, Mary McLeod Bethune and Eleanor Roosevelt, were special women and each had "Rivers to

Cross" in their lives to bring them to the point of prominence, importance to all women and making pivotal changes to the country that they loved and also sought its best for all its people. Each woman had a story to tell, a journey to travel and a river to cross."

Dr. Esther M. Pearson has been featured for her work in Ebony Magazine, Black Enterprise, Black Issues in Higher Education and the Negro Journal of Education. She has published several books to include 'Invisible Mathematics', 'Women in High Tech Vision of Change', and 'Building Self-Esteem in Young Women'.

She is the founder of the Mary McLeod Bethune Institute for Young Women and a biographer of Mary McLeod Bethune. For more information, send email to: epearson@tp-group.net

women nurtured a relationship built upon their interdependency. Each needed to help the other for each of their missions in life to be realized. It was through Mary's relationship with Eleanor that both saw their differences but also embraced their similarities. Their relationship promoted racial equality, human rights, and women's rights.

"As Eleanor Roosevelt traveled the nation as the 32nd First Lady she became aware of the role of education in building a person's self-esteem and leader-

Dr. Esther M. Pearson has released her new book, "The Story of Mary and Eleanor: Rivers to Cross." The book focuses on the life, accomplishments, friendship and relationship of the great historic, African American educator and women's rights advocate, Mary McLeod Bethune and the human and women's rights advocate, First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt.

According to Pearson, "These two very different

Massachusetts Conference for Women focuses on success

The fourth annual Massachusetts Conference for women engaged some 5,000 women in discussions and workshops ranging from health and wellness to professional development and personal finance. It was a time for attendees to revisit their goals and think about what inspires them to achieve.

One of the speakers, author Marianne Williamson, said: "One of the most powerful things women can do is to keep themselves centered as they encounter the stresses in life. If women truly sought balance in their lives, they will indeed become wise women."



Nuestras Abuelas

Celebrating our Grandmothers

Generosa Santiago

The legacies of the grandmothers, mothers or even the great women we know and love will forever be icons in our hearts and lives. The Nuestras Abuelas Project is a fabulous new exhibit and celebration of the legacy of grandmothers -- their struggles, responsibility, work and love through the eyes of their granddaughters.

Natalia Muñoz launched the Nuestras Abuelas Project in December 2007 to focus on the Latina and Puerto Rican women's experiences. Muñoz is the editor of LaPrensaMa.com, a source for Latino Blogs, Art, Culture and Politics.

"We wanted to honor our grandmothers because they came of age in a very difficult time for women--before the right to vote, before civil rights, before women were encouraged to aspire to anything. Their perseverance is our source of strength" says Muñoz.

In 2009, new stories and photos will be added to the

exhibit to broaden the diversity of perspectives. This year, Unityfirst.com founder Janine Fondon, will share the legacy of her grandmother who came to the U.S from Jamaica, West Indies via New York's Ellis Island. "I am honored to share my grandmother's story," says Fondon. "My grandmother will always be my role model example of success, despite the odds."

Overall, this engaging new exhibit, has captured the promise, hopes, dreams and struggles of the women who have shaped our reality and influenced our ability to grow, develop and most importantly, nurture the next generation. The grandmothers presented in the exhibit document the strong examples of who we learn from and who we want future generations to know.

The organizing committee members for the exhibit include Revan Schendler (Project Advisor); Waleska



Natalia Muñoz

Santiago (Associate Curator and Exhibition Design) and Noemí E. Valentín (Exhibition Curator).

In September 2008, the entire collection of photographs, creative text and personal objects was exhibited at the Central Gallery of the University of Massachusetts-Amherst Fine Arts Center and the reviews were incredible

Don't miss The Nuestras Abuelas exhibition when it comes to your area.

For more information on upcoming exhibit dates, send email to: nmunoz@laprensama.com or



Shown immediate above is Janine Fondon and an early photo of her late grandmother (standing).



Fashion forward with Something to Talk About Fashions

The fashions were out on the runway at Something to Talk About's own Fashion Week event in Springfield, MA at Tower Square. Women and men -- from all walks of life and ages-- took to the runway to model fashions for every day and time.

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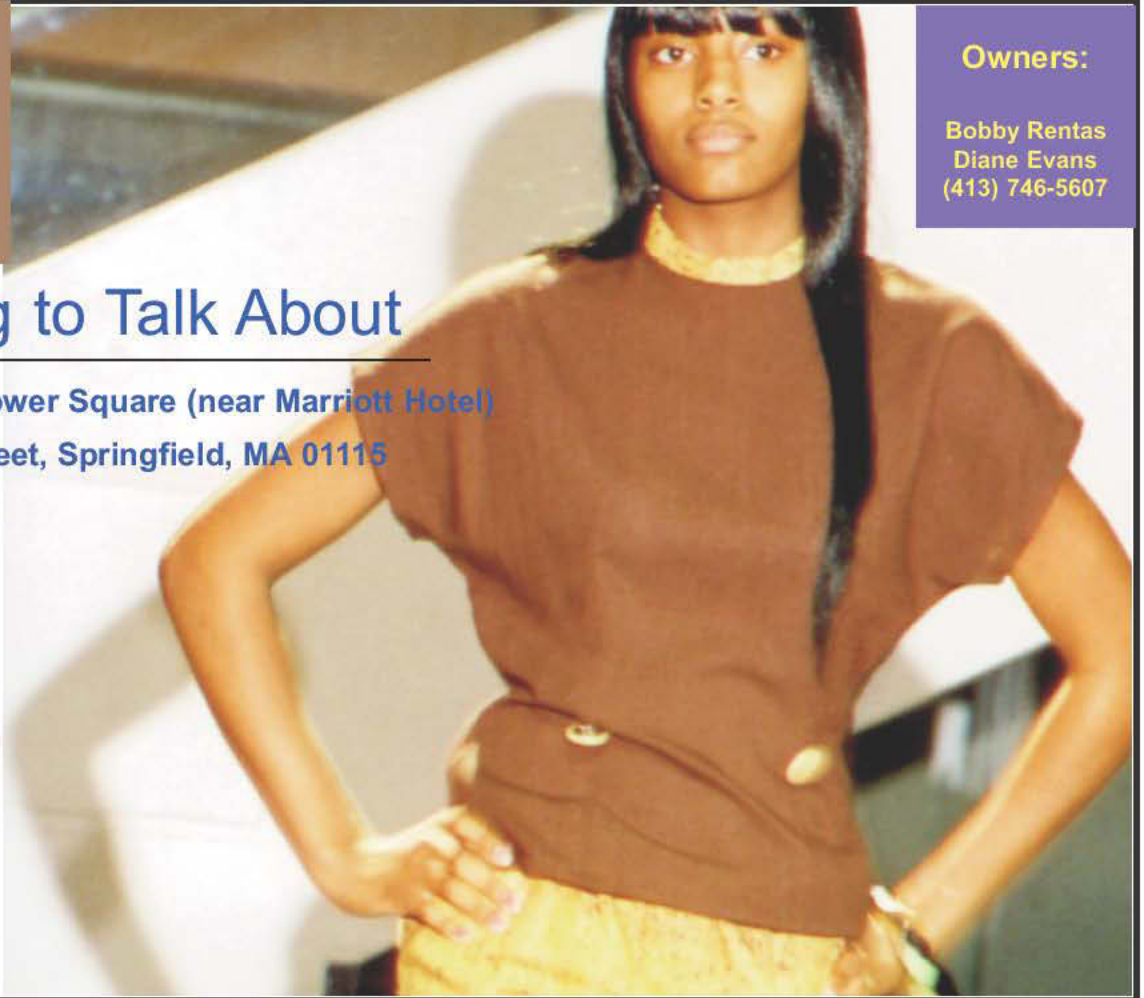
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Women's History Month
Salute - March 2009



Janine Fondon
President/CEO, UnityFirst.com

In honor of Women's History Month 2009, Unity First News joins with The Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts to showcase women across the Commonwealth who are making a difference in their communities, workplace and families. The Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts is the leading foundation for women in the region and Unity First is one of the state's top diversity-focused magazines.



Carla Oleska
Executive Director
Women's Fund of Western
Massachusetts



*“The real power of women’s philanthropy is this:
When we commit our strengths, our time, and
especially our money, we change the game.
It’s that simple, and that important.”*

~ Carla Oleska, Executive Director

We Can.
We Must.
We Will.

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Salute

to Visionary Women of Excellence



In honor of Women's History Month 2009, Unity First News shares this special salute to the "Visionary Women of Excellence" who truly lead by example. We salute this year's honorees in the spirit of the many great women – like our First Lady Michelle Obama who inspire us on a daily basis. As publishers, we salute this year's "Visionary Women of Excellence" – your leadership is truly appreciated, not only by us, but by many of our readers and communities across the Commonwealth and beyond. Also, thir stories inspire others – including many young women, students and professionals – to reach their full potential and achieve their goals. A special thanks to all of these great women who are positive role models, not only for our Commonwealth, but the communities in which they live and work. We appreciate your work to advance our communities, corporations and businesses in the Commonwealth and beyond. Also, we invite you to let us know about other women who are leading by example. Let's highlight their successes in future issues.

*Respectfully,
Janine and Tom Fondon
Publishers, UnityFirst.com/Unity First News Online*

Building connections, companionship, bridges, networks and friendships.

We live in the same towns, cities, counties. We pass one another in the malls, at work, on the streets. We drop our children off at the same bus stops, same schools, same clubs, same meetings, same tournaments. We attend the same churches, temples and mosques; visit the same hair salons, go to the same doctors, shop in the same grocery stores. Yet, isn't it interesting that for all the amount of time we pass one another's physical presence, we very, very rarely feel connected.

We are women living in extraordinarily busy worlds: taking care of children, supporting our spouse, partners, significant others; watching over the care of our parents and grandparents; running all kinds of organizations, coaching all kinds of teams. We are women working one, two and three jobs; going grocery shop-

ping, doing the laundry, answering phones at home, at work, and, yes, in the car; typing letters, operating machines, cleaning hotel rooms, running banks, teaching classes, taking classes, shutting off the TV, and putting out the lights.

Somewhere inside each of us is a wise honeybee, and we know exactly what we want. Honeybees depend not only on physical contact with the colony, but also require its social companionship and support. 'Isolate a honeybee from her sisters and she will soon die.'

We want to find or create those spaces that allow us to receive and give social companionship and support to one another. We want to find or create that group of women who become the source of energy that is bigger than any one of us as individuals. We

want to know one another by name, appreciate one another for our foibles as well as our talents. We want to celebrate what makes us different from one another as well as what creates our similarities. We want to laugh and cry with one another. We want to give as well as receive the gift of time - the time to build connections, companionship, bridges, networks and friendships.

The wonderful thing is that there are women across our region who are creating these spaces in many different ways and under many different names. From the outreach of UnityFirst, to the Women's Leadership Network, to the Young Professional Society, to the Women Business Owners' Association, to Moms Rising, to the work of the Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts, countless women are creating opportuni-

ties to gather together in new ways. And if you look closely, you'll see that when we do come together it is ultimately for that deeper reason - there is an energy that each of us gathers, that we bring back into our lives, an energy that keeps us going, that supports us - until the next time.

Here's to all of us!
Carla



As President and Chief Executive Officer of Neighborhood Health Plan (NHP), Deborah Enos both articulates and represents the mission of NHP and is responsible for the overall management, and performance of the organization.

Since 2005, in her role as President and CEO, Enos has worked in partnership with the NHP Board of Directors. She also builds and maintains effective working relationships with external organizations, both locally and nationally, including the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers, the Massachusetts Association of Health Plans, the Association of Community Health Plans, community health centers,

advocacy groups, state regulatory agencies, and others.

Before being appointed to her current position, Enos was Vice President for Business Development at Neighborhood Health Plan for seven years. Her previous roles included provider network management at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts and Director of Program Development for Cambridge Eye Doctors.

In addition to her responsibilities at NHP, Enos serves on the boards of several organizations including the American Heart Association, Association for Community Affiliated Plans (ACAP), Community Health Center Capital Fund (CHCCF), Community Medical Alliance (CMA),



Deborah Enos

Congratulations to **Deborah Enos**, CEO of Neighborhood Health Plan. Your leadership and guidance serves as a model to us and our community. We are proud to share this honor with all the honorees.

We are dedicated to addressing the diverse needs of our communities and our members. For over 20 years, NHP has remained committed to reducing cultural, linguistic, and financial barriers to quality medical care.

Neighborhood Health Plan
Coverage within reach. Care beyond expectations.

Massachusetts Association of Health Plans (MAHP), Massachusetts Association for Mental Health (MAMH), Massachusetts Health Payment Policy Advisory Board, and Whittier Street Health Center Foundation. Most recently, Ms. Enos was honored to be appointed to Massachusetts' Governor Deval Patrick's Special Commission on Health

Care Payment System.

Enos received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Dartmouth College and her Master of Science degree in Health Policy and Management from the Harvard School of Public Health.

Doreen Nichols

16

Doreen Nichols joined Staples in 2001 and currently serves as Vice President of Associate Relations and Global Diversity. Prior to joining Staples, she held progressive positions ranging from Medical Research Assistant to Director of Human Resources in the fields of Government Contracts, Medical, Hi-tech, and Biotech. She also owned and operated a full-service day spa. Doreen's experience at Staples includes consulting with associate populations internationally, supporting mergers and acquisitions, and strengthening employee relations.

She derives inspiration from author Maya Angelou, "Words mean more than what is set down on paper. It takes the human voice to infuse them with deeper meaning." With those words near and dear to her heart, Doreen played a key role in launching Staples Soul, Staples' corporate social responsibility initiative, in 2006. Staples Soul is the company's holistic approach to business - recognizing the close connection between financial success and the desire to make a positive impact on associates, communities, and the planet by joining together in the areas of diversity, the environment, the community, and ethics.

In support of Staples' position as an employer of choice, Doreen leads diversity initiatives across the company's many locations around the world. She works to ensure that the company values customers and colleagues alike, embracing the differences that come from the diversity found in race, thought and experience.



Doreen Nichols

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STAPLES

Congratulations Doreen!

Lois L. Lindauer

Lois L. Lindauer, Founder and CEO, Lois L. Lindauer Searches, LLC, is one of New England's best known entrepreneurs. Before founding Lois L. Lindauer Searches (LLS), she launched the highly successful Diet Workshop, the nation's first weight loss program to introduce behavior modification into its curriculum and incorporate a focus on fitness.

Lindauer was the first woman in the United States to use the franchise system of distribution to build her business.

She created LLS in 1997 as a way to support Boston's dynamic nonprofit community. What started as a one-person operation with a single client has expanded into a highly regarded executive search service that focuses exclusively on the recruitment of top-flight fundraisers. Today, LLS' client roster includes some of North America's finest institutions of higher education, medical, social service and arts organizations.

In response to a recruiting emphasis on diversity in 2000, Ms. Lindauer conceived of and founded Sisters in Development, an organization designed to attract women of color to the development profession and to provide a network for those already working as fundraisers.

Lindauer's commitment to women includes her contribution to nonprofit boards. She is a founding member of The Commonwealth Institute, an organization that assists women entrepreneurs, CEOs and senior corporate executives grow their businesses. She served on the board of Women in Development, a nonprofit professional association whose mis-



Lois Lindauer

sion is to promote and support the advancement of women in the development profession.

As past President of The Boston Club, Boston's largest organization of senior executive and professional women, Ms. Lindauer is a constant advocate of women's career advancement and is particularly interested in increasing the representation of women on corporate and nonprofit boards.

She also founded the Nonprofit Board Resource Committee, which to date has placed 150 women on New England nonprofit boards.

Lindauer is a graduate of Brandeis University, Waltham, MA where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology.

CONGRATULATIONS to LOIS L. LINDAUER, CEO and Founder

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Ayele Shakur



Ayele Shakur

Ayele Shakur, Executive Director of the Boston Learning Center, has worked as an innovator in urban education for more than a decade. A native of Boston, Shakur holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management from Boston University and a Master's Degree in Human Development and Psychology from Harvard's Graduate School of Education.

She taught for eleven years in the Los Angeles area and in Boston. In 1995, Shakur purchased a small company known as the Boston Tutoring Center and restructured it into the thriving nonprofit organization - the Boston Learning Center - that it is today, offering tutoring and test prep to students of all ages.

Together with husband and entrepreneur Gary Bracey, she founded The BIFF Paradigm Project in 1999 to address the issues of low academic motivation, chronic failure, and high dropout rates which are at epidemic levels in urban schools across the nation.

BIFF (Building Inspiration to Fight Failure) targets bright but unmotivated teenagers and has helped many youth go from failing to the honor roll. Shakur and Bracey are co-authors of the book "Boost School Performance - A Parent's Guide to Better Grades Fast." Their Mindboost and Smart is Cool motivational study skills seminars are held at various locations across the country. Shakur is the recipient of the 2007 Nan Bennett Kay Great Friend to Kids Award presented by the Boston Children's Museum.

Dani Monroe has led the c-suites of Fortune 100 companies to success in global diversity, inclusion and organization effectiveness - favorably impacting their bottom line, future outlook and business potential. Over a 20 year career, she has brought definition and depth to the dialogue about diversity and set the pace for change and precedence in strategies of global diversity and inclusion affecting millions of people around the world and positively impacting reputations and track records of many corporations.

Monroe's valued expertise in strategy and international practice defined her success as Senior Director of Global Diversity and Inclusion at the Pfizer Corporation, the world's largest research-based biomedical and pharmaceutical company with revenues of \$48.4 billion. Her work impacted the company's 100,000 employees and millions of people globally. In this highly visible global role, Monroe designed and facilitated organization change strategies that integrated all components for the diversity and inclusion strategy -- from



Dani Monroe

metrics and accountability for senior leaders to leadership curriculum and inclusive work processes. Working collaboratively with "C" suite leaders or their direct reports from Europe, Asia, Canada, Latin America and the United States, Monroe developed and executed a global strategy on diversity

education for senior leaders worldwide as well as developed a global women's strategy - including advancing the international strategy for the recruitment and promotion of women in emerging market areas and establishing the Global Women's Network of women's leader communities around the

world. In addition, she launched the Global Diversity Committee and African American Leaders Network.

As Founder and President of one of the top global diversity practices in the U.S.-Center Focus International, Inc. -- Monroe remains as one of the world's most valued corporate resources for change and inclusion strategies as well as on other organization management and global work issues from leadership training to succession planning and recruitment. CFI, a Boston-based global practice, is internationally known for its senior level expertise helping c-suite leaders to meet the challenges and opportunities of the changing workforce and emerging markets. She has provided leadership for diversity-focused initiatives, research and knowledge-sharing at Fortune 500 companies, including, the Walt Disney Company, John Hancock, Shell America, Experian, Hasbro, Central Intelligence Agency, Houghton Mifflin Company and Raytheon, Pfizer, State Street Corporation, Fleet Boston, Hasbro, and Raytheon.

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Celebrating 20 years of diversity and inclusion leadership.

"Congratulations to this year's award winners for their leadership efforts. I am deeply honored to receive this acknowledgment and look forward to many years of making valuable contributions to corporations and organizations -- and especially as companies continue to develop their diversity and inclusion strategies and initiatives."

Dani Monroe

Virginia Simms George

Virginia Simms George has demonstrated her commitment to being a leader in her career and her community. She has been employed by Raytheon Company for the past nine years where she provides Human Resources support in the areas of employee relations, labor relations, training, performance management and management coaching. She manages the division's Alternative Dispute Resolutions program.

Virginia held positions of increasing responsibility in the Human Resources field with Control Data Corporation, Digital Equipment Corporation and Harvard Pilgrim Health Care. In addition to her industry experience, she has served as a member of the faculty for Bentley College's Human Resources Management Program.

In the Town of Northborough, Virginia chairs the Personnel Board and the Northborough Community Affairs Committee which is appointed by the Board of Selectmen to focus on the sense of community for the residents. Virginia is an active member of the Greater Springfield Chapter of Links, Inc. an organization involved in the community through scholarship, mentoring, aids education and other programs of service.

Currently, Virginia counsels students and is a guest lecturer at Alfred University in upstate New York. She has also served as a mentor

and role model to female students at Tuskegee University to develop skills that will be utilized in the workplace.

Virginia has a Bachelors degree in History from Virginia Union University and a Masters degree in Education and an Advanced Graduate Certificate in Counseling from the University of Maryland. She is certified as an Executive coach. Virginia is married to Frederick George, Jr. and mother to Frederick George, III.



Virginia Simms George

Visionary Woman of Excellence

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Carrie

Johnson



Carrie Johnson

In her new book "From the Pits to the Palace," Carrie Johnson shares her intimate journey as an African-American mother who moved from welfare to excelling as a multimillion dollar business owner. On her journey she learns to thrive economically and finds her own magnificence.

The book highlights two stories told in parallel. One is Carrie Johnson's personal story of sexual abuse as a child, struggling with issues of low self-esteem that lead to drug and alcohol abuse.

The second story is how a three-person cleaning service grows to a multimillion dollar contract cleaning company is the second story. With nowhere else to turn and three children to support, she starts a cleaning service with the help of two friends.

Overall, Johnson offers a combination memoir and business case study targeted to women of all ages. The book, released by Infinity Publishing, is available through InfinityPublishing.com, Amazon.com, Waldenbooks.com, and Borders.com.

In a candid format, "From the Pits to the Palace" is about success despite adversity -- a woman business owner who finds her way through being dogged by stereotypes that block access to capital, by negative images of Black women and by lack of support.

Connie Chin



Connie Chin is shown with award-winning actor Danny Glover

Connie Chin is General Manager of Jacob's Pillow Dance, the world-renowned dance organization, encompassing America's longest-running dance festival, an internationally esteemed School, rare Archives, and year-round community programs, located in Becket, Massachusetts. As General Manager she oversees all departments, manages short and long-term planning and special projects, and works closely with Executive Director Ella Baff to achieve the organization's goals.

Connie grew up in the Boston area. Her paternal grandfather immigrated to this country from southern China, eventually owning a Chinese laundry and sending her father to Columbia University. Her father then served in the U.S. Army, and was a longtime professor at Boston University. Connie's mother arrived from Shanghai to attend college, gained her PhD at Harvard University, and was a researcher at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Connie earned an AB from Harvard University and MBA from Yale. Before coming to Jacob's Pillow, she served as Associate Brand Manager for JELL-O at Kraft General Foods, and Associate Business Unit Manager for Ocean Spray Cranberries. Before embarking on her career in marketing and arts administration, she performed as a professional modern dancer with choreographers Bill T. Jones, Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, Muna Tseng, Sincha Hong, and Ze'eva Cohen, among many others, and toured in Korea, Italy, England and China.

In 2008 she returned to performing for the first time in 19 years, in New York City and on Inside/Out, the Pillow's outdoor performance space. She resides in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, with her husband Ray and their two school age daughters.

Dr. Lynda

Morris Parham



Dr. Lynda Morris Parham is a licensed Psychologist and ordained minister who has a long history in serving urban and rural community programs and churches. She has worked in educational institutions and mentored young international women and college students of color. She is the Director of Couples and Family Therapy at the Danielsen Institute of Boston University where she provides clinical services.

Through TKG Ministries (www.TKGministries.org), Dr. Lynda and her husband (Tony) provide ministry to strengthen couples and families.

Dr. Lynda earned her doctorate degree in Clinical Psychology from the University of Massachusetts at Boston where she received multiple awards for academic achievement. By working with the UMASS Boston McNair program and the East Tennessee State University Premedical Enrichment Program, she has motivated many students to pursue careers in medicine, health professions and the mental health field. Dr. Lynda received her clinical training at BU's Danielsen Institute, Yale University Medical School's Consultation Center, the Philadelphia Child Guidance Center, Brookline Community Mental Health Center and Roxbury Comprehensive Community Health Center.

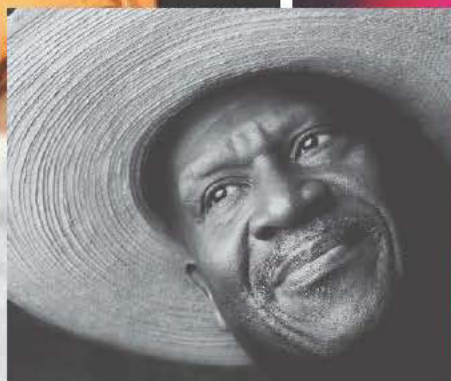
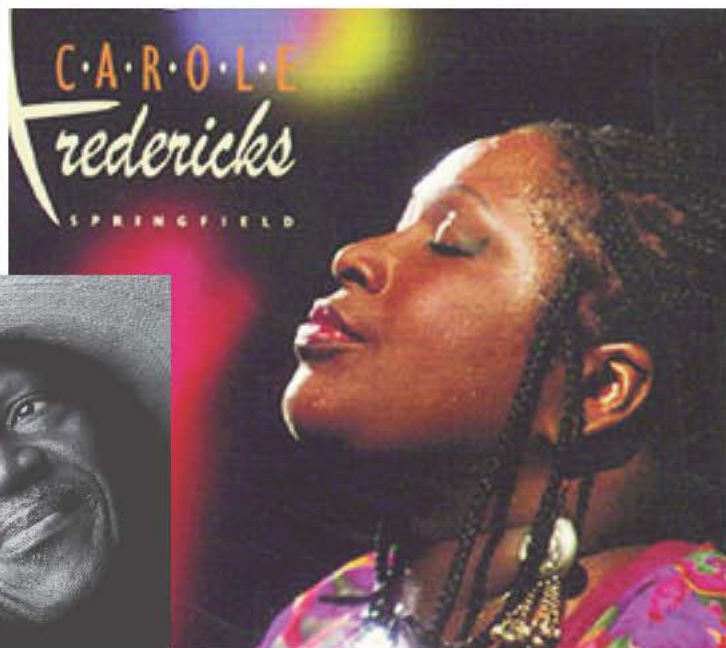


In 2002 Connie Fredericks-Malone was named the Manager and official spokesperson for CDF Music Legacy, the company that promotes the music of her late sister Carole Fredericks, in the United States. On behalf of the company, she successfully negotiated world rights agreements with Sony/BMG France, M6 Interaction and JRG Editions Musicales to bring Carole's French language music videos and CDs to North America for educational purposes. In 2006, Connie became the Director and the driving force behind the Carole D. Fredericks Foundation, the publisher of language programs based on the Carole' French recordings. Connie's work is evident -- just look at www.carolefredericksfoundation.org.

In Springfield, Connie was the original producer and host of 'Heritage Corner,' a Black History children's television show. Most recently, she was the Co-curator of the multi-media exhibition, Blues in Our Blood: The Artistic Evolution of Taj Mahal and Carole Fredericks, currently on view at the Springfield Museums. Connie is a frequent speaker and workshop presenter at international and national foreign language conferences as well as at schools and colleges across the country.

Connie brings 30 years of experience in the fields of visual and performing arts, communications, college student services, arts management/promotion/publicity and second language instructional media to the directorship. Her professional positions have included Executive Director - Finger Lakes Arts Grants and Services, Inc., Geneva, NY; Assistant to the Director of Higher Education Opportunity Program - Five Towns College in New York; Graphic Artist - Instructional Publishing Group (IPG) division, Scholastic Inc., New York; Communications Associate - JCPenney Co, New York; and Television Writer/Producer - KGO-TV, San Francisco.

She received a BA in Communications from Empire State College, NY in 2001 and was honored as an outstanding graduate the following year.





*Congrats to Connie Fredericks-Malone,
a true visionary woman of excellence.
This message is from the entire family --
We love you and we honor you.
Thanks for all that you do to preserve the family's
legacy...Your vision will help share our collective
inspiration with the next generation.*



Yvonne Brown, a native of Harlem, New York City, NY, received a B.A. from Long Island University, a Masters of Education from Temple University, taught in public schools, and is the parent of two adult daughters- Crystal and Sylvia.

As President of the South Middlesex Branch National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Yvonne sought justice for many. Her passion was driven often by thinking of her grandfather. Although he was licensed as a judge, due to prejudice, he could not practice law when he first moved to New York, so he worked as a janitor until eventual appointment to the bench.

She also thinks about the strong role models she knew as a child such as her dentist, Dr. Bessie Delaney who received recognition in the popular book *Having Our Say*.

Yvonne has now stepped down as NAACP president and looks forward to her other community service commitments including The Greater Framingham Community Church; Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority; the Westborough Town Democrats; MetroWest Leadership Academy; Board of Trustees, Danforth Museum of Art; Board of Directors, South Middlesex Opportunity Council (SMOC); Health Disparities Steering Committee, MetroWest Community HealthCare Foundation, Inc; President's Council on Diversity Committee, Quinsigamond Community College; the American Cancer Society, and the establishment of a chapter of Best Buddies, a friendship program for children with spe-



Yvonne Brown
cial needs.

Yvonne's own mantra is that "Life has much to offer, but we must be active participants who are willing to give of our time and talents. We must try to do our best rather than sit back and merely criticize others who at least are making an effort to do something about the situation."

She have traveled the world with friends and family. Her travels has included France, England, Germany, Amsterdam, Spain, and even to Morocco where she rode a camel. In addition, she has gone to Italy, Thailand, South Africa, Sultanate of Oman (for 4 days to visit an uncle, a retired judge, 94 years old who resided with her cousin, former ambassador to Oman). Currently, she and her daughter Crystal have booked a trip for Australia, New Zealand & Tasmania.

While proud of both of her daughters, Yvonne says that believing in a future for her daughter who was diagnosed with learning disabilities gave her the inspiration to defy the odds. Doctors said that Sylvia would not walk or talk.

Yvonne stopped working to care for her and now Sylvia is a star basketball player, avid swimmer and soccer player; works; is a Global Messenger for Special Olympics (goes around state & speaks about the program); attends Quinsigamond Community College; and votes.

Yvonne is grateful to her parents for culturally enriching experiences in Harlem and with family. Parents of childhood friends were like parents to her. She still has most of her childhood friends whom she has known for over 60 years.

When she gets together with one of kindergarten friends in particular- they still laugh and giggle the way they did as second graders.

Our tribute

"To the greatest Mom- I love you!" **Sylvia**

"Mom - we're very proud of you and your accomplishments. You have truly made the world a better place." **Crystal & Trevor**

"To Yvonne, your zeal, passion and commitment are a true inspiration to all." **Marilyn Matthews**

"Always willing to help others" **Chatmon Houston, Jr.**

"A truly dedicated woman" **Pearl Burton**

"You are an inspiration to our family and to all who know you." **Telza Gardner**

"Congratulations to you, Yvonne, for your tireless community volunteerism." **Julia & Juan Cofield**

"Congratulations to a True woman of God who lives out her faith in all dimensions of life!" **your Church family, GFCC**

"The greatest force on earth is not the compulsion of law but the compassion of love." **Audrey & Ezra "Speed" Anderson**

"You are the greatest networker for social justice I have ever met" **Robert E. Schecter**

"The success that Yvonne has achieved is a result of her enterprising spirit, the tenacity with which she pursues excellence in all areas, and her commitment to community building."

Serge and Barbara Paul-Emile

"Congratulations Your journey to discover new challenges has never stopped."

Mildred Poydras

Athene Wilson Glover

Athene Wilson-Glover, a familiar voice around Boston's music scene, has performed Jazz, Gospel and R&B in different venues in and around Boston. She has accompanied local artists, Larry Watson, Andre Ward and several other bands. Ms. Wilson-Glover has also done background work for renowned artist, Patti Labelle, Natalie Cole and Smokey Robinson.

Wilson-Glover's multi-faceted vocals have resonated across stages in Germany, France and the Caribbean. Her singing career began at the tender age of seven in a small Pentecostal church in Jamaica. She sang in several church choirs until her transition to Boston where she started her professional singing career. Her first break came with Larry Watson when she sang, "Since I fell for you."

For over twenty years, Boston has enjoyed the melodic sounds of Ms. Wilson in jazz clubs, churches, and city-wide events. Wilson-Glover has been working full time at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston for the past ten years where she has served in several capacities.

First, as the Outreach Partnership Program Coordinator of the National Cancer Institute's Cancer Information Service of New England. With CIS, she worked to help build the capacity of organizations throughout New England to develop and deliver cancer education programs to medically underserved audiences. Also, she was former Director of Black



Athene Wilson-Glover

Leadership Initiative on Cancer-NBLIC, Greater Boston Chapter. Presently, she serves as the Outreach Coordinator/ Health Educator of Community Benefits Dept of the DFCI, where she facilitates community based training on cancer prevention and clinical trials.

All of her professional roles have been characterized by

positive engagement with community based partners, faith based organizations and considered health care organizations to build collaborative networks, through which cancer education messages can be more effectively communicated to those most in need of hearing them, and the disease itself better prevented, detected and treated.

That's not all...If you love ART, and Travel again this amazing multi-talented lady can help you there!! Ms. Wilson-Glover is also an independent Art Dealer for "Ethnic Expressions" one of the fastest growing financial opportunities in America as well as a Referring Travel Agent for her own travel company www.travelbigonline.com

Achieving Our Mission Through Our Employees



Congratulations

We salute Athene Wilson-Glover, Community Outreach Coordinator, for her passion and dedication as a Unity First "Woman Making a Difference." We celebrate her and all of the outstanding people at Dana-Farber who help us achieve our mission to conquer cancer, HIV, AIDS, and related diseases.



Dana-FarberCareers.com

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

Jenelle Holder Williams



Jenelle Holder Williams, MBA is Director of Cultural Health initiatives of the American Heart Association of Greater Boston.

Her passion for *Jenelle Holder Williams* empowering communities through building sustainable organizations and bridging cultural divides is evident in her role as Cultural Health Initiatives Director at the American Heart Association.

In 2008, Jenelle received an Official Citation from the Massachusetts State Senate in recognition of her leadership and commitment to improving the health of the community and to eliminating health disparities of people in poverty. Her brainchild, the first Multicultural Heart & Soul Family Festival and Greater Boston Search Your Heart Challenge involved over 250 volunteers and reached over 1,000 individuals through involvement in advocacy efforts, awareness campaigns, educational workshops, healthy lifestyle activities and family focused heart disease and stroke risk reduction events.

As a past Massachusetts Education Policy Fellow and Boston Cares Civic Leadership Fellow, Jenelle's view of community empowerment stems from the understanding that communities traditionally considered underserved and underprivileged have their own expertise.

Recognizing that bridging cultural divides is simply not speaking the same language or assuming similar cultural based on race, Jenelle, an Afro West Indian Latina American who has a strong multicultural lineage makes it her role to work within communities to bridge stereotypes that would impact overall quality of life.

Carol Moore Cutting is President, Owner, and General Manager of Cutting Edge Broadcasting Incorporated (WEIB - 106.3 Smooth FM) celebrating her 10 year anniversary of broadcasting.

From rural Alabama to constructing, owning and operating her own radio station, is an accomplishment that Carol Moore Cutting has worked, sacrificed, persevered and persisted to achieve. A Tuskegee University (Alabama) and Springfield College (MA) graduate, her achievements are numerous including winning several awards, recognition and honors for service, leadership and volunteerism.

She actively serves on the Board of Directors and is Northeast Regional Representative of the National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters (NABOB), the first and largest trade organization representing the interest of African-American owners of cable, television and radio and other top leaders in the industry.

Carol is the President, Owner, and General Manager of WEIB - 106.3 Smooth FM Radio station who overcame tremendous obstacles while dealing with the two challenges of being a woman and an African American.

Carol Moore Cutting's pursuit of a construction permit and broadcast license to build a FM radio station from the ground up is a testimony of her strong faith, spirituality, and belief that more independent programming options should have been available to the community. Since the 1970s, she pursued ways to make this possible and in 1984 applied to the

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for a permit to build the station that finally began test broadcasting in 1999. Carol is the first female in Massachusetts and the first African American in New England to have been granted a FM radio station Construction Permit (CP) which she built and continue to operate.

In 2009, WEIB - 106.3 Smooth FM is celebrating Ten years of broadcasting "Cool Jazz, Smooth Sounds & A Touch Of Soul"™. It is the only locally owned and independent commercial FM Radio Station in the Greater Springfield, MA Metro Market and it broadcasts 24 hours / 7days a week with a "Cutting Edge Blend"™ of programming. It is the only terrestrial Smooth Jazz Radio Station from New England to Florida. Carol has created a caring, committed, concerned, community Radio Station that connect globally with loyal listeners all over the world who listen to the on line radio station via www.weibfm.com.

Through WEIB-106.3 Smooth FM radio station,



Carol Moore Cutting has helped to promote great Jazz Music which was "Music Born in America and Celebrated Worldwide". She promotes April as Jazz Appreciation Month (J.A.M.) which was created a few years ago and continues through the Smithsonian. This was brought to the attention of Governor Deval Patrick's who designated J.A.M. here in the Commonwealth. Throughout the year National and International Jazz performers have wonderful opportunities to showcase their talents with

monthly live shows sponsored by the station. No other local broadcast station in this Metro Market does this.

Carol Moore Cutting and her WEIB - 106.3 Smooth FM team has created programming of great sounding quality music that's lead to a large numbers of loyal dedicated targeted listeners to the station's uncluttered format. Our clearly targeted listeners allow excellent opportunities for advertisers messages to be heard by those likely to buy their products and utilize their services.



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“Cool Jazz, Smooth Sounds & A Touch of Soul”™***

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What every woman needs: a self-care plan

Dr Lynda Morris Parham
www.DrLynda.org

Every woman of color on the planet needs to have an on-going self-care plan in place that includes spiritual renewal, emotional wellness, and physical revitalization. It is often the relational quality of women that make us exceptional leaders, whether in or outside our homes.

Unfortunately, because we are intrinsically invested in our work; and others are dependent on our work, we can be susceptible to prioritizing it over our own health. Many of us unfortunately focus on fulfilling the needs of others, only to leave our own needs unmet. Let's examine three areas to implement self-care changes.

Spiritual Renewal.

God has created each human with a spirit that embodies energy and power along with the dynamic force of life. Since our spirit is a living part of us, it needs to be nurtured to grow or it like any other living thing, it will die. Spiritual renewal consists of honoring the spirit of God

within us. It grows as we feed it by praying, meditating, practicing silence, and listening to uplifting music.

As we observe the gifts of God in nature and people around us, our spirit is strengthened. We can also nurture our spirit when we fast and deny ourselves the pleasures of food, drink and entertainment for an appropriate season.

Emotional Wellness.

Having the capacity to feel a range of emotions (including joy, contentment, sadness, fear, pain, and anger) enables us to know that we are alive and experiencing life. We don't measure our emotional wellness by how we are doing when life is good, but how well we manage the challenges. In order to stay emotionally healthy one can:

"Acknowledge when you get stuck in one emotional state like anger, grief, or the other extreme perpetual excitement and get some assistance with balancing your feelings.

"Move through negative feelings by expressing them to appropriate people and not taking them out on yourself or others.

"Practice the art of forgiveness.

"Learn new skills or hobbies



that enable one to be engaged in life in new ways and builds self-confidence.

Physical Revitalization.

When we are involved in busy lives, we often neglect our bodies. Revitalizing our bodies includes exercise, eating healthy and rest and relaxation. The thought of adding exercise to your life might seem like torture. However, the reality is that if you do not exercise regularly you are committing a crime against your body.

Exercise lifts one's mood, helps maintain mental clarity and releases positive energy. Make your exercise program something reasonable and manageable. It helps to invite friends to join you.

There are benefits to group exercise: It is a time to socialize, you can hold each other accountable and you are mak-

ing an active contribution to helping a friend be healthy. Many Black women struggle with the thought of messing up their hair.

Be adventuresome and get some suggestions for alternative styles that can be maintained if exposed to perspiration and water.

Making changes in one's eating can mean examining family traditions, cultural tastes, and personal finances and schedules. If you need to start slowly, you can simply eliminate one or two of your current unhealthy eating habits: sodas, junk food, fast foods or items high in sugar or salt.

Action Steps:

If every woman reading this article made a commitment to discuss these topics with a friend and to implement one healthy habit, it would set positive change in motion. Let each of us stop and make a commitment to live out a better self-care plan that includes spiritual renewal, emotional wellness and physical revitalization.

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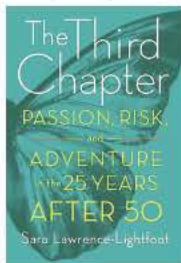
<http://www.womenshealth.gov/NWGHAAD>



Dr. Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot's new book "The Third Chapter"

According to Dr. Sara Lawrence Lightfoot, there is a developmental phase of life is emerging as significant and distinct, capturing our interest, engaging our curiosity, and expanding our understanding of human potential and development. Check out her new book and learn more about your Third Chapter.

Demographers talk about this new chapter in life as characterized by people—between fifty and seventy-five—who are considered “neither young nor old.” In our “third chapters” we are beginning to redefine our views about the casualties and opportunities of aging; we are challenging cultural definitions of strength, maturity, power, and sexiness.



Sara Lawrence Lightfoot

Western Massachusetts Black Nurses Day Annual Brunch

“Nursing, Education and Leadership: creating a path towards a brighter future”

Western Massachusetts Black Nurses Association



Saturday, March 28, 2009
10:30am-1:30pm

Clarion Hotel 1080 Riverdale Road (Route 5) West Springfield, MA
Co-sponsored by Springfield Technical Community College and the Diversity Council

The annual Black Nurses' Day brunch is a celebration of outstanding community service and recognition of significant contributions to the field of nursing. This year we honor the legacy and leadership of two African-American nurses in the Western Massachusetts community: Mrs. Bettye Davis, RN of Springfield, MA and Jean E. Swinney RN., PhD, Interim Dean, School of Nursing, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Contact person: Almaneta Lee, President
Tel: 413-734-5915
E-mail: frances1925@comcast.net

For tickets contact
Carol Caulton, Treasurer
Tel: 413-783-9513

Western Massachusetts Black Nurses'
P.O. Box 90246, Springfield, MA

Cost
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Let's talk about cancer.

It's no secret in the health care community that certain minorities are at greater risk for developing cancer.

National Minority Cancer Awareness Week is April 19–25.

Spread the word to your friends, family, and co-workers, and talk with your doctor about getting regular cancer screenings.

It's a conversation that just might save a life.



MASSACHUSETTS

Another Voice



by Mable Lene Sharif

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

Parents please make sure your children know that you are interested in their education by making time to visit their school. If at all possible, attend and take part in your child's school's Parents and Teachers Association (PTA) meetings. Meet with the teachers to find out about your children's progress so that you may know what area your help is needed most.

I often reflect back to when I was in school and how I felt when my mother and father came to visit my school. I felt so proud and wanted to really excel in my learning. My parents taught their three children that Education was a Must. Dropping out of school was not an option. My parent involvement in my schooling is responsible for my enjoying school. I did not like school after my first day.

Remember and be aware that children who are not inter-

ested in school and tend to hang around other children other who smoke and/or use drugs, are more likely to do the same. Remember to let your children know that you do not approve of such behavior and why. Do not let your children associate with friends who practice behaviors that you do not approve of. Set house rules and guidelines for your children to abide by and stand firm in your course of action.

Parents make time to talk with your children and please take time to listen to what your children has to say. Children who have a good relationship and communicate well with their parents are more likely to come to their parents for advice rather than turn to their peers. Remember that we all can learn from each other regardless of the age. Education and how we apply what we have learned is the KEY to being successful!!



Dream Studios celebrates Black History month

The Dream Studios Performing Arts school in Springfield, MA recently celebrated Black History Month with several performances. The singers and dancers are always inspiring. Kudos to Bonnie Weaver and Benjamin Smith for make Dream a reality. For more information on their programs call (413) 739-1500.

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How old is too old to be a Girl Scout?

By: Divya Aggarwal of Troop 583

When I was a Daisy, at the tender and innocent age of five, I loved Girl Scouts so much that I vowed I would stay one forever. When I was a Junior, at the more sensible and mature age of 12, I pictured myself going on to Cadettes and Seniors, and doing my Silver and Gold Awards.

Now as a Senior [Girl Scout], at the ambitious and determined age of 16 (going on 17), and past my Silver and headed towards my Gold Award as planned, I see myself possibly as the Girl Scout leader of my own daughter's troop in the future.

It is my feeling that Girl Scouts is a lifetime experience, whether one chooses to live their life as a Girl Scout or just live by Girl Scout principles. None of this seemed wrong or strange or out of the norm to me, until this past February. Those words still resonate in my mind when I think about the time when after delivering

cookies to a friend, another asked me in a harsh tone, "You're still a Girl Scout?" Now, I'll admit that that was not the first time I had been asked that, and at those times those people seemed to be joking around; this person, however, really meant it and I felt bad. It had never occurred to me that I might be too old to be a Girl Scout. I never thought there was an age restriction, however, the way that person interrogated me made me feel like I was committing a crime still being a Scout.

A couple of weeks later, at a troop meeting, I became dismayed upon hearing the events at a recent booth sale. One customer simply refused to believe that the girls running the booth were Girl Scouts. Yes, they were sixteen year olds at the booth, but that's why they are called Senior [Girl] Scouts, and Senior [Girl] Scouts need to raise money for activities too.

Later, I realized what might

have provoked the [customer] to react the way he did to the girls at the booth. What he saw simply did not match the [image of the] young Brownie or Junior Scouts' booth sale with girls in brown and green vests. [The girls from our troop having tan vests wasn't enough.

To the man, something just didn't look right. At sixteen (in our generation), the image of youthful innocence has been lost. And unfortunately, it's that innocence that the public is looking for and thinks of when they come across a Girl Scout.]

Simply put, this along with several other misconceptions must be broken. Girl Scouting belongs to teenage girls as well. [Girl] Scouting is more than just camping and cookies. It's shopping - so girls can learn about managing money; it's rock climbing - so girls can become adventurous, courageous, and strong; it's public relations - so girls can learn

how to get their voice heard; among other things.

STUDIO 2B was established for teenage Girl Scouts, however only the Scouting community knows of its existence and what it is all about. If this wonderful program is made more public, and its connection with Girl Scouts is clearly defined, the public should begin to realize that Girl Scouts is an organization that caters to and supports the ever-changing needs of all girls, no matter what their age.

Today I give credit to Girl Scouts for many of the successes in my life, and I know I will do the same in the future. I truly hope that one day, if I or any other teenage Girl Scout is asked that dreadful question, the conversation will play out a little differently. "Oh? You're still a Girl Scout? That's really cool!"

Divya is currently a freshman pre-med student at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.



University Without Walls Stature Grows Online, and in the Community

University Without Walls (UWW) adult students work closely with UWW faculty while completing a University of Massachusetts bachelors degree.

An adult learner manages family, work, school, education, and community obligations. This year, more than 500 adult learners enrolled in the UMass Amherst University Without Walls programs (UWW), earning a bachelor's degree by building on prior coursework and experience. This is the largest enrollment ever for the groundbreaking undergraduate degree completion program founded in 1971. What attracts students to this program? UWW provides students with a rigorous, supportive academic environment in which to build a University of Massachusetts degree. Through a Prior Learning Portfolio, students demonstrate learning from life that enables them to earn academic credit toward a bachelor's degree. Students design their own degrees or choose from areas of concentration, including: Criminal Justice, Journalism Studies, Arts Management, Business Studies, Health & Human Services, Educator Licensure Program and also Early Care and Education (non-licensed). Plus, students can take classes online or in a classroom-online combination.

Online offerings allow UWW to reach more students and to give students more control over their time. UWW Director



At University Without Walls adult students work closely with UWW faculty while completing a University of Massachusetts bachelors degree. Photo credits: Ben Barnhart, Terri Cappucci, Heather Miller

Pamela Monaco notes that while the significant increase in online enrollments is good news, it also creates new challenges and needs, especially in providing student services and in nurturing the sense of com-

munity that has always been critical to UWW students and faculty. Despite more students studying from across the globe, UWW continues to value the individual student and is exploring ways to provide key


academic and advising services online. Monaco is particularly eager to strengthen UWW's ties with the nearby communities of Holyoke and Springfield - and, where possible, to create new ties. Through community partnerships, UWW hopes to provide convenient access to local students who may not previously have thought of UMass as an option. Monaco concluded, "We anticipate that by coming to the community, we can also increase our outreach to new student populations." You can learn more about UMass UWW by visiting www.umass.edu/uww, calling 413.545.1378 or emailing uww@uww.umass.edu.

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST

“Why didn't I finish my degree?”

}

It's a good question.




Here's a better question:

“Why don't you get in touch with the UMass University Without Walls?”

University Without Walls is custom-made for people like you—with a busy life, still wanting to finish your college degree. At UWW you can pick up where you left off. You can get credit for learning you've done in your life and your work. You can design your own degree or pick an area of study that fits you. It's personal—you'll work closely with UWW faculty from the time you come to UWW until you put on that cap and gown, graduating with your UMass bachelor's degree.

Attend an information session

- Holyoke Community College, Holyoke 5:30 pm, March 3
- UMass UWW, Hadley—10 am, March 14 & April 4 OR 5:30 pm, March 31 & April 28
- Springfield Technical Community College, Springfield—5:30 pm, March 26



UWW Information Sessions - live or online

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Technology



A Carole Copeland Thomas
Bentley University Partnership

Black Entrepreneurial Achievement in Massachusetts: Past, Present and Future

Business

35

A special Black History Month celebration was held by The Massachusetts Black Business Alliance and The Museum of African American History to celebrate "Black Entrepreneurial Achievement in Massachusetts: Past, Present and Future." The event was held at UMASS, with opening remarks by Chancellor Keith Motley, Ph.D.

During the event, Governor Deval Patrick's efforts in support of small and minority business, his diversification of the Commonwealth's Boards and Commissions and his commitment to civic engagement was recognized.

Beverly Morgan Welch, Executive Director of the Museum of African American History, also provided some historical context, including some words about the Museum's upcoming exhibit on Massachusetts' African-American entrepreneurs of the 18th and 19th centuries.



Shown (left to right) are UMASS Chancellor Keith Motley, Gov. Deval Patrick and Eric Turner of the Massachusetts Business Alliance. (Photo credit: Don West)



Shown are UnityFirst.com's Janine Fondon, Beverly Morgan Welch, Kelley Chunn and Nicola Williams. (Photo credit: Don West)



Shown are Aimee Griffin Munnings (left), President of the New England Black Chamber of Commerce and Rep. Benjamin Swan. (Photo credit: Don West)

Western New England College Law and Business Center for Advancing Entrepreneurship

Friday, March 27
9:00am - 4:00pm

3rd Annual "How To" Entrepreneurship Institute

Keynote:

Andrew Morrison is the President of the Small Business Camp and is the Host of the "Sixteen Week Challenge"



Andrew Morrison

Business experts will lead sessions on:

- How to Protect Your Ideas
- How to Market Your Business
- How to Finance Your Business
- How to Plan for the Next Level
- How to Build Strong Partnerships
- How to Brand and Market Your Business

Location of Events: Western New England College
S. Prestley Blake Law Center,
Room D

Time of Event: 9:00am - 4:00pm

Cost: \$50.00 per person

Andrew Morrison is the founder of the Small Business Camp, an entrepreneurial training & marketing firm, boasting Fortune 500 company clients. His "Sixteen Week Challenge" internet show transforms everyday individuals into entrepreneurial success stories through intensive motivational coaching and goal-setting. He has been featured in the Wall Street Journal, and on the "Oprah Winfrey Show".



Springfield Technical Community College's Myra Smith shares a moment with Ken Ford who wowed an audience at the college with his awesome performance in honor of Black History Month.

Black History Month Forum

National Caribbean American Heritage Month planning

This June 2009, marks the fourth national celebration of Caribbean American Heritage Month. The Institute of Caribbean Studies (ICS), based in Washington, D.C., and its affiliates and partners around the country have established events commemorating the National Celebrations of Caribbean American Heritage Month.

Citing the need to continue building on the previous year's events, ICS President and Chair of the National Campaign, Claire Nelson has forged relationships with individuals and organizations around the country with a singular vision in mind -- to set a standard for



Claire Nelson

what Caribbean American Heritage Month must become. If you would like to participate in the celebration committee for Massachusetts in honor of Caribbean American Heritage Month, please call Janine Fondon at: (413) 734-6444 or send email to jfondon@unityfirst.com



Get ready for Jacob's Pillow Dance 2009 Season

Jacob's Pillow Dance, the world-renowned international dance organization and National Historic Landmark nestled in the Berkshires of Massachusetts, announced its 2009 Festival season complete with 50 companies on three stages spanning the multifaceted genres of contemporary dance, tap, hip-hop, flamenco, ballet, dance-theatre and more.

The 2009 Festival runs June 20 through August 30 and features more than 110 ticketed events and 200 free events, including performances on three stages, moderated interviews with artists, talks by experts, film showings, exhibits, observations of

The School, receptions, tours, and over 75 dance classes for the community including weekly master classes with Doris Duke Theatre artists.

Stay tuned for more information about the season and the great Ballet Hispanico performance in August.



You're invited to a CD Release Concert

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magic of the night

March 24th at 8:00 pm
at Scullers Jazz Club in Boston

PRESENTED BY
GREATER BOSTON MOREHOUSE COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

MOREHOUSE COLLEGE
GLEE CLUB
CONCERT 2009

FOR TICKETS AND INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT WWW.GBMCAA.ORG/TICKETS.P

MARCH 13TH

DOORS OPEN 6:30PM
OLD SOUTH CHURCH
645 BOWLSON STREET, BOSTON, MA. (CORLEY SQUARE)

DOORS OPEN 8:30PM
BLACK-TIE OPTIONAL
WESTIN COPLEY SQUARE
10 HUNTINGTON AVE, BOSTON, MA

FEATURING
GRACE KELLY & TERRY LYNN CARRINGTON

5TH ANNUAL
MOREJAZZ GALA

CO-CHAIRMAN:
JEROME SMALLS
VICE PRESIDENT: COMMUNITY RELATIONS
THE GLEEFANCLUB.ORG

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Unity First News Online.....welcomes your news and events. The next issue will include a Spring health guide. The deadline is April 3, 2009.

Send your thoughts, ideas, advertisements and questions to:

info@unityfirst.com or call (413) 734-6444.

